



# Philip L. Gans

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 11



## Philip L. Gans

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019

**P**hilip L. Gans (91) of Clearwater, died September 27. He was born in Amsterdam, Holland where he lived until 1943.

From August 1943 until January 1945 he was a prisoner in Auschwitz Concentration Camp. And from January 1945 until April 1945 an inmate at the Flossenburg Concentration Camp in Bavaria, Germany.

He was liberated by the American Army in April 1945, and stayed with the occupational forces till the end of 1945, during which time he served as a translator for the American

Army. He went then back to Holland . He was the only survivor of 21 members of the family on his father's side. Through a miracle he found out that his mother's only sister

escaped France to Aruba. She sent for him and he stayed in Aruba from early 1946 until

early 1950 when he came to the United States. In the U.S. he lived in New York , New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and for the last 33 years in Clearwater, Florida. He served 21 months in the service during the Korean War from early 1951 to late 1953.

In December 1961, he went to work for Tidewater Oil Company which later became Chevron. He retired from Chevron in 1986, and moved to Clearwater, Florida.

Since 1999 he lectured thousands and thousands of students and grown-ups about the

Holocaust. Mostly at the Florida Holocaust Museum, but also at many schools, colleges,

Disney World, Sioux City, Iowa, Air Force Base in Utah, Indianapolis, and Evansville Indiana, Medellin, Colombia S.A., Tallahassee, Florida, and many other places.

He is survived by his wife, Angelica, and daughters, Becky Roessler, Debbie



## Obituary

**Philip L. Gans**

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019

---

O'Donnell

and Cristina Gans, 4 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

He lived to his own motto:

THERE IS BUT ON LAND OUR EARTH

THERE IS BUT ONE POPULATION HUMANITY

THERE IS BUT ONE RELIGION LOVE

Services to be held at Moss-Feaster Funeral Home, Dunedin, Main Street. October 4th,

2019. Gathering at 5:00 p.m. Celebration of his Life at 6:00 p.m.

Donations in lieu of flowers to the Suncoast Hospice and the Humane Society of Pinellas.



# Events

**Philip L. Gans**

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019

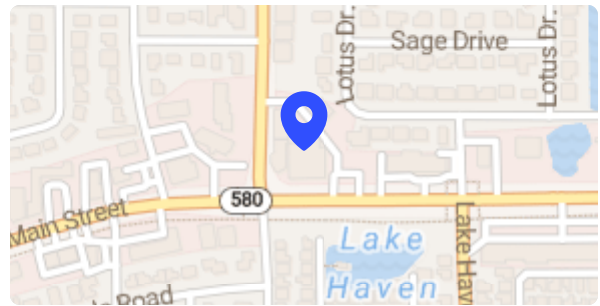
## Gathering of Friends

 **Friday**, October 4, 2019

 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET


 **Moss Feaster Funeral Home and Cremation Services - Dunedin**

1320 Main Street, Dunedin FL 34698



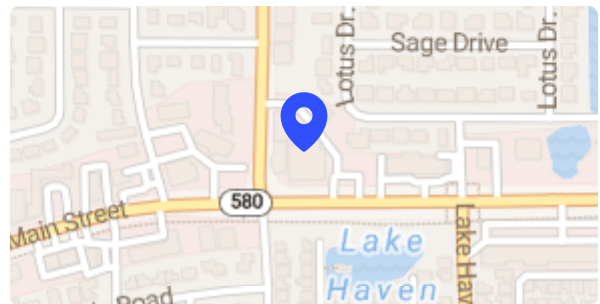
## Celebration of Life

 **Friday**, October 4, 2019

 6:00 PM ET

 **Moss Feaster Funeral Home and Cremation Services - Dunedin**

1320 Main Street, Dunedin FL 34698





## Tribute Wall

**Philip L. Gans**

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019

LT

**Linda Tienda** posted:

I met Mr. Gans in college when he spoke about his Holocaust experience. After he spoke, I mentioned to him that my father was a WWII vet. He said he was so grateful to the troops. He gave me a hug, and it was one of the most special moments of my life. All at once, I could feel his pain as well as his appreciation for those who saved him. May he rest in peace.

July 12 at 6:19 PM

AM

**Ace M** posted:

I first heard his story in school, my Spanish teacher is his sister-in-law. She spoke so highly of him, shared his story, and gave my class bracelets titled Erase the Hate. I am not religious but his story is one i have carried with me for the past year, thank you for speaking out and may you find rest.

May 2 at 9:40 AM

JT

**Jt** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

He came to my fivay high school around 2011 and I always kept it. You're never forgotten. Rip beautiful brother. -Joshua

January 22 at 9:11 PM



DF

**David Frankel** posted:

In the summer of 1973, when I was 19 years old, I worked with Phil as an operator on the Fluid Coking Unit of the Getty oil refinery in Delaware City, Delaware. Phil was a great man, a fountain of wisdom, very congenial. I learned a lot from him, about life and about Auschwitz KZ. He will be missed, but he has left a great legacy. - - David Frankel

August 17 at 7:52 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Philip L. Gans**

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019



**Anouk Backal - Gans** posted:

I'm so sorry for your loss. I know Philip passed away a while ago, but I just found you through my family tree. I've sent you a message a while ago, but I'm not sure if you received it. My mother is Anita Gans, and we are distant relatives. I regret not having found your family sooner. I would like to get in touch with your family and share memories... I was born and raised in The Netherlands, but ended up in the US because I met my husband in Israel who's originally from Cherry Hill, NJ. My name is Anouk Backal and live in Voorhees, New Jersey. I truly hope to connect with you soon, Again my deepest condolences, Anouk My phone number is 609-320-8899.

January 19 at 1:00 PM



**Heather Pilcher** posted:

I am so sad I was not there to say goodbye. You were a huge part of my entire childhood and a huge part in my families life. I have such a long list of memories with you but so glad I was able to have you and Angelica share in my wedding day. I love you Mr Gans and will forever have you in my heart.

October 5 at 4:32 AM



**Bethany Larson** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Deeply grateful for Phil's message: Erase the Hate. And for all the lives he touched.  
:heart:

October 4 at 7:05 AM



**Ernie Bilotto** posted:

Phil was such a wonderful neighbor, friend and gentleman. We were truly blessed to have shared so many fond memories of him. He always faced his trials with strength and dignity. He will be missed by many who admired and loved him. We will continue to keep the entire family in our thoughts and prayers. With our deepest sympathy and love, Ernie and Sally Bilotto

October 3 at 9:27 AM



**Jim (Jimmy) Thomson (Norm & Eleanor's Son, Phila)** sent a Love's Tapestry to the Gans family.

October 2 at 5:30 PM





## Tribute Wall

**Philip L. Gans**

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019



**Laura** posted:

I am so sorry for your families loss. Your father was a fighter and a survivor. Prayers of comfort during this time.

October 2 at 1:51 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Gans family.



October 1 at 6:13 PM



**Alejandro Sierra** posted:

Phil was a very special person, he would always light up the mood along with our faces, he was compassionate, caring, and all in all a great person to be with. We will cherish your memories as you will live on through them and in our hearts. Thank you for always being there and being who you were. With Love, Alejandro, Maria, Tomas, and Pedro "Gonzales"

September 30 at 3:28 PM



**Paco Watson** posted:

Rest in Peace Phil, I will never forget you, you always put a smile on my face whenever I saw you, I love you. Goodbye Phil ❤️

September 30 at 2:54 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Gans family.



September 29 at 9:42 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Philip L. Gans**

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019

WF

**Watson Family** posted:

Uncle Phil joined our family more than 40 years ago, as a child I was always impressed by his strength and imposing presence, as I grew up I got to experience his sense of humour and most of all his inclusiveness. His journey in life taught all of us that got to know him to erase the hate and accept all others without barriers. Paco loved him like if he were his grandad and will always remember that even to the last visit Phil never lost at an armwrestle. Rest in peace always in our hearts. Tim, Vero and Paco

September 29 at 9:33 AM

JC

**John Correa** posted:

One of my fondest memories of Phil was working with him in his garage and building things with him made of wood. We both built a beautiful wood case that held miniature NFL helmets and the other were these small wood blocks that we attached to the back of people's mailboxes and then an American flag was put in the wood block. He helped me sell the American flags and the blocks to people in many neighborhoods during Desert Storm. Phil had a tremendous love and respect for this country. He was quite the entrepreneur, handy man, family man, husband, & friend. My family and I will never forget him. My condolences to the entire Gans family. All my deepest sympathy— John Correa

September 29 at 5:49 AM

KD

**Kathlene Dernberger** posted:

I helped care for Philip over 2 years. He always made me laugh with his bad jokes and always playing around. We had our inside jokes. I was able to meet many family members and friends. It was an honor to work with him and Angelica. I am very thankful that I was able to know Philip and Angelica. They are very special people.

September 28 at 6:15 PM

MS

**Michele Fusco-Schlink** lit a candle in honor of Philip.

My deepest condolences to the Gans family. Angelica, Christina, Debbie, Becky & other family members, my thoughts & prayers are w/ all of you.

September 28 at 6:07 PM





# Tribute Wall

**Philip L. Gans**

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Gans family.



September 28 at 3:28 PM



**Dave Moser** lit a candle in honor of Philip.



September 28 at 1:26 PM



**Mark Moser** lit a candle in honor of Philip.



September 28 at 12:49 PM



## Media

**Philip L. Gans**

JAN 23, 1928 - SEP 27, 2019



Jt shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

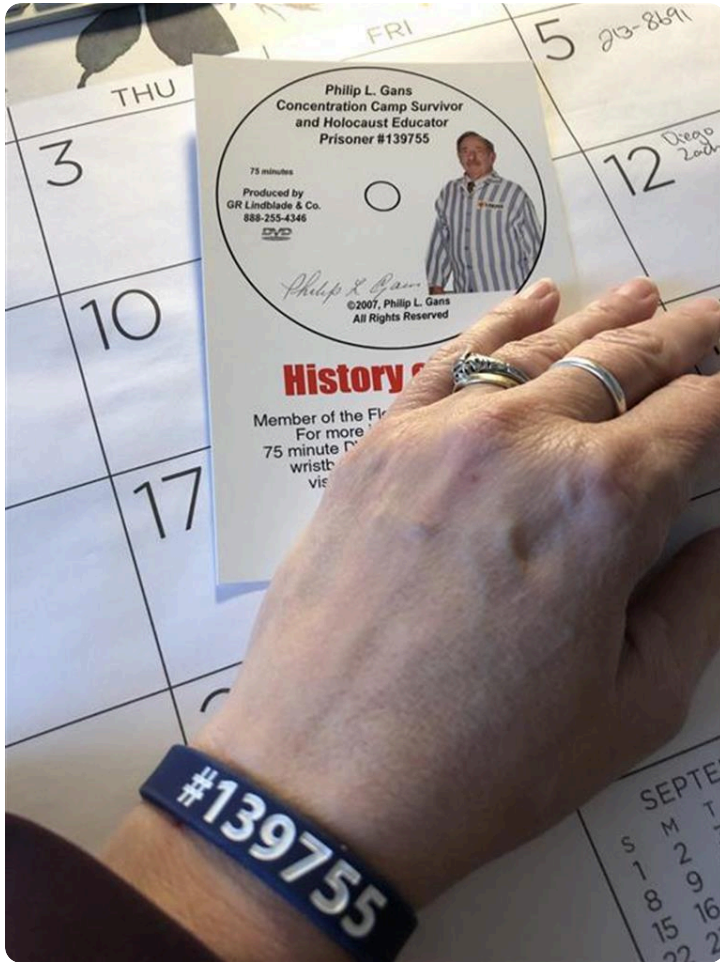
January 22 at 9:11 PM





Bethany Larson shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 4 at 7:05 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit