

## **Alfred J. Geary, 84**

**Born:** October 26, 1924

**Died:** January 05, 2009

World War II vet; Glenolden Boys Club president

Alfred J. Geary, 84, a longtime Delaware County resident and decorated World War II veteran, died Jan. 5 at Riddle Memorial Hospital in Media.

Born in Philadelphia, Mr. Geary left West Catholic High School in 1941 at the age of 17 to join the U.S. Coast Guard. He later earned his degree from West Catholic High School, and graduated from St. Joseph's College of Industrial Relations.

Throughout World War II, Mr. Geary served on the Navy's Coast Guard manned Landing Ship Tank (LST) Transport Ship 884, as a U.S. Coast Guardsman in service to the Department of the Navy. His ship, LST 884, which delivered significant quantities of troops, tanks and cargo across the high seas to enemy beaches, was involved in the two Iwo Jima and Okinawa Gunto operations. It was struck by a Kamikaze pilot off Okinawa April 1, 1945.

A decorated World War II veteran, Mr. Geary honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy for 25 years. Mr. Geary earned several ribbons and citations of merit, including the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal with two bronze stars for his service on Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

In 2002, Mr. Geary was awarded the prestigious Combat Action Ribbon by then-United States Secretary of the Navy, Richard Danzig.

Mr. Geary received an honorable discharge from the Coast Guard, but continued to serve in the Naval Reserve.

During and after his service in the Navy, Mr. Geary trained to become a conductor for Reading Railroad Co., which later became Conrail, and serviced the Reading Railroad Line until his retirement in 1984.

A firm believer in John F. Kennedy's famous words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," Mr. Geary continued to serve his community after serving his country.

A former president of the Glenolden Boys Club and a Democratic committeeman of Delco-Glenolden during the 1970s, Mr. Geary was also a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans and the U.S. LST Association.

He was the husband of the late Patricia Murray Geary and the son of the late Alfred W. and Anna Ryan Geary.

Survivors: Children, Patricia Brodeur of Norwood, Stella Dalton of Media, Alfred P. Geary of Jenkintown and Eunice Fisher of Newtown Square; siblings, Eugene Geary of Philadelphia, Edward Geary of Baltimore and Susan Santroni of Wenonah, N.J.; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

Service: Memorial Mass, 10 a.m. Monday, at the Church of St. Gabriel, Mohawk Avenue, Norwood.

Visitation: After 9 a.m. Monday, at the church.

Burial: Private.

Arrangements: [Cavanagh Family Funeral Home](#), Norwood.