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John R. "Jeff" Gallagher Obituary

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John R. "Jeff" Gallagher, 96, of Clarks Summit, died peacefully at home on Sunday, May 6. His loving wife is the former Marie Callahan. They recently celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary.

"My deepest sympathy to Marie & the family of Jeff. How..."

- **Annie Oliver**

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Jeff was born in Dillonville, Ohio, on Jan. 17, 1922. He was the son of the late Martin P. Gallagher and Caroline Pope Gallagher. His given name was John, but legend has it that he used to wear pants that said "Mutt and Jeff" on them and everyone started calling him Jeff. He moved to the hill section of Scranton at age 5.

Jeff graduated from Scranton Central High school where he excelled in athletics. Following graduation, he was drafted by Major League Baseball and excelled in the Penn/New York/Ontario league, where he played for the London Pirates.

Soon after his baseball career began to blossom, he entered the [United States Marine Corps](#) and fought in WWII in the Pacific. After the war he entered East Stroudsburg State College, where he obtained his degree in physical education. Later he became one of the first employees of the Catholic Youth Center, managing among other things, the bowling lanes. He went on to work as a salesman for General Electric Corp. He then worked for WNEP-TV as a sales executive for the balance of his career, retiring in 1987.

Jeff loved life and his family, but his passion was golf. Most weekends he could be seen on the golf course. Following his retirement, he and Marie traveled extensively and played golf. His idea of sightseeing was to point out all the golf courses that he played. When he entered his 70s, he was proud of the fact that he "shot his age" for at least a decade. He was a member of the Scranton Country Club and a lifetime member of Elmhurst Country Club.

In addition to his wife, Marie (age 93), he is survived by two daughters, Kathleen, Clarks Summit; Maureen, Washington, D.C.; two sons, Michael (Los Angeles); and Martin P. Gallagher, M.D., his wife, Charlotte Ciotti, D.C. of Greensburg, Pa.; three grandchildren, Ann Marie and her husband, James Piper; Katie and her husband, Amrafel Acosta; and Todd Gallagher; four great-grandchildren, Jeffrey and Jack Piper and Isabel and Aryton Acosta; along with several nieces and nephews.

Jeff was preceded in death by their son, Jeffrey; and an infant son, Charles; six sisters and two brothers.

A particular acknowledgement to the staff and patrons at the Sunrise Cafe, better known as "Dawn's" for their warmth and friendship. It's true that everyone wants to go where they know your name.

Also, the family would like to thank the many people who helped support both he and Marie over the last several years, the staff and the nurses at the Hospice of the Sacred Heart and Interim Health Care, along with the team of dedicated aides, especially Kathy Judge, Tina Mattern, Bridget Bissland, Marilyn Iiams, Monalisa Weber and Amber Burke have been invaluable. Their love and compassion is beyond words.

In lieu of flowers or other donations, the family would like a donation to be made to the Gallagher Family Fund, c/o Friends of the Poor, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton, PA 18509.



The family will receive friends Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at Stirna's Restaurant and Bar, 120 W. Market St., Scranton, PA 18508, for a celebration of Jeff's life.

Burial is private. Arrangements by the Thomas J. Hughes Funeral Home Inc., 1240 St. Ann's St., Scranton.



Funeral Home

Thomas J Hughes Funeral Home
1240 Saint Ann St
Scranton, PA 18504
(570) 346-3498

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