
John Roskowski



John Roskowski (Johnny Up The Road), 90, of Oviedo, Fla., formerly of Mountain Top, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, at Lutheran Haven Nursing Home, Oviedo, Fla.

Born in Wilkes-Barre on March 25, 1924, he was a son of the late Julius and Mary Bodoviki Roskowski. He attended Wilkes-Barre Township High School and was formerly a member of St. Mary's Polish Church, Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre.

John became a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountain Top, in 1947 when he married his wife, the former Anna Gasper. Upon his passing, they were the oldest living married couple at St. Paul's, having just celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on Aug. 23. After moving to Florida in 1990, they became members of Hope Lutheran Church, Orlando, Fla., and since 2013, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, Fla.

John joined the [U.S. Navy](#) in 1943 and was discharged in 1946 as a gunner's mate second class, USNR attached to the Marine Corps 4th Division. During World War II, John courageously fought in four amphibious invasions in the Central Pacific: Marshall Islands, Kwajalein Atoll; Mariana Islands, Saipan; Tinian and the island of Iwo Jima. He received the Presidential Unit Citation from the 4th Marine Division for bravery, three [bronze stars](#) and the [Purple Heart](#). He was also a member of American Legion Post 781, Mountain Top, since 1946.

Prior to retirement, John was employed by King Fifth Wheel, Mountain Top, for 34 years, and before that he worked in the coal mines in Wilkes-Barre for 10 years.

John, better known as "Johnny Up The Road," was an avid sportsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, and college football. He was also a huge auto racing fan and was present at the groundbreaking ceremony of Pocono Raceway as a shareholder. Together with his wife and family, he enjoyed travelling. Among his most memorable vacations were fishing trips to Westport, Canada; Wildwood, N.J.; Las Vegas; New York City; Spain and Africa; Hawaii; a cross-country motor coach trip of the United States; and numerous cruises to Bermuda and the Caribbean. Needless to say, "On the Road Again" became his family's theme song. Most important, John was a loving and wonderful husband, a proud father and caring grandfather, who always put his family first. He will be greatly missed by his wife, family and friends.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Mary Ann; his brothers, Julius, Charles, Peter and Joseph Roskowski; and his sisters, Anna Dotter, Helen Singley, Verna Salk, Sophie Krebs, Gloria Ciaverella and Frances Skoronski.

John is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 67 years, Anna Gasper Roskowski; his children, Sandra Nargoski and her husband, Anthony, Drums; John T. Roskowski, Orlando, Fla.; and Thomas Roskowski and his wife, Jill, Carrollton, Va.; his sister, Theresa O'Neill and her husband, Richard, Wilkes-Barre; his grandchildren, John Roskowski, Mountain Top; Thomas Roskowski and his wife, Abbey, Lansdale; and Tara Roskowski, Avalon, N.J.; and many nieces and nephews.

His family wishes to thank the doctors and entire staff at Lutheran Haven Nursing Home and Vitas Hospice for the compassionate and loving care administered throughout John's illness.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 2041 W. State Road 426, Oviedo, FL 32765, or St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 316 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top, PA 18707.

A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 11 a.m. Wednesday with a viewing at the church from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The final committal service will follow at Albert Cemetery, Mountain Top.



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