



Galen E. Mutzabaugh

February 26, 1930 - October 13, 2025

Galen Earl Mutzabaugh passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of Monday, October 13, 2025, at Claremont Nursing Home in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Born at Harrisburg Hospital on February 26, 1930, Galen grew up in Newport, PA. His lifelong passion for music began at the age of five, when his maternal grandmother, Irene Cordova Troutman, introduced him to the piano and organ. Though he was most widely known for his mastery of those instruments, Galen was also a gifted violinist who could play nearly any instrument he touched.

Galen attended Susquehanna University and the Music Conservatory at Lebanon Valley College and, with the exception of his service to the US Army during the Korean War, dedicated his life to teaching piano, organ and music theory at J.H. Troup Music Company in Harrisburg until 1979 and Wray's Music House in Lemoyne (1979 to 2016).

In addition to teaching, Galen served faithfully in music ministry as a church organist and music director for many area congregations. He was also involved with the Harrisburg Symphony and the Wednesday Club. It became a cherished tradition for Galen to play piano or organ at the weddings of his students—an expression of his deep affection for those he mentored.

Galen was predeceased by his parents, James and Mabel Mutzabaugh; his sister, Wenda Mutzabaugh Wilson; and his best friend, Harold Gordon. He is survived by the countless students and friends who were fortunate to learn from him—not only about music, but about life, optimism, and gratitude. Anyone who knew Galen will recall him walking down the street, or wherever he went, with a constant smile on his face.

Galen's friends wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who visited and supported him since his admission to Claremont in 2016.

Interment will take place at Fort Indiantown Gap on Friday, October 31, at 11:00 a.m., with Rev. David Schreffler presiding.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT **31**. 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery
Anville, PA

Tribute Wall

MG

“ I was an adult piano student of Galen's for many years and I remember him with great fondness. He was a gentle, sweet, kind soul and so knowledgeable of music; I enjoyed his stories and learning the history of many of the composers as much as the lessons. He was always so patient with me, even when I had not had much time to practice prior to a lesson. I continued to visit him at Claremont and periodically would take him out to lunch until he became anxious with going out and then we restricted visits to the facility. He was a delight to spend time with and I never tired of listening to his stories.

Marge Gingrich - October 30, 2025 at 08:42 PM

DT

“ I've known Galen since I was 6, in 1963, when I began taking organ lessons. Other than a brief break, I continued with him until Highschool graduation. After college and Podiatry school, I returned to the area and had a family. I resumed organ lessons and eventually transitioned to piano, and brought both my girls to learn from him. Both my grandmother and mother and some of of my living and deceased relatives also took lessons from him.

Both my girls are still musicians and my youngest graduated from Lancaster Bible college with a vocal performance degree..and teaches piano and voice.

I began playing organ at church at 14, and after college played for many years in two church worship bands. I still play keyboard in two different worship bands and through knowledge gained from him, my life has been forever changed!!! I've been writing worship music over the past 7 years, and have more than 50 under my belt. I've taken my keyboard in to his room on several occasions and shared my music with him.... emphasizing all the time that he is responsible for all of it, and that he made my life so much better because of the musical abilities that he brought out of me.

I may have the only recording of him playing the pipe organ at the forum, that I've shared with him, the staff at Claremont. He recorded it on cassette in 1994 and gave it to me. I've digitized it on my phone so I'd always have it.

I was honored to be his student and most recently, his friend. I will miss him 😭.

David Todoroff

David Todoroff - October 21, 2025 at 09:59 PM

ES

“ *Eileen Sandors lit a candle in memory of Galen E. Mutzabaugh*



Eileen Sandors - October 20, 2025 at 12:21 PM

ES

Galen was a delight to talk to at any time of the day. Always had that special smile and laugh.

I met him when I arrived at Claremont years back.

I also had the pleasure of him sitting at the facility piano and playing for some of the residents.

He once told me he never smoked or drank alcohol and had 20/20 vision.

R.I.P. my friend.

Eileen Sandors

Eileen Sandors - October 20, 2025 at 12:33 PM