



Mr. Philip deTura Clarke

February 12, 1922 - June 3, 2014

Philip deTura Clarke of Cortland passed away Tuesday June 3, 2014 at his home at the age of 92. Born February 12, 1922 in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Philip was the son of George Walter and Mercedes Rodriguez Clarke. George Clarke and his brother, Edward, established and ran Clarke Brothers in Scranton, which grew to become a small chain of over 20 retail stores in the Wyoming and Lackawanna valleys in the first decade of the Twentieth Century.

In 1935, at the age of 13, Phil saw Herr Schicklgruber (Adolph Hitler's family name) at the Elephant Hotel in Weimar and in 1945, as a member of the 12th Armored Division's 56th Armored Infantry Battalion, and with four or five million other Americans, helped kill Hitler.

Phil was a graduate of Beaumont College, Old Windsor, England and the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business and Commerce., where he worked a 61 hour week to complete his sophomore year. Graduating in 1947, he went into merchandising and ended up, with the help of his beloved wife, establishing and running Clarke Brothers in Homer, N.Y. for 34 years, the last seven of which he was ably assisted by his son Milo.

Phi was a communicant of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and traveled the country as a member of the 12th Armored Division Organization. Additionally, Phil will be remembered by many for his letters to the editor of the Cortland Standard over more than 40 years.

He is survived by his wife Martha Cary Clarke and their children, Mary Margaret (Frank) Alverson of Jacksonville, FL, George Walter (Joan Heaney) of Brooklyn, Glen Cary (Carol Gungo) of Cortland, Milo Matthew (Mary Papalia) of St. Augustine, FL, Edward Rodriguez (Kumiko Takuma) of Kitakyushu, Japan, and Richard James (Yuki Katagishi) of Winter Park, FL. Phil was the proud grandpa of nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Phil was preceded in death by his brothers, George, Richard R. and Edward M. Clarke and a son, Philip Richard Clarke in 1997.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday at 11. a.m. in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church with Rev. Joseph Zareski serving as celebrant. Prayers of committal will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. The Clarke family will be present to receive friends on Monday from 5-7 p.m. in the Riccardi Funeral Home Chapel, 69 N. Main St., Cortland.

Those who wish to honor his memory in the form of a contribution are asked to consider St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's School or the American Cancer Society.

Comments



“ Phil was my friend and he enriched my life. He is now in God's hands, but I shall miss him greatly. Rest in peace, my brother of the 56th.

A. Edward Pierce - May 18, 2018 at 11:12 AM



“ We always appreciated Phil's caring attitude in the store. He took special care with the children, never speaking down to them. We pray that he rests in peace.

Ken Jones - May 18, 2018 at 11:12 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Mr. Clarke accomplished much in his life and may now rest peacefully in Heaven. Having been such good friends with my folks, I know he will be greeted with their smiles. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Helen DeMane Burt - May 18, 2018 at 11:12 AM