



Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna

April 19, 1945 - July 30, 2024

Dr. Gerald “Jerry” Brozyna, 79, of Largo, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

Born on April 19, 1945, in Erfurt, Germany, Dr. Brozyna was the son of Polish and Austrian-Hungarian immigrants, the late Josef and Julia Brozyna. He enjoyed a distinguished career as a physician at CWY Bay Pines Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, where he served for over 30 years. His passions included fishing, traveling, and cruising, and he was also an enthusiastic collector of antiques. He enjoyed shopping at flea markets and hunting for a good bargain.

Dr. Brozyna is preceded in death by his parents and his aunt, Josephine Ruocco. He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Lucia H. Brozyna; their children, Monique Brozyna, Gerald A. Brozyna, Jr., and Karl W. Brozyna; Caroline Brozyna (spouse of Gerald A. Brozyna Jr.) and his granddaughter’s Madeline and Camilla Brozyna; his sister, Mary Kobylarz; and nieces and nephews, Dr. Fred Kobylarz, Diana Mazur, and Albert Kobylarz of New Jersey.

The Brozyna family’s life was marked by struggles after spending several years in concentration and displaced persons camps in both Germany and Belgium. Gerald Brozyna was born in Germany, shortly before Victory in Europe Day, marking the official end of WWII in Europe in the Eastern front in

1945. Natives of Poland, the family arrived at Ellis Island in New York in 1947 from Europe. They financially earned their way to this country assisted by the Catholic Committee. The family briefly settled in Clifton, New Jersey with relatives. They remained in Clifton and Passaic New Jersey for several years.

Gerald Brozyna briefly attended Christian Brothers College in Memphis, Tennessee and graduated from the Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey with an undergraduate degree in Biology. He then went on to medical school at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Guadalajara and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. He graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree specializing in Internal Medicine. His physician residencies were practiced in several locations including New Jersey, New York at Mt. Sinai Hospital and the Bronx VA, and Canada. His professional medical career was practiced in Mexico, Canada, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and Florida.

He then relocated to Gainesville, FL with his family where he began his medical career with the Veteran's Administration Medical Center. There he worked at both the Gainesville VA and Shands Teaching Hospital and served as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. After Gainesville, he realized how much he loved living in Florida and he relocated again to Ft. Lauderdale, FL where he was part of a medical private practice group. Lastly, he relocated to Largo, FL where he permanently settled with his family until present. This is where he began his long-term career at the CWY Bay Pines Veterans Administration Medical Center practicing as an Internal Medicine physician. While at the VA he worked in several areas of the hospital including inpatient and outpatient clinics and the Emergency Room. He served specialized Veteran groups. He was the Domiciliary physician for the homeless population and was the appointed physician caring for the Prisoners of War Veterans. He often was honored with awards from several POW members throughout the years. He was also part of the VA HazMat team and participated in hurricane relief work in Port Charlotte and Sarasota, FL and the St. Thomas US Virgin

Islands. In addition, he was appointed as Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL. He retired from being a physician from the CWY Bay Pines VA Medical Center 15 years ago and became a professional cruiser to several warm and tropical locations.

Dr. Brozyna was a great and honorable husband, father, grandfather, and favorite uncle who loved his family unconditionally. In the United States, he began from humble beginnings and was a pioneer of his time exploring the world on his own to find a better life and education. This led him to be curious about travelling the world which also evolved into many off the beaten path adventurous road trips. It is a good thing he was also a mechanic in his younger days! Although he was a very educated man, he also valued many of life's lessons. Along the way, he managed to communicate in four different languages which also made him relatable to others and often came in handy with his medical career. He had a bigger than life personality and a jovial sense of humor. He was a colorful unfiltered storyteller which is what people often expressed that they most loved about him. He has been called the "most interesting man" on more than one occasion. He raised his children to have good moral character and specifically emphasized to put God first and practice our Catholic faith. His goal was not to be wealthy or choose his career, rather he put family first.

To our amazing husband and father, our hero, we all want to say thank you for being there for us every step of the way and for your unwavering love. You may have been known to be a little gruff at times but in reality, you were a big and soft teddy bear with a heart of gold. Each time we see your teddy bear collection we will endearingly think of you.

We always said he had nine lives and was a survivor overcoming many of

life's adversities. He persevered and fought until his last days. This is a testament of his "joie de vivre".

This is to have succeeded and a poem that is a reminder of who he was beautifully written by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"To laugh often and much: To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Visitation will be on Thursday, August 8th, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at DeGusipe Funeral Home and Crematory-R. Lee Williams Chapel, 3530 49th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33710.

A Catholic Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, August 9th, at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 9111 90th Ave., Largo, Florida, with a reception to follow.

Burial in Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 5233 118th Ave N., Clearwater, FL 33760 will take place after the reception at 1:30 PM.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Catholic Cemetery

5233 118th Ave N.
Clearwater , FL 33760

Previous Events

Public Visitation

AUG 8. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory (Formerly R. Lee Williams & Son) - St. Petersburg
Chapel
3530 49th Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
<http://DeGusipe.com>

A Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Matthew Catholic Church
9111 90th Ave.
Largo, FL 33777

Tribute Wall

BL

“ Dear Mrs Brozyna, Karl, Monique, Jerry, Caroline and family - We are deeply sorry to hear about the loss of Mr. B. I will remember him fondly as a Bollywood-loving, gentle and strong pillar of your family. I am so glad our son got to meet him and spend some time with him last Christmas. Thank you Mr B. for gracing us with your warmth, loving energy and jovial nature. We will remember you fondly.
Bhushan & Shalin Lele

Bhushan & Shalin Lele - August 08, 2024 at 03:04 PM

SL

“ Shalin L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.

Shalin L. - August 08, 2024 at 02:37 PM

TG

“ the Woman's International Group purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



the Woman's International Group - August 08, 2024 at 01:31 PM

RM

“ Rick, Chris and Karolina Mazur purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



Rick, Chris and Karolina Mazur - August 08, 2024 at 10:24 AM

CD

“ Chris Douglass planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.

Chris Douglass - August 08, 2024 at 08:19 AM

CD

“ Chris Douglass purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



Chris Douglass - August 08, 2024 at 08:19 AM

L-

“ Lourdes E. Rivera -Colon purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



Lourdes E. Rivera -Colon - August 08, 2024 at 12:19 AM

AN

“ Andy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.

Andy - August 07, 2024 at 11:18 PM

AN

“ Andy purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



Andy - August 07, 2024 at 11:18 PM

TT

“ The VA CNH team purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



The VA CNH team - August 07, 2024 at 10:51 AM

JG

“ Wishing you comfort during this challenging time. Our condolences.

—The Gitlen Family

Jonathan Gitlen - August 06, 2024 at 01:01 PM

DF

“ Dr. Manuel Garcia-Estrada and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.

Dr. Manuel Garcia-Estrada and family - August 06, 2024 at 11:24 AM

DF

“ Dr. Manuel Garcia-Estrada and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



Dr. Manuel Garcia-Estrada and family - August 06, 2024 at 11:24 AM

SF

“ Steph and Corey Freeburger purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



Steph and Corey Freeburger - August 05, 2024 at 09:46 PM

SF

“ Steph and Corey Freeburger planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.

Steph and Corey Freeburger - August 05, 2024 at 09:46 PM

LR

“ Love Jody Richardson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



Love Jody Richardson - August 05, 2024 at 07:26 PM

BC

“ Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.

Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center - August 05, 2024 at 02:49 PM

FF

“ From Ed Smith and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.

From Ed Smith and family - August 05, 2024 at 01:13 PM

FF

“ From Ed Smith and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Gerald A. Brozyna.



From Ed Smith and family - August 05, 2024 at 01:13 PM

ES

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Jerry. Jerry Jr. and I have been friends since College. Jerry Sr. was a good man and treated me like a son when I visited with his family in Florida. The warmth I felt with his family was very comforting. Jerry may be lost to us on Earth, but Jesus found him in Heaven. God bless 🙏🙏❤️.

Ed Smith

Edmond Smith - August 05, 2024 at 11:31 AM

BP

“ Jerry & family, though I (Brian) never met your Dad, I feel as though I knew him through you. My Mom and I were very sorry about your Dad's passing, and we extend our deepest sympathy to you all-- Mrs. B, Jerry & family (Caroline, Madeline, and Camilla), Monique, Karl, and your surviving aunt--during this difficult time of loss. You are all in our thoughts & prayers. May God continue to send you His comfort and peace in the days ahead.

Warm regards, Brian R. Pabst & Catherine Pabst (Mom)

Brian R. Pabst & Catherine Pabst - August 05, 2024 at 06:03 AM

RC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dr. Brozyna's passing! We spent many years working together at Bay Pines. He was considered a personal friend who was comforting to everyone who needed his advice.

Roberta A Cliett - August 04, 2024 at 11:13 AM

JF

A good man with a gentle soul. May he rest in peace

john finnegan - August 08, 2024 at 05:44 PM

BF

Mrs. Brozyna, Jerry Jr. and family, I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Dr. Brozyna. Jerry Jr. - I can only imagine how difficult this time must be for you and your family.

Wishing you and your family strength and peace.

Your Friend.

Bilal F.

Bilal F - August 14, 2024 at 03:39 PM