



## Rich Gatanis

November 20, 2025

George Richard "Rich" Gatanis, 87, of Carneys Point, New Jersey, passed away peacefully on November 20, 2025. He was born on January 18, 1938, to Harry and Mary Gatanis in Salem, New Jersey, and was married for 63 years to the love of his life, Barbara Jean Gatanis (nee Smith).

He is survived by his children, Tim Gatanis (Judy), Kenneth Gatanis (Maria), Kimberly Gatanis, Rich Gatanis (Shelley); grandchildren, Rebekah Pratta, Deanna Gatanis, Victoria Gatanis, Devon Gatanis, Elena Hogate (Terry), and Summer Bird; great-grandchildren, Jade Pratta-Chisholm, Presley Jean Gatanis, Terry Hogate III, Vienna Hogate, and Selah Hogate; and his brother Robert Gatanis (Lilian). He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara and his siblings Tom, Ted, Harry, Nick, Paul, Rose, Florence, Katherine, Dorothy, and Mary.

Rich worked for more than 40 years at Dupont Chambers Works in Carneys Point, beginning in operations, serving as union president, and later moving to Wilmington, Delaware and working as an outside sales representative. After retiring, Rich embarked on a business venture as owner and operator of South Jersey Sporting Goods in Salem.

An outstanding athlete, Rich played football and baseball at Salem High School under coach Sam Venuto, and then went on to play for Massanutten

Military Academy, and East Carolina University. While raising four children and working at Dupont, Rich continued his passion for sports competing in the Salem County semi-pro baseball league as player-coach and later manager of the Pennsville Merchants. Rich poured his experience into youth sports in Pennsville, coaching the Hawks 125-lb football team and serving as president of the program when it moved to the Industrial Park complex. He coached Babe Ruth baseball and served as league president. Rich was head football coach at St. James High School in Carneys Point for five seasons, including one undefeated parochial state championship. He later coached the Salem County Community College baseball team, rebuilding the field at the DOD site in Carneys Point and recruiting players to compete in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC). An avid golfer, Rich was a member of several Salem County clubs and cherished lifelong friendships forged through sports.

He also served his community as a Carneys Point committeeman and mayor for several years.

Rich and his wife attended and supported Bethel Bible Baptist Church and enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of many there.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Rich's life on Tuesday, November 25th, 2025 at Bethel Bible Baptist Church, 20 S. Elmwood Avenue, Carneys Point, NJ 08069. Visitation is at 10:00 a.m., service at 11:00 a.m., and interment will follow at Lawnside Cemetery, Woodstown. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Rich's memory to Bethel Bible Baptist Church.

[www.adamsfuneralhome.org](http://www.adamsfuneralhome.org)

# Cemetery Details

## Lawnside Cemetery

896 NJ-45  
Woodstown, NJ 08098-2800  
(856) 769-2626

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel Bible Baptist Church  
20 South Elmwood Avenue  
Carneys Point, NJ 08069

## Service

NOV **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel Bible Baptist Church  
20 South Elmwood Avenue  
Carneys Point, NJ 08069

# Tribute Wall

KK

“ Rest in peace, Coach Gatanis. Thank you for coaching me and giving me an opportunity to play college baseball. Prayers to his family and friends.

kyle Knerr - November 28, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“ Carol Molinari Monks lit a candle in memory of Rich Gatanis



Carol Molinari Monks - November 24, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Rich Gatanis.



November 24, 2025 at 10:52 AM

JB

“ My sympathies to the Gatanis family .  
Richie was a great friend & enjoyed coming to Raleigh to play golf in our member - guest event. We had some wonderful memories.  
May he RIP !

john buyarski - November 24, 2025 at 08:48 AM

LP

“ Dear Rich and Shelley and family,

Was so sorry to hear about Richie's passing. He was a good man and friend.

May his memory be eternal and may God grant him eternal rest and peace.

Liz Pappas, PV

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**liz pappas** - November 24, 2025 at 08:26 AM

LS

“ Laura Scruggs lit a candle in memory of Rich Gatanis



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**Laura Scruggs** - November 23, 2025 at 09:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rich Gatanis.



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November 23, 2025 at 08:51 PM

TS

“ Tammy and Scott planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rich Gatanis.

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**Tammy and Scott** - November 23, 2025 at 03:39 PM

TS

“ Tammy and Scott purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rich Gatanis.



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**Tammy and Scott** - November 23, 2025 at 03:39 PM

KD

“ My deepest sympathy and sincerest condolences on Rich's passing. I had the honor and privilege of being Rich and Barbara's banking Account Officer for many years. They were the epitome of class and respect and love for each other. May your loving memories comfort and nurture their family, colleagues and friends.

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**Kevin Danna** - November 23, 2025 at 11:24 AM

LS

*Condolences to the entire Gatanis Family.*

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**Lou Berge sr** - November 23, 2025 at 06:08 PM



*Condolences to all the Gatanis family and deep regret we could not be there. Uncle Rich was a dear, sweet Uncle to me and brother to my Dad "Bob".*

*We love and miss him... until til we meet again.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Prayers for comfort and peace knowing he is with the Lord and Aunt Barb.  
We love you all.*

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**Valerie Long** - November 24, 2025 at 01:41 PM

PM

*We regret the passing of Rich, a good neighbor and friend. Our condolences to the entire Gatanis family.*

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**Patricia and Charles Musser** - November 24, 2025 at 02:04 PM

JF

*My prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Rich Gatanis. I met Rich when he owned the Sporting Goods Store in Salem. When he retired from there, I had not seen him until I met him again at the Merion Gardens Assisted Living. I do a "Sing Along" there each week and I was happy to once again see him. He came to the "Sing Along" several times and I always enjoyed seeing and talking with him. PRAISE that he is in the presence of the Lord for eternity!*

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**Jeannette Finlaw** - November 24, 2025 at 09:13 PM

JE

*My prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Rich Gatanis. I met Rich when he owned the Sporting Goods Store in Salem. After that I had not seen him until I met him again at the Merion Gardens Assisted Living. I do a "Sing Along" there each week. Rich came to the "Sing Along" several times and I enjoyed seeing and talking with him again. PRAISE he is in the presence of the Lord for eternity!*

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**Jeannette** - November 24, 2025 at 09:35 PM