



## Mr. Gale Burton Berg

August 17, 1920 - September 20, 2013

What started out as just another ordinary Friday of cleaning the house and grocery shopping quickly became the last day on earth for Gale Burton Berg who passed away on September 20, 2013.

His parents, George and Sadie (Vesta) Berg welcomed Gale and his twin sister, Gladys (Erickson), August 17, 1920 on a farm near Esmond, Illinois. The twins joined their brothers Russell, Everett and George in a hardworking, closely-knit Norwegian family with numerous relatives on both sides.

In those days, the farm boys did not go to high school because they were needed on the farm. That was one of his biggest regrets – no high school diploma. For a few years, he was a hired hand at various farms in the area. He left that life to work at the Wurlitzer Factory in DeKalb, IL until WWII.

Once he completed his service in the Army Air Corps (1941-1945) and went back home, he met the love of his life, Mary Ellen (O'Malley). After a whirlwind courtship, they were married three months later in February 1946 in Harvard, IL.

He was always a farmer at heart, plowing the fields, planting the crops and feeding the steers. For quite a while he held two full time jobs – farmer and carpenter. Although he left the farm, he remained a Union Carpenter for 55

years. Many of the projects he worked on are quite familiar, e.g., NIU, Fermi Lab, Disney World and Epcot Center. Working outside in sub-zero weather was the reason he moved the family to Florida 41 years ago -- to escape the cold of northern Illinois.

Once they moved to Florida, he joined the Elks #1830 and later became an usher at St. Augustine Church for over 30 years. Gale Berg never met a stranger – he could talk to anyone about anything. In spite of his lack of formal education, he was intelligent and very well-read and loved the internet.

After retiring, they enjoyed traveling all over the world, working in the yard, taking long walks in the neighborhood, initiating projects, and water aerobics at the YMCA with his beloved Mary Ellen right by his side. He was never idle and was always helping friends, neighbors and his family.

We will forever cherish the fond memories and good times we had with him and will miss him so very much because he was such a larger than life presence who loved his family more than anything else in the world.

Gale is survived by his loving wife of 67 years Mary Ellen (O'Malley) and his seven children: Howard (Irene), Alan (Veralee), Donna (Robert Burkholder), Dennis (Avis), Steve (Mary), Ron (Liz) and Diane (Marc Esterabadi).

Grandchildren: Jason, Gayle, Christopher, Patrick (Stephanie) and Alyssa.

Great Grandchildren: Zoe Ramirez and Hope Deaver. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, twin sister and his grandsons Andrew, Jarrett and Charles.

Visitation will be held from 2-4 PM on Monday, September 23rd at DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, 9001 N. Orlando Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751.

The funeral will be held at St Augustine Church, 375 N. Sunset Drive, Casselberry, FL on Tuesday, September 24th at 11:00 AM.

Interment will follow thereafter at All Faiths Cemetery, 1390 Park Drive,

Casselberry, FL.

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, 9001 N. Orlando Avenue, Maitland, Florida 32751. (407) 695-CARE(2273).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **23.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel  
9001 N. Orlando Ave  
Maitland, FL 32751  
(407) 695-2273  
todd@degusipe.com  
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Mass

SEP **24.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Augustine Catholic Church  
375 N. Sunset Drive  
Casselberry, FL

# Tribute Wall

NA

“ My deepest condolences to Mary Ellen, Diane, and the rest of the family. Gale was loved by so many for his kind ways, and he will be missed immensely. During this difficult loss, the Biblical thought of Philippians 4:6, 7 is very comforting: “Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God; and the peace of God that excels all thought will guard your hearts and your mental powers by means of Christ Jesus”. Also know that Acts 24:15 states “and I have hope toward God, which hope these [men] themselves also entertain, that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.” It’s beautiful to know that Jehovah God has made this provision, a promise of seeing our loved ones again on an earthly paradise where death will be no more (Psalms 37:29; Revelations 21:3, 4). Your family is in my prayers and I hope that these Biblical words can help you through this time.

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Naomi - September 30, 2013 at 10:27 AM

TG

“ I met Mr. Berg 39 years ago when Diane and I became friends as 10 year old girls. I thought he looked so tall and intimidating, but instead he was such a kind and gentle man. I remember he was always one of the first neighbors to help everyone that needed help, or initiate taking up collections for flowers when a neighbor had lost a loved one or suffered an illness. He was always one of the first faces you saw when you went to mass at St. Augustine. He even sold my little sister her first car and made sure it had an oil change and full tank of gas and he patiently went over each and every feature of the car with her to make sure she would be safe and know how everything worked. He always looked out for everyone like that. Last year I had the pleasure of having him tell me how he met Mrs. Berg and it was so wonderful to see someone blush and still get excited over his bride of 66 years. Truly inspiring. I will remember you for being more than my best friends father, but for the kind, caring, person you were. A true gentle Giant.

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**Tracey Logan Gonzalez** - September 23, 2013 at 01:22 PM

TG

“ Tracey Logan Gonzalez lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gale Burton Berg



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**Tracey Logan Gonzalez** - September 23, 2013 at 01:03 PM

JG

“ *Mr. Berg was one of Somersets' Imperial Drive respected patriarchs. He has been a good neighbor for over 40 years . Not to mention the fact that he raised one of the most dearest people in my life Diane. Now my dad wont be lonely in heaven. Jorge Gonzalez*



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**j gonzalez** - September 23, 2013 at 11:51 AM

DI

“ *You were the best Daddy I was one lucky girl. I love you so much and I am going to miss you. You always took care of me and always had my back. You taught me well and I will make you proud. You said you don't know what you would do with out me now what am I going to do with out you to tell me what to do and how to do it. Biskit is sad and can't figure out where you are. I know you are watching over all of us. I will take care of Mother. Love your baby, Diane Marie*

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**Diane** - September 23, 2013 at 09:59 AM

ME

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Mary Ellen** - September 23, 2013 at 09:00 AM

BI

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



**Biskit** - September 23, 2013 at 08:59 AM



“ *Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Mr. Gale Burton Berg.*



September 22, 2013 at 09:24 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



**Diane Marie** - September 22, 2013 at 03:11 PM

 Kitty  
Breed

“ *Gale was such a nice person with a good heart. Steve and I will miss his upbeat attitude and ready smile. Good bless you on your journey, Gale.*



**Kitty Breed** - September 22, 2013 at 10:04 AM

KW

“ *Humor is how I will remember uncle Gale when the brothers got together there was always stories of grandma and grandpa berg of brothers and sisters of the farm and just family story of all of us growing up I will remember uncle Gale with a smile on his face my heart hurt for you all aunt Mary Ellen hugs and kisses*

**kristene walker** - September 21, 2013 at 10:05 PM

KF

“ *Kathy Falk lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gale Burton Berg*



**Kathy Falk** - September 21, 2013 at 07:30 PM

KF

*Great friend and neighbor, kind and caring will be greatly missed.*

**Kathy Falk** - September 21, 2013 at 07:31 PM

AP

“ *Anne Powers Palmer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gale Burton Berg*



**Anne Powers Palmer** - September 21, 2013 at 06:31 PM

RD

“ *Ron & Liz, Sophie & Duke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gale Burton Berg*



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**Ron & Liz, Sophie & Duke** - September 21, 2013 at 05:33 PM

 Erin Ewing

“ *Erin Ewing lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gale Burton Berg*



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**Erin Ewing** - September 21, 2013 at 05:13 PM

IY

“ *Irene, Daughter In Law For 39 Years. lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gale Burton Berg*



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**Irene, daughter in law for 39 years.** - September 21, 2013 at 04:58 PM

DF

“ *Gale has been a wonderful neighbor for 41 years and we have enjoyed his company on so many occasions. He will be sadly missed. The Flemings*

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**Daphne Fleming** - September 21, 2013 at 09:45 AM