



Gabriel John DeSantis

March 7, 1936 - October 9, 2020

Gabe DeSantis died peacefully October 9, 2020 in Powell, Ohio at the age of 84. Gabe is survived by daughters Sharon (John) Panico of Dublin, Ohio, Marylouise (Michael) Murphy of Dayton, Ohio. Sons, David DeSantis of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and Tommy DeSantis of Lexington, Ohio. Grandchildren Maria Panico, Elisa (Evan) Serra, John Gabriel Panico and Michaela Murphy, great grandchildren Enzo and Gino Serra. Gabe is preceded in death by his Wife Carol, parents, Fiorindo & Mary DeSantis and sister Rita DeSantis all of Akron. His faith was strong so when he was told he didn't have long to live he simply stated it is time to go see Carol. We find peace knowing he is joined again with his wife Carol of 62 years who passed away on March 7th of this year.

Gabe was born on March 7, 1936 in Akron. He attended Jennings Elementary and graduated from North High School in 1954, President of his class. He attended Ohio University where he earned a degree in Education and was the quarterback for the Bobcats. He continued with his graduate studies at Akron University and got a Master's in Physical Education.

Gabe taught in the Akron school system and was Assistant Football Coach at Firestone High School. He worked for the Education Research Council in Cleveland where he developed teacher curriculum. He authored and co-authored exercise records and books. He went back to the classroom teaching in the Hudson school system where he also coached Tennis. Gabe

retired in 2001 from the Ohio Board of Education where he evaluated Ohio schools and helped them stay current with educational developments.

Gabe was a devoted Husband, supportive Father and a source of Love for his entire family. Gabe made lifelong friends everywhere he went and continued that wonderful trait his entire life. After retiring from Education Gabe was active on the board at New Hope, which helps individuals with disabilities, and started the Mansfield chapter of Mended Hearts, an information and support group for heart disease. He and Carol also enjoyed golf and continued the DeSantis legacy of gardening—growing swish chard, peppers and tomatoes.

In lieu of flowers please consider donations to Parkinson's research. Your Prayers and stories of Gabe are also welcome.

A funeral Mass only will be held at 10:30 am Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020 at St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Rd, Powell, OH 43065. Due to COVID no gathering after Mass. For those that cannot travel to the Mass, it is streamed live. Visit StJoanOfArcPowell.org for details.

Tribute Wall



“ Gabriel John DeSantis

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ I was saddened to recently learn of Mr. DeSantis' passing. I was Secretary in the Health & Phys Ed Dept at the Educational Research Council until 1975 and truly enjoyed working with him. Your Dad and Mr. Les Smith were two of the nicest people I've had the pleasure of knowing. He always spoke so highly of his family and was so dedicated to education. May he rest in peace.
~Marcia (Ziegler) Taylor

Marcia Taylor - January 24, 2021 at 12:52 PM



“ I had Mr. D, as we affectionately called him at Case Elementary, and again at Firestone High as gym instructor and football coach. All of the kids adored and loved him. I never ever heard one bad word ever said about him. Very sad indeed for so many of us. Drake Alvarez Northfield Ohio

Drake Alvarez - January 06, 2021 at 03:57 PM

RT

“ Dear Family of Carol and Gabe,
We were saddened to hear that Gabe died . We had not heard that Carol also died this year. We were glad to be able to share in the funeral liturgy this morning via live streaming. For many years Ray worked closely with both of your parents in both local and state-wide efforts on behalf of persons with differing abilities. They were good people and fun to be with. We are thankful for all they were able to achieve for so many people. We hope many special memories help comfort you at this time of loss. May both Carol and Gabe be enjoying a well earned eternal rest in peace. With our prayers,
MarieAnn, Ray and Kathleen Thomas Akron/ARC

ray/marieann thomas - October 21, 2020 at 01:20 PM

LR

“ My big brother Gabe, you taught me a lot. Pound for pound you were as competitive as they come. Traveling with Rita to see you play in Athens OH for OU impressed me as an eighth grader. Lesson learned was that size was not the defining attribute to play football. It's the size of the heart and understanding the game that wins. You were a winner in many ways. I made a tough decision not to drive by myself to your funeral, four hours of restless sleep and weather. Know that I am praying with your family via livestream.
Les Radwany



Les Radwany - October 21, 2020 at 08:29 AM

BN

“ My husband Darrell and I have been blessed to know Gabe, as long as we have been members of Resurrection in Lexington, Ohio...20 years. I saw the obituary but did not know Miss Carol had passed, I felt so bad. I also knew them from our neighborhood Woodside and working the election. I have a non profit guardianship program in Mansfield, and serve the Developmentally Disabled so I would reach out to them, as they did me. Truly a lovely couple inside and out, I consider myself blessed to have known them. Hold onto your memories and your faith as I/we will. Be well stay well - blessings abound.

*Brenda Starr-Jude, NCG
Lexington, Ohio*

Brenda Starr-Jude, NCG - October 20, 2020 at 11:33 AM

JM

“ Dear Sharon, Mary, David and Tommy. I just wanted to send my condolences on the passing of both of your parents. They and each of you hold great memories for me growing up on Hollywood Circle. Take care and be safe. Jenny Garman Murphy

Jenny Garman Murphy - October 18, 2020 at 08:18 PM

JH

“ Gabe was one of the my coaches at Akron North 1962. He had a low key demeanor and was a teacher of the game. He was a good man! My sincere condolences to his family.

Jim Hooper

jim Hooper - October 16, 2020 at 07:47 AM

MB

“ A long time ago Mr. DeSantis was my teacher for my “Teaching of Phys Ed” class at the University of Akron. I remember him as knowledgeable, kind and caring. My sincere sympathy to his family on his passing.

Maureen Brown - October 16, 2020 at 01:49 AM

MD

“ 1 file added to the album Photos



margherita dellisanti - October 15, 2020 at 02:28 PM

BV

“ Coach DeSantis was one of my football coaches at Firestone High School in Akron (1963-64). He was always encouraging and really knew the game. I will always remember that time. - Bill Voss, former halfback, Firestone High School

Bill Voss - October 15, 2020 at 01:09 PM

AL

“ My condolences to all. My high school gym teacher in Hudson. - Allyson Lehere

Allyson Lehere - October 15, 2020 at 12:15 PM

MM

“ Sharon, Mary, David and Tommy, my mom and I are so sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. DeSantis. What a year. I still remember all the times he was at the park pitching to David. Mike Moore

Mike Moore - October 15, 2020 at 11:36 AM

FM

rs Moles

francis moles - October 15, 2020 at 12:25 PM

GC

I met Gabe and Carol one day after I had by-pass surgery in Oct, 2007. Shortly after, he recruited me for the Mended Hearts Inc. visitors here in Mansfield General Hospital. From that time on we were good friends, and had some good conversations. It was my privilege to have known them both. God's speed Gabe, you did well. Gary Cover

Gary Cover - October 19, 2020 at 02:17 PM

KP

“ This is one of my favorite photographs of Auntie Carol and Uncle Gabe. ❤️



Kim Panico - October 14, 2020 at 08:28 PM

JA

Gabe stole my heart when I worked at Powell he asked me every morning
Where Carol I would review her Obituary and tell him God needed her in heaven. He'd calm and eat. He was and is an amazing person. RIP my friend in the arms of the lord and dance with Carol.
Janice Ackers RN BSN

Janice Ackers - October 14, 2020 at 08:45 PM

KB

“ 1 file added to the album Photos



Kirsten Buccigrossi - October 14, 2020 at 01:25 PM