



Mr. Howard Kirby Gonyea

September 28, 1924 - February 16, 2019

Howard Kirby Gonyea passed away February 16th, 2019 under the loving care of The Alice Center nursing home.

Howard was born September 28th, 1924 in Malone, NY and was the son of the late Kirby and Beatrice (Eseltine) Gonyea.

For part of his early childhood, he lived in Lake Clear, NY before returning to Malone with his parents. He attended a one-room schoolhouse located on the Limekiln Rd., known as number 9. As a young man, he worked with his parents and siblings on the family farm located on the Travis road and also worked other various laborers jobs.

One day Howard stopped to assist a couple of sisters caught in the rain. He introduced himself to Bernice Alice Dumas and her younger sister Geraldine and offered them a ride home. Not long after, he and Bernice were forever connected in Catholic Matrimony on August 4th, 1948 in Notre Dame Church.

Shortly after his marriage, Howard opened an auto repair shop on the Webster St. Rd. and he soon realized he had a knack for auto-body repair. Howard owned and operated "Gonyea's Garage" for a majority of his life. He raised and supported his family from a vocation he enjoyed very much. At various times he worked alongside his six sons where he taught them the joy of working with their hands and the value that came from learning a trade. Howard also shared his knowledge in an adult vocational class he taught. He operated his business from his original Webster Street location just inside the village of Malone and later expanded his business and moved a quarter mile up the road. He converted an old potato farm into his new shop.

Howard was a resident of Webster St. Rd. for most of his adult life and enjoyed the friendship of neighbors and was involved in the community through a variety of organizations associated with the town of Malone.

Besides his wife and family, Howard's other true love was his Camp on Frazier's Point in Dundee, Quebec. He loved fishing on Lake St. Francis and celebrating life with his friends and family. He mostly enjoyed the many stories that were told and practical jokes that were perpetrated with his closest friends.

Howard is survived by his wife Bernice of 70 years and his six sons, Stephen along with

his wife Joyce from Port St. Lucie, Fl., Bryant of Duane, NY, Mark of Malone, Craig with his wife Valarie of Nepean, Ontario, Scott of Malone and Alan with his wife Cathy of Malone. Howard cherished his five granddaughters, Renee (Gonyea) Fox of Mexico, NY, Sherry (Gonyea) McElroy of Greenfield Center, NY, Kiera Gonyea of Golden, British Columbia, Aiyana Gonyea of Nepean, Ontario and Haley Gonyea of Malone. Howard also has five great-grandchildren Gabriel, Zachary, and Anna Fox, along with Jackson and Kaden McElroy.

In addition, Howard is survived by six siblings, Walter and his wife Patricia of Malone, John (Jack) and his wife Joanne of Hilton, NY, Ada Rockhill of Frankfort, NY, Henry and his wife Judy of Malone, NY, Lottie Guericke with her husband Lyle of Portland Oregon, and Nancy Hamilton with her husband Thomas of Wolcott, NY.

Howard was predeceased by his much-loved daughter-in-law Bernadette (Derouchie) Gonyea, his sisters Esther Legacy with her husband, Giles, and Jean Crompt and her husband, Rodger. He was also predeceased by a brother-in-law James Rockhill.

Howard also loved his time spent with the countless number of nieces and nephews and extended family.

Calling hours will be held at St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home on Friday, Feb. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23 at Notre Dame Church.

Burial will take place in the spring at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Donations in his memory may be a charity of one's choice.

Cemetery

Notre Dame Cemetery

Malone, NY,

Events

FEB **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

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St Mary- Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home
563 E. Main St, Malone, NY, US, 12953

FEB **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

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Notre Dame Church
Malone, NY, US

Comments



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad journey.
Al, Sandy
Scott, Chantal, Gary

Al and Sandra drisdelle - February 22, 2019 at 09:31 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Howard Kirby Gonyea.



February 21, 2019 at 05:19 PM



“ My thoughts are with all family members at this time. Thinking of you all.

Vicky Dumas - February 20, 2019 at 07:45 PM



“ Aunt Bernice and Family

I'm so sorry to hear of Uncle Howard's passing. Such wonderful memories growing up. Love and hugs from all of us.

Kathy, Kurt and kids

Katherine Stewart - February 20, 2019 at 05:25 PM



“ Dear fiends, So sad to learn of Howard's passing. It was always so nice to see his smile and I'm sure Orra would have agreed with me. Please forgive my not coming to his services but I send my sincere sympathy to all of you.
Fondly, Sharon Langdon

Sharon Langdon - February 19, 2019 at 04:57 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy on the loss of Howard. So loved by our family God Bless.

Mike and Maureen - February 19, 2019 at 04:32 PM



“ A beautiful obituary for a loving Husband, Father, Uncle who gave ALL.... RIP Uncle Howard.. Hugs Aunt Bernice and Family...

Connie and Jeff Gerow - February 19, 2019 at 08:49 AM



“ Aunt Bernice and family, you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Look at that handsome fella's photo and remember all the fun, laughs, moments, the tough times and the wonderful times at camp and in the garage. Uncle Howard was a good guy. Aunt Bernice you are so loved. Sincerely, Bobbie and Greg Panek

Bobbie Dumas Panek - February 19, 2019 at 08:36 AM