



John "Johnny Pro" Prokopec Jr.

February 4, 1927 - January 13, 2023

John Prokopec, Jr, "Johnny Pro", 95, of Avon, passed away Friday (January 13, 2023) at Bel Air Manor in Newington. Born in Avon to the late John and Bertha (Mihalko) Prokopec, he was a lifelong resident. He also maintained a second home in Newington since 2006. John was a parishioner of his beloved church, St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in New Britain, where he served on the Church Council and was a faithful member of the Bread Baking Group. He relished the church services and the warmth and comradery of the parish. John served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was employed by the Hartford Insurance Group for 35 years and retired as a Methods and Procedures Senior Analyst in 1987. He was also widely known as a saxophone musician, having played in a Navy Band and in the Bel-Aires Band in the Greater Hartford area for 40 years.

He is survived by his nephew Gary Danko of Becket, MA, and his "adopted" nephew Dietrich Krauland of East Hartland, CT, along with several grandnieces and grandnephews and many dear friends, especially the Sirick, Krauland and Budonaro families, Navin Sanghvi and Joseph Zannitto. John was predeceased by a sister Mary Ann Danko of Newington.

Funeral services will be held Friday (January 20, 2023) at 10 AM at St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 54 Winter Street, New Britain, CT 06051. Calling hours are at the church Friday morning from 9 to 10 AM. Burial with military honors will follow in the church cemetery. Donations may be made to St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting

with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Ukrainian Cemetery

New Britain, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JAN 20. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church
54 Winter Street
New Britain, CT 06051

Funeral Service

JAN 20. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church
54 Winter Street
New Britain, CT 06051

Tribute Wall

BK

“ I am Beckwith Taradeina Kelly, daughter of Great Uncle John’s niece Darleen Danko. I always remember being a kid and Uncle Johnny taking his parents to church on Sundays in New Britain. Then they would either bring donuts and come visit us or we would drive out to Avon and spend the afternoon. Many great memories walking to the Towpath school to play on the playground. Uncle Johnny would come to any of our musical concerts when he could and in middle school, I followed in his footsteps and switched from playing the flute to Alto Sax. I played all through high school. He never missed a chance to encourage the importance of a good education.

The picture here is of my mom, Darleen and Uncle John in 1963. He was visiting her while she attended college and Sam Francisco State.



Beckwith Kelly - January 21, 2023 at 02:54 PM

GF

“ Will miss our Outback Steakhouse meals



George Fotopoulos - January 21, 2023 at 01:59 PM

LG

“ John was part of our Big Band dancing group for many years where my (deceased) husband Domenic Gioello developed a wonderful, strong friendship nurtured by monthly drives to the Casino for meaningful conversation and pure fun times. Phonng John one was greated by continuous Big Band music as he pursued his great love of the art.

He and I exchanged birthday and Christmas greetings and periodic phone calls over the years....I will miss his presence and know that he and Dom will be up there hitting the tables! Rest in Peace dear friend.

Lucille Gioello - January 20, 2023 at 07:00 AM

NS

“ Good bye....dear friend.Angels will take good care of you. Navin

navin sanghvi - January 19, 2023 at 04:17 PM

MM

“ Here is a photo of Towpath School in Avon, CT, circa 1930's. 6th and 7th grades. Uncle Johnny is in the second row from top, far right.



Marianne Mihalyo - January 19, 2023 at 04:22 AM

MM

“ Here is a photo of John and his band, the Bel-Aires, where he played the saxophone.



Marianne Mihalyo - January 19, 2023 at 04:09 AM

MR

“ There are many memories of Uncle Johnny and Uncle Franny and Aunt Mary over the years. From living on Florence St, New Britain then to Newington. Uncle Johnny was always admired. He loved his Tango so much and always had interesting stories interesting to tell. He was so thoughtful in supporting his church and sharing the homemade breads. We miss talking to him, what an amazing life! Here, he is visiting our World War II Museum in progress of construction. We are glad he got to see the completed project. We will never forget you Uncle Johnny.



Marianne Mihalyo and Gary Roy - January 19, 2023 at 03:32 AM

MW

“ Our sincere sympathy to John's family and friends. You are truly blessed to have had him among you. John was a true Gentleman that was warm, humble, generous and extremely kind. He had a smile that was truly contagious. We came to know John through our St Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church. An early recollection of him was seeing him with his father in a front right pew every Sunday. This continued to be John's spot until he was no longer able to attend church. John loved our church and contributed in many different ways. He flew under the radar and never looked for accolades of any sort. He was a true Christian. Should you talk with John you would find that his passions were his family and friends, St Mary's UOC, his music, his dogs, and yes - his precious cars. When John was asked to become a member of the Ukrainian American Veterans he immediately said yes. He was proud of his heritage and his service to our country. I'll always remember when putting his name on any list he would say "don't forget the Jr." John was a special person that made us all a little bit better for having known him. He will be missed. May his Memory be Eternal!

Michael & Diane Wowk - January 17, 2023 at 11:14 AM

TW

“ John, we hope you are in heaven with our Bootsie! Our little dog was the light of your life after Tango, Salsa and all the other little pups in your life. And she loved you as we all did here in Avon. Living next door to you for the past 32 years has been nothing but wonderful. Being the kind, gentle soul with a love for life and friends. I loved the idea of "Pros Porn Shop" which, of course, was all in fun. And the wonderful way you covered the cost for all our block parties without anyone knowing it was you! But also the stories of growing up here on Mountain View Avenue with Bert, both Marvins, Fred, and all the others; having fun sliding down the coal chute behind your house along the RR tracks. And these photos of the block parties and who could forget just a few years ago when a family of bears took up housing under your porch. You lucky dog...you got to hold the cubs!

Lee and I could not have been happier with you next door and we were more than happy to keep an eye on things these last few years. Your visits were a highlight, especially the church breads! Growing up with a Hungarian/Slovak grandmother who made nut, poppy seed, apricot and prune rolls...they were the best ever! Thank you for selling them to me for all those years.

John, you will be missed and we send our condolences to the family and friends who loved you the way we did.

Terri and Lee Wilson, Avon



Terri Wilson - January 16, 2023 at 04:15 PM

GF

“ RIP 🙏🙏🙏



George Fotopoulos - January 14, 2023 at 06:27 PM

SN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Spirit Rodriguez -Great Niece - January 14, 2023 at 04:09 PM

SN

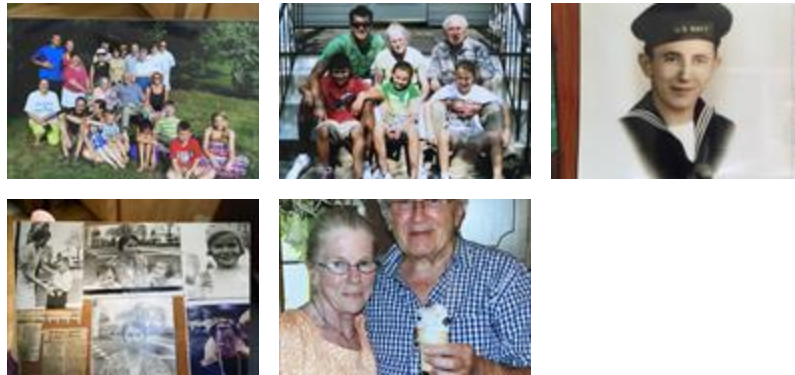
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Spirit Rodriguez -Great Niece - January 14, 2023 at 03:49 PM

SN

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Spirit Rodriguez -Great Niece - January 14, 2023 at 03:44 PM

SN

“ Uncle Johnny is on the far right. This is my grandparents wedding and of course sister to Uncle Johnny



Spirit Rodriguez -Great Niece - January 14, 2023 at 03:18 PM

SN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Spirit Rodriguez -Great Niece - January 14, 2023 at 02:57 PM

SN

“ Uncle Johnny was always the one behind the camera and documented everything . I'm forever grateful for all the memories he has saved for generations and the love and support he gave my mom and my family. Your love is forever in our hearts. So many great summers growing up. I know that you are with my mom and the rest of the family. I will cherish and continue to share all the amazing documents and photos that I have been given. My organizational skills and note taking definitely came from Uncle Johnny! Love, Spirit (Daughter of Francine)



Spirit Rodriguez -Great Niece - January 14, 2023 at 09:51 AM