



Francis Gregory Gause Jr.

JUL 27, 1930 - MAR 31, 2025



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F. Gregory Gause, Jr.

F. Gregory Gause, Jr. of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, died on March 31, 2025, in the presence of family, after a brief illness. Greg was born in Wilmington, Delaware, on July 27, 1930, and, except for his stint in the Korean War, lived in Delaware his entire life. He graduated from Salesianum School in Wilmington in 1947 and from the University of Delaware in 1951. After his military service, he pursued graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School before leaving to become a stockbroker, a trade he pursued in Philadelphia for over three decades.

As an ROTC student, Greg's bachelor's degree came with a commission in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant. He was deployed to Korea, earning a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Leaving active duty in 1953, he remained in the Army Reserve until 1988, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His military service was a formative element in his life, of which he was very proud. He was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7447 and the American Legion Post 5, in Rehoboth Beach. Among other offices, he served as chaplain in both organizations. In that capacity, during patriotic holiday ceremonies, he offered invocations and benedictions which became locally renowned for their eclectic wit and erudition.

In 1956, in the best decision of his life, Greg married Patricia Reybold of Delaware City, Delaware. They raised five children in the suburbs of Wilmington. Pattie Gause was a high school math teacher who left the profession when her children were young and returned to it when they had all learned to tie their own shoes. She taught at Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, Delaware, from 1970 to 1992.

In 1988, Greg transitioned to a stint in the Delaware Attorney General's office, investigating securities fraud. He enjoyed sleuthing out and exposing dishonest brokers. In 1992, he and Pattie moved to the house on Bayard Avenue in Rehoboth Beach that he had inherited from his maternal uncles. Unlike his wife, he never really liked going to the beach, but he threw himself



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into local affairs, not only with the American Legion and the VFW, but also volunteering as a cantor at St. Edmond's Roman Catholic Church for over 20 years. He served as president and vice-president of the Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association and on the board of the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society. He was also a part-time employee of the City of Rehoboth Beach's grounds crew for two decades. On many afternoons he could be seen mowing the grass and tending to the trees in various city plots, including the islands on Bayard Avenue.

Greg was a student of history, which made him a valuable ally in trivia games and an engaging, though sometimes discursive, companion at the bars of the American Legion and the VFW. His love of history led him to a life-time hobby of coin collecting, which occupied more than a few hours of his leisure time. After he stopped singing as a church cantor, he took up the more secular musical practice of karaoke, displaying his skills at various local watering holes.

After Pattie died in August 2020, Greg found comfort and companionship in his circle of friends at the American Legion and the VFW, for which his family is extremely grateful. He is survived by his 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 11:00 AM at St. Edmond's Roman Catholic Church, 409 King Charles Ave, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971, where friends and family may visit beginning at 10:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to Autism Delaware, (<https://www.autismdelaware.org>).

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

FLORIST NOTE : PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3:00 PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025, TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



Events

Francis Gregory Gause Jr.

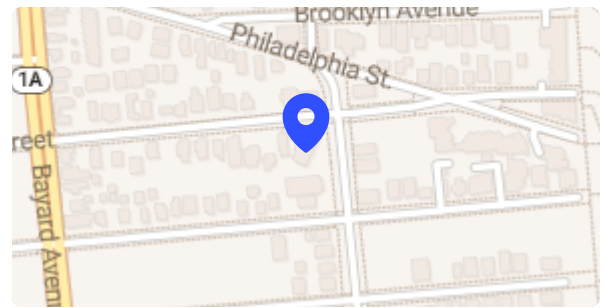
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Visitation

 **Tuesday**, April 29, 2025

 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM ET

 **St. Edmond Catholic Church**
409 King Charles Ave, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

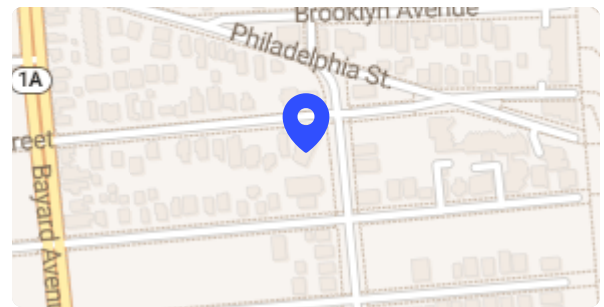


Mass of Christian Burial

 **Tuesday**, April 29, 2025

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

 **St. Edmond Catholic Church**
409 King Charles Ave, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971





Tribute Wall

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The O'flynn Family sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Gause family.



April 23 at 2:19 PM



Nancy Butler posted:

Greg was always in a distant part of my life as my sister, Joan Butler, and her husband James (Jay or Jim) Dugan were on the Catholic Forum of the Air with Greg. (I play the baby Jesus once back in the 1950s and Greg might have played St. Christopher) In 1960 Greg was in an automobile accident and my brother, Joe, witnessed it. He pulled Greg out of the wrecked car and took him to the hospital. Then in the 1990s we started going to Rehoboth every fall and as soon as we arrived Greg would come pedaling down Laurel Street to our apartment behind the Star of the Sea to visit. And for the next 20+ years we went to Greg and Pattie's to enjoy cocktails and snacks on their wonderful front porch. We also visited with him at the FVW and American Legion. After COVID ended our stays there, I kept in touch with him via phone. I last saw Greg during this past Seawitch and went to the VFW to hear him sing Karaoke. I was sincerely saddened to learn of his passing so soon after.

April 21 at 4:44 AM



Fred Lawson lit a candle in honor of Francis.



April 15 at 4:25 PM



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HI

Hilary posted:

My husband and I met Greg and Pattie when our friends bought the house across the street from them in 1992. I don't think we have ever had a trip to Rehoboth that did not include a visit with Pattie and Greg. We will miss the hospitality, great conversations and of course the V&Ts that came with these visits. More recently we enjoyed meeting Greg at the Post and listening to him sing Karaoke, pretty amazing at 94! Truly the end of an era on Munson Street. We will miss you Greg, you and Pattie will always be in our hearts! Higgy and Steve

April 9 at 12:53 PM

ST

Steve April 28 at 5:56 AM

Higgy and I had two rules when we would go to Rehoboth. The first was to "see the ocean". The second was to "visit with Pattie and Greg". It saddens me that we are not going to be able to complete the second rule. We will always cherish the time we spent with the two of them. I really enjoyed my military history conversations with Greg. He always managed to teach me something new about some battle or general. I will miss those conversations. Greg's process of making a v&t was legendary. The precise measurements. The attention to detail and best of all, the taste. Exquisite! It was a process that I really enjoyed watching. After Pattie passed, we got an opportunity to see and hear Greg stretch his lungs and sing at Karaoke at the post. You could tell he had the respect of everyone in the room. I'm so honored that I had the opportunity to know Greg. I miss him terribly. For the surviving family members, you have our love and sympathy. Blessings, Steve



Karen posted:

Such a kind man.. I always enjoyed our phone conversations and he always asked about Matt and his brothers. RIP as you certainly deserve it! Bless your family left to honor your memory.

April 8 at 12:11 PM



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Jack Desmond posted:

My family knew Greg mostly from my father as Greg and my father belonged to a group called the Catholic Forum of the Air in the 1950s who had a weekly Sunday afternoon radio show on WDEL. There was an 18 year difference in age but both enjoyed each other's company Across the street from Greg on Grant avenue lived my mother's first cousin who's oldest daughter Jean was very very attractive and last year Greg told me Jean taught him how to play Post Office. He said he was a quick learner In the 1954-55 time frame my family rented a Redefer cottage on New Orleans street in Dewey for \$40 a week. My father would drive down from Wilmington every Friday night. He informed my mother that Greg would be joining him the following weekend and he was bringing a girl he was dating. Her name was Patti. My mother said she just shook her head as Greg had dated every girl/woman in the Wilmington area Greg and Patti arrived the next weekend and my parents immediately fell in love with Patti. On Saturday my parents and the parents of all of the other children in the Redefer cottages would go to the Bottle and Cork for 'lunch' and tell all of the children they would be back in the early afternoon to take us swimming. By 1 or 2 o'clock it was obvious it was going to be another Saturday with no beach time. I was maybe 9 or 10 and most of the rest of the children were younger than me so we needed an adult before we could go swimming All of a sudden Patti left the Bottle and Cork and came back and took all of us swimming. What a tremendous person. My father died young (45) in 1957 but my mother who lived her last years in Rehoboth remained friends with Greg and Patti until her death at 93 in 2009 I graduated from Salesianum and went off to college and personally lost touch with Greg and Patti as I spent 27 years in the Air Force living all over the world. In 2001 we bought a house in Rehoboth and moved here full time in 2011. Greg and I belonged to an organization called MOAA, that consisted of retired military officers who met for lunch once a month. Greg and I always sat together and Greg and I would discuss the old days. Great man who will be missed

April 5 at 3:38 AM



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Debbie Donovan posted:

I was fortunate to meet both Pattie and Greg when my counting team at St. Edmond needed team members. They were both wonderful people and it was a privilege to share the time with them as we counted. Pattie was a math wiz and I could ask her to add numbers in her head, much faster than I could on a calculator. She had a quiet but fun and congenial way about her and your Dad did, too. He was a genteel, walking, talking entertaining man who was able to tell a story and impart knowledge with facts, almost like a pre-cursor to the limitless instructional videos on the internet today. He was in charge of sorting the bills for us to count. Now if you ever had an occasion to glance into the basket as it was passed, you would have noticed that for many a sermon, the bills served as the current days, fidget. Sometimes we would get airplanes, rings, arrows - just about anything that one can imagine. Your dad not only sorted the bills but added straightening to the requirements and he would get those bills so straight and flat that I would always say, "Greg, they are almost crisp enough to slice a tomato." We would all laugh. He and she were just interesting, down to earth people, who I was fortunate enough to have crossed paths with and for that I am grateful. What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others. You are all in my prayers and thoughts.

April 6 at 5:46 AM



Jeffrey Straub posted:

Mr Gause (I could never call him by his first name) was a special person to me and a valued customer at the bank. He always made me smile when he stopped by the branch, and I admired his passion for coin collecting ... my father was a numismatist too. I learned so much more about him by reading this tribute today. I will miss seeing him, but I am happy he is at peace and has rejoined his beloved wife in heaven.

April 5 at 1:22 PM



Michael W Mullins lit a candle in honor of Francis.



April 5 at 6:31 AM



Buddy Clark lit a candle in honor of Francis.

I miss my friend and always will. I will always remember the many memorable times we had together. As you reunite with your beloved Patti, know that you are forever in our hearts. God Speed my friend. Rest in Peace.



April 5 at 5:45 AM



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David K O'flynn posted:

I will miss Mr. Gause. Mr. & Mrs. Gause (I could never call them by their first names, ever) were fixtures in my life, having grown up next door. They raised 5 wonderful children. They were kind and welcoming. And I learned much about my Catholic faith from them and watching, listening to them. Plus they were tons of fun. Mr. G will be missed.

April 5 at 3:38 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Francis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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