

## JOHN P. GAGIANAS



John P. Gagianas, 93, died March 3, 2024, at the Providence Point Healthcare Center, three weeks after the death of his beloved wife, Mary, of 65 years. In his final moments, John was surrounded by family and clergy, in prayer, all expressing their love and gratitude for his presence in their lives. John was predeceased by his wife, Mary; father, Peter; mother, Mary (Doudouliakis); and

sister, Betty. Surviving, are his sisters, Hido and Despena; daughters, Helen (Doug) Murray, and Irene (Bob) Clare; and sons, Peter (Theanne) Gagianas and Nick (Tammy) Gagianas; his twelve grandchildren, Nicholas (Alyssa) Gagianas, Eleni (William) Walsh, Yianni (Marika) Gagianas, Christopher (Elizabeth) Gagianas, Paul (Despina) Murray, Georgia Gagianas (fiancé Thomas Perry), John Clare, Lia Gagianas (fiancé, Zachary Moore), Jacob Murray, Michael Clare, Dimitri (Maria) Gagianas, Matthew Clare; and his great-grandchildren Lucy Gagianas, Photini Murray, Claire Gagianas, Stavros Gagianas, and Panayioti Murray.

John will long be remembered for his tireless work ethic, his undeniable love of family, and his investment finesse that brought success to his many protégés. He was personable and witty and could capture any audience with his booming bass voice. He was ahead of his time with his litany of "dad jokes," puzzles, and silly tricks that never got old and always erupted in endless laughter. John was truly the humblest head of the household ... working hard to provide all the necessities of this life for his family and always rejoicing in the successes of others, well above any acknowledgment of his own outstanding achievements. His investment strategy was not simply his prized pastime, it was his fundamental philosophy for life. John fully invested himself in each of his four children and their families, including 12 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren (with two more on the way). He enjoyed watching them grow, allowing them to mature, and being there as a constant and steady presence for them through all of life's ups and downs, always letting everyone know he was their number one fan! His heart was full, seeing the return that came from his longterm commitment to their lives, as he and his adored wife, Mary, religiously sat on the sidelines of every performance of every Gagianas generation, cheering them on with love and encouragement.

John was born in 1930 in Rochester, Pennsylvania, to his Greek immigrant parents, Peter and Mary (Doudouliakis) Gagianas. He emulated his father's dedicated work ethic, who owned, ran, and maintained his own shoe shine and hat repair store while working full-time at a glass factory. Despite growing up during the Great Depression, John's parents prioritized their children's education and encouraged John and his sisters, Betty, Hido, and Despena, to excel in their studies and the arts. John played trombone in the marching band and violin in the high school orchestra. As a result of his respect for his upbringing, John instilled these same values in his own children, leading the next several Gagianas generations in encouraging higher education, a strong work ethic, and an interest in music. John not only sang with his entire family in the church choir at Holy Cross, He spearheaded the most memorable family gatherings with his robust repertoire of old army call and response songs, including a now poignant family favorite, "So Long ... it's Been Good to Know Ya."

While studying and working at both J&L Steel and his dad's shop, John received the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Medal for achieving the highest scholastic record in high school science courses. He was awarded a scholarship to Rochester University, however, John sacrificed this opportunity, to attend the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt), where he commuted daily by foot, bus, train, and street car. He financed his own education by joining the ROTC program as well as working. On graduation day in 1952, John got his degree in Chemical Engineering and his orders for the Army. He served in the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant, and upon his honorable discharge, he studied for his Master's degree at Pitt. He finished all the coursework but hadn't completed his thesis when he accepted a job at Koppers. John dedicated 30-plus years working at Koppers, beginning in New Jersey where he started his family, moving with each promotion to Kansas City and ultimately to Pittsburgh. He finished his career working a decade at IESCO, selling natural gas.

John was active in his Orthodox church life, serving on the Parish Council, singing in the choir, and serving many roles at the food festivals. He initiated, organized, and ran an investment club where he loved teaching, advising, and mentoring fellow members. He also taught investing at local community colleges. He excelled in playing bridge well into his 90s. His presence, along with his countless tricks and jokes will be greatly missed.

His family is grateful for his example and legacy of love as they seek to imitate his beautifully balanced life of hard work, faith and family layered with laughter and a genuine joy for life. His hearty laugh, words of wisdom, and powerful impact will forever echo in the hearts and minds of all who knew him. From his humble roots, John worked hard and accomplished much, all to provide the very best life for his ever-growing family.

The family appreciates all the great care John received from the staff at Providence Point and Gallagher Hospice, and the spiritual support from Father Michael Kallaur, Father John Touloumes, and Father John Chakos.

Arrangements by **BEINHAUER FUNERAL HOME.**

Viewing on Thursday, March, 7th, 4:00 to 8:00 pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Mt. Lebanon. Trisagion Service at 7:00 pm.

Viewing and Funeral on Friday, March 8th, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 7:30 am.

Orthros, 8:30 am

Liturgy, 10:00 to 11:00 am, viewing preceding the funeral service

Funeral Service at 11:00 am

Burial in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery

Those who wish to remember John in a special way may make gifts in his memory to either: Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228, or Ronald McDonald House Charities – Philadelphia Region, 3925 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3110, <https://www.rmhcphilly.org/donate>.

Please add or view tributes at [www.beinhauer.com](http://www.beinhauer.com)

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](mailto:post-gazette.com/gb)