

## Raymond A. McGowan Jr.

January 7, 1951 - February 18, 2021

Raymond A. McGowan Jr., also known as Gar, age 70, husband of Barbara (Smith) McGowan passed away on Thursday February 18, 2021 in his home. Ray was born January 7, 1951 and a lifelong resident of Phoenixville.

Ray graduated from Phoenixville Area High School in 1968. He then attended West Chester University where he received his bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education.

Ray was a sports lover. As a child he played baseball for Phoenixville Babe Ruth League. While in high school he played for the Phoenixville football team as well as the basketball team. He was such a huge fan of sports that in his twenties he organized a basketball team called Gar's Stars and played flag football.

In addition to loving sports, Ray loved music, especially Doo-wop. Ray and Barbara would travel around and go to several concerts each year. Ray would listen and sing along to music throughout the day. He combined his love of mowing with his love of music and would blare his music while mowing.

Ray was very social and talked to people everywhere he went. He enjoyed to get together with friends from high school. He helped organized gatherings with former classmates several times a year. He loved reminiscing with old

friends. Ray also spent a lot of time communicating with friends on Facebook. He was sure to wish every friend a happy birthday and message friends who live far away. Most recently one of Ray's favorite pastimes was spending his afternoons with his grandson Wyatt sorting coins he collected throughout the years. He also enjoyed spoiling his dog Molly and cat Toby with special treats. Ray was looking forward to teaching Wyatt how to play baseball this spring.

Ray is survived by his wife Barbara whom he recently celebrated his 52 years of marriage with, two children: Raymond McGowan III of Pottstown PA, Katie Skaw, wife of David Skaw, of Phoenixville; grandson Wyatt Skaw; sister Mary Keirse of Pottstown; and brother Terrance McGowan of Phoenixville. Ray is preceded in death by on brother Michael P McGowan, mother Louise McGowan, and father Raymond McGowan.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the viewing for Ray on Thursday evening February 25, 2021 from 6:00PM - 8:00PM at the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, 610 S. Main St. Phoenixville PA 19460. A viewing will also be held on Friday Morning February 26, 2021 from 10:00AM - 11:00AM at the Valley Forge Baptist Church, 1701 Valley Forge Rd. Phoenixville PA 19460. The funeral ceremony will follow the viewing at 11:00AM at the church. Officiating will be the Rev. Lamar Eifert. Burial will take place in the Valley Forge Baptist Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Greater Philly Church, 623 Manchester Ave, Media, PA, 19063. Funeral arrangements are in care of the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## Valley Forge Baptist Church Cemetery

1701 Valley Forge Road  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 25. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc.  
610 South Main Street  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
(610) 933-3572  
<https://CampbellEnnisKlotzbachFuneralHome.com/>

## Visitation

FEB 26. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Valley Forge Baptist Church  
1701 Valley Forge Road  
Valley Forge, PA

## Funeral Ceremony

FEB 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

Valley Forge Baptist Church  
1701 Valley Forge Road  
Valley Forge, PA



# Tribute Wall

MC

“ So sorry to hear of big Gar’s passing. He left lasting memories around town because of his friendliness and his sportsmanship. RIP big fella

mark ceschan - February 27, 2021 at 07:25 PM

NF

“ Nancy Funk lit a candle in memory of Raymond A. McGowan Jr.



nancy funk - February 25, 2021 at 12:38 PM

NF

*rest in peace Ray and my the lord be with Barbara and her family*

nancy funk - February 25, 2021 at 12:39 PM

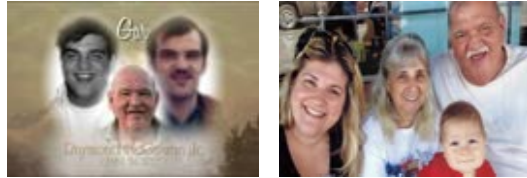
GR

*Dear Barb,  
We just learned of Ray's passing and were deeply saddened. We have great memories of him from long ago...he was quite a guy! We send our heart felt sympathies.  
George & Sue Rockey*

George & Susanne Rockey - May 19, 2021 at 08:13 AM



“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



---

**Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home** - February 24, 2021 at 09:22 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Linda Story** - February 24, 2021 at 05:29 PM

LS

*Sharing some pictures of happy memories with Ray. We have had wonderful times over these past 50+ years and life will seem empty without him but we know Ray is home with the Lord and will be waiting to greet each one of us. Love you Barb, Katie & Raymond  
Jack, Linda & Joey Story*

---

**Linda Story** - February 24, 2021 at 05:38 PM

JM

“ *Barbara and family: You are in my prayers as you mourn the loss of Gar. I'm thankful that your mourning will turn to joy as Gar is in the presence of the Lord- his faith has become sight! I have not seen Gar for over 15 years but I have great memories of him growing up- from St. Ann's through high school and beyond. He always had a smile on his face ( I think because he always was scheming something). I enjoyed his friendship. He was one of those people who you would not see for years but when you did see him, you picked up where you left off. His character and personality stuck with you and his memory will always be a part of me. God bless your family in this difficult time.*

*Rick Morgan*

---

**James R Morgan** - February 24, 2021 at 09:02 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond A. McGowan Jr..*



---

February 23, 2021 at 09:07 AM

RM

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



---

**Rick Martin** - February 22, 2021 at 02:54 PM

TR



**Tony Roberts** - December 04, 2024 at 08:27 PM

SR

“ *Barb and family,*

*You are in my thoughts and prayers. My husband passed almost year ago. Although a loss he is always with me as I know Ray will always be with you.*

*Sue Ellen (Plunkett) Raser*

**Sue Ellen P Raser** - February 22, 2021 at 12:22 PM

JT

“ *A dear PAHS classmate, one of the kindest, happiest people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I draw peace knowing you are with your Lord and Savior. Prayers for Barb and the entire extended family. R.I.P my friend. John Trombetta*

**John Trombetta** - February 22, 2021 at 11:10 AM

JG

“ *Gar, you will forever be in the hearts of those of us in the Class of '68. 💜*

**Jan Geisler** - February 22, 2021 at 11:06 AM

KW

“ *Kelley (Rowan) Williams lit a candle in memory of Raymond A. McGowan Jr.*



**Kelley (Rowan) Williams** - February 22, 2021 at 09:30 AM

MK

“ Mabel Kelly lit a candle in memory of Raymond A. McGowan Jr.



Mabel Kelly - February 21, 2021 at 02:21 PM

MK

Barbara, I am so sorry for your family's loss. Prayers and condolences to you all.

Mabel Kelly - February 21, 2021 at 02:22 PM

SP

“ Syl and I share our finest condolences on the passing of Gar, whom we fondly recall from our West Bridge Street years.. Our hearts ache for the McGowan family, as this comes on the heels of the recent passing of dear Louise.



Sal and Sylvia Katz of Phoenixville PA - February 21, 2021 at 07:03 AM

KM

“ Sending you all my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Knowing that Ray and his family have such faith will be such a gift in the days, weeks and months to come. God Bless Ray and all of you; Barbara, Raymond, Katie, Dave and Wyatt. Kay

Kay McGowan - February 20, 2021 at 10:49 PM

WS

“ What can I say, I've known Ray far longer than he was my brother in law. In fact, I have to say he was more like a brother and a good friend. There wasn't anything we weren't able to talk about, never any judgements on any of the stupid things I've done, he was always there ready to give advice or assistance. Always was ready with a helpful hand. It's difficult to imagine life without him. Will miss our talks Ray, but happy to know you're with our Savior in heaven.

William Smith - February 20, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond A. McGowan Jr..



February 20, 2021 at 01:41 PM

CW

“ I am so sorry to hear about your loss I will keep everyone in my prayers.

Carol woloszyn - February 20, 2021 at 01:39 PM

CB

“ Our sympathy to the whole family. Gar was such a happy, easy going, fun loving guy. He never lost his sense of humor even when you visited him in the hospital. Sending our love and prayers.  
Colleen and Doug Biffen

Colleen and Doug Biffen - February 20, 2021 at 01:22 PM