



Roland K. Gottshall

August 7, 1931 - December 30, 2024

Roland K. Gottshall, age 93, husband of Barbara (Wagner) Gottshall, of Royersford, PA, passed away on Monday, December 30, 2024 in the Pottstown Hospital. Born on August 7, 1931 in Limerick Township, he was a son of the late Anna (Knause) and Edwin K. Gottshall.

Along with his wife of 73 years, he is survived by his daughter, Rosalind Lively of Pottstown and his son, J. Bryan Gottshall, husband of Donna, of Limerick Township; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by an infant son; sisters, Marie, Dorothy, Evelyn, Marion, Grace; and brothers, Edwin and Walter.

Roland was employed in the advertising department of the Pottstown Mercury for 35 years. Following retirement, he worked as a casual driver for John Kennedy Lincoln Mercury for over 20 years.

Roland enjoyed Indianapolis car racing, traveling, and collecting many antique cars. He was also proud of the four houses her built.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral service at Cattermole-Klotzbach Funeral Home, 600 Washington Street, Royersford, PA on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 11:00 AM. Officiating will be Rev. Leah Woehr-Grande. Burial will follow in the Fernwood Cemetery, Royersford, PA. Friends will be

received from 10:30 AM-11:00 AM at the funeral home on Monday morning. Arrangements are being handled by the Cattermole - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Royersford, PA. Condolences may be offered online at www.RoyersfordFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Fernwood Cemetery

988 S. Township Line Road
Royersford, PA 19468

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Cattermole-Klotzbach Funeral Home
600 Washington Street
Royersford, PA 19460

Funeral Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Cattermole-Klotzbach Funeral Home
600 Washington Street
Royersford, PA 19460

Tribute Wall



“ *Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Roland K. Gottshall* ”



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - January 03, 2025 at 03:19 PM

BL

A Lesson, A Life, A Legend

For all of you who may read this, allow this to be a lesson to those that need to hear it.

For all of you who didn't know Roland Gottshall's other side, allow me to show you through my eyes.

The lesson: Regret is forever. Regret you cannot take back or do-over. Regret is what you live with each day because you failed to do 'something'. Ironically, sins are not. If you're a true believer in Christ, your sins were forgiven when He does in the cross for them and took the punishment you deserved for your sins, even though He was perfect. He did that for you, so you wouldn't die in your sins. The Bible states that God promises to completely erase your sins from all memory of you repent of them. Ironically, regret, you cannot. Regret is a human emotion. Therefore, you live with it from the remainder of your life.

I failed to tell my Grandfather the easiest, but most meaningful 3 word sentence there ever was. "I LOVE YOU". And now, I live to regret that. Lesson: Don't let that be you. If there is one person you have not told you loved them, or one person you didn't tell how much they've meant to you, do it TODAY. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. I had planned to share the following in person with my Grandfather right after the holidays - literally weeks after his passing, and to surprise him with a visit in person as I hadn't seen him for a number of years. I was going to do 2 things I had never done before: tell him "I love you" and to tell him all the reasons I did and what he meant to me. I can't do that now, or ever. Learn from my mistake. Wait for NOTHING.

On to my Grandfather. I've not wanted to write this as I do not accept his passing. In fact, whether you're a Believer in Christ, or not, we never really die. Die is a human word. Die is what we say when we aren't sure what happens next. He never died. All Roland did was change his address. He lived on Souder Road until 2024. In one breath, his new home was God's House, with many mansions. Jesus has been preparing that place for the past 2000+ years. If God made the Heavens and Earth in 6 days - what do you think He has done to build for my Grandfather to dwell in for eternity? For you and I, for eternity? We cannot fathom. Roland knows. He now knows. I wasn't sure until his son spoke at the funeral and said Roland had accepted Christ as His Lord and Savior. That single sentence was the very best news, to date, I have ever heard in my entire life besides my two children saying the same. Nothing is more important than that. That defined Roland's new address. That also defined the fact I will one day, in the blink of an eye, be able to tell him face to face, "I love you." It's

the only reason I cannot be sad. How can someone be sad, knowing they are going to spend eternity with those they love? Especially the man I've loved the most in my entire life and the only man I'll ever love with the exception of my son who is not yet a man. Roland was something more special than words can conclude or convey.

Everyone has their own depiction and stories and emotions and feelings and thoughts and memories of Roland. Here are mine:

He was my Grandfather.

He was my Father.

He was my Hero.

He was my Mentor.

He was my best Friend.

Almost every single good memory I had as a child from 3 - 18 - he led me through. He and my Grandmom, Barbara.

My whole life I never knew who my real biological father was. Never cared to know. Never understood why I didn't care, I just didn't care. Jesus helped me realize through the past few weeks, He gave me the best father I could have ever had and better than I could've dreamed of. He gave me Roland as a father.

My first and second basketball hoop and pole? Built and played by him and with him. He helped me slam dunk the only basketball I ever slam dunked in my life. He held me high and gave me the biggest memory in basketball history, when I felt 100 feet high slamming that ball through the rim. That memory is 43 years old, and I can still feel his hands holding me high above the rim and the biggest smile and laugh on both are faces. That's what the best fathers in the world do with their boys. That's what he did with me.

He build by hand a beautiful walnut headrest and bed board for me so I'd have one to sleep in. My 16 year old son now uses it nightly, only after my 19 year old daughter used it and outgrew it. It looks like the day he bought it. How? He redid it while I was away in the U.S. Army because he wanted to. Because he loved me and wanted me to have something nice for my children, his great grandchildren. That's what a father, a grandfather and a strong great grandfather does. That's what he did for me.

He gave me wisdom and guidance every time we were together.

Always. He felt it so important to instill in me more than the military even could. I wish I could tell him this now. Regret. Wait for NOTHING! Tell them TODAY!

He always gave me money when I saw him. Always. We'd play a game on my Grandmom. Just he and I. I won't tell you that game, but let's just say when she gave me a \$20, he made sure I left with \$40 and a wink. He did that because he knew I had nothing growing up. He knew what I was going through in life, from age 6 months to 18. He knew, he cared, he loved, and so he provided. Later in life, he gave me great savings advice and challenged and motivated me with exercises in savings and he gamified it for me, knowing that it would keep me going. He didn't do that for himself. He did that for me. I've never felt any love from any man; ironically, I've never felt so much love besides the love of Jesus, that the love I received from him.

I think the author of the following quote was talking about Roland, when they made the famous quote, "People will never remember everything you said and did, but they will remember the way you made them feel."

He made me feel like I was the most important person in the room, everyone and every room we were in together. I didn't realize it growing up, but the reason he asked so many questions, was because he was actually interested in ME. That means the world to me. I wish I could've told him that. Regret. WAIT FOR NOTHING!!

He was my protector. Once in First grade, a teacher would not let me use the bathroom when asked. I must've wet my pants. How else did he find out that day after school? I was what, 7? Like it was today, he looked at me square in the face with a militaristic look and said in his deep, loud, and thunderous voice - "Anytime you need to go to the bathroom, you just go!!! And if that teacher asks you where you're going or says No, you tell her My Grandpop told me I could and you JUST GO!!!" I even felt scared! But I felt like I had the military and all its weaponry and brigades behind me from that moment on in life. There are many other stories like this, but that was my first. I had a hero watching my back and a guardian for life.

What's interesting? The exact same thing happened with my son in elementary school and I said the exact same thing. As soon as the words came out, my hair stood up. I was my grandfather. I am JUST. LIKE. HIM. In so many ways, SO MANY WAYS - I cannot even list them all. I am just like him. He shaped and formed the foundation of who I am today. When people ask me moving forward, how I know x and y and z. I can now tell them, my father. Sometimes, we don't connect the dots until we look back and see that they are what led us to where we're at. I was going to tell him this and to thank him, to his face. Regret. WAIT FOR NOTHING!!!

One of the best things I ever heard my Grandmom say to me throughout the years as I've been away out of PA, is, "You must've really had Grandpop excited! He's NEVER on the phone that long! My gosh, you and him were on for over a half hour/hour!" It gave me a great sense of pride that someone as tall and with such great sized shoes as he would give me so much of his time, when he didn't with anyone else. I cannot put a price tag on it, and would sell those phone calls for a billion dollars. They were and still are priceless. They were everything I looked forward to. And I always felt good afterwards and left each call smarter than I was before I got on it. He had a presence you could literally feel through the phone a thousand miles away! He was my gift from God. God knew I needed an earthly father-figure and He gave me the greatest there ever was. He and I were born for such a time as this. I was going to tell him this. Regret. WAIT. FOR. NOTHING.

Lastly, as I could keep going on and on and on and on and on and at some point, I need to stop and save some for the the discussions to come with family when we reminisce about the life he lived and the life he shared and the better life we had because he was in it. Lastly, he gave me the greatest memories I've ever had. In fact, between he and Grandmom, they are the only happy memories I have of growing up. It was with them. My favorite times were at their house and with them. It was the safest and most loving place on Earth. Disney World has NOTHING on them or their house! I felt peace only there with them both. I can still feel it. I don't have to close my eyes and think. My Grandfather could make me feel like a million bucks in one sentence. We had inside jokes at the table and he knew when to stop - by the look on my Grandmom's face. He knew we'd get in trouble if he didn't stop. He NEVER let the kid completely out of him. I have so many funny stories of us getting into mischief - good mischief, but mischief nonetheless. I won't speak a word of them. They're treasured memories for he and I.

When I started a family, he became my children's one and only grandfather. He gave them their first and only tractor ride up and down Souder Road, he took them to their first and only indoor amusement park, barely able to walk. He played their first and only baseball game in his backyard with all of us, not able to walk well, he RAN the bases - laughing all the way. He did more for them than their own father did. That's who Roland was. My father, my Grandfather, my hero, my everything. I was going to tell him this. Regret. WAIT FOR NOTHING!!!!!!!!!!

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after Jesus and I embrace and speak, is Roland. And although the life we lived will have been no more and we get to spend a new, eternal life praising and worshipping our Heavenly Father, together, I am going to seek him out first just to tell him, "I Love You" No more regret.

Sincerely; and from Roland Gottshall's greatest fan, admirer, follower, student, grandson, son, and best friend and buddy,

Ben

Tell them TODAY.

Ben Lively - January 13, 2025 at 10:17 PM

“ A Lesson, A Life, A Legend

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Sincerely; and from Roland Gottshall's greatest fan, admirer, follower, student, grandson, son, and best friend and buddy,

Ben

Ben Lively - January 14, 2025 at 03:40 AM

BR

Thanks Ben, I'm really glad you wrote that. Bryan

bryan - January 14, 2025 at 09:47 PM

BT

“ *So sorry to hear of Roland's passing. Barbara and Roland were good neighbors to us down in Walnut Farms. Peace to all the family!* ”

Beverly Tyson - January 10, 2025 at 07:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Service Recording



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - January 06, 2025 at 02:10 PM

AW

“ *I will remember my neighbor and his cherry trees, his old tractors and cars, his daffodils on the bank and the deer in his yard. But most of all his sly smile. Ann Louise(Gottshall) Walker*

All louise Walker - January 03, 2025 at 07:24 PM