



Karl E. Gansberg Jr.

December 26, 1932 - November 17, 2025

Karl Emil Gansberg was born on December 26, 1932 in Jersey City, New Jersey and departed this life on November 17, 2025 in Bristow, Virginia surrounded by his family. He was the son of Karl Langraf-Gansberg and Katherine Pfrommer. He was blessed with a daughter, Sharon Ann, with his late first wife Sylvia Merriman. Forty-seven years ago, Karl met his devoted wife, JoAnne, and was graced with three stepdaughters.

Karl dedicated his life to serving his country. He spent 27 years in active military service between the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army, followed by 15 years of civil service with the Department of Defense, and more than a decade volunteering at Quantico National Cemetery. During his military career, he was stationed in England, France, North Africa, Korea, Vietnam, and many U.S. states.

After retirement, Karl and JoAnne travelled extensively all over the world. Karl had a deep pride and passion for all military history. He was a long time Dallas Cowboys fan. He loved music and was a DJ for many years. His greatest joy came from his family and he most recently delighted in having a great-grandson. Karl also adored his Siamese cats, especially his Scrapper.

Karl is survived by his beloved wife, JoAnne Gansberg; his daughter, Sharon Levy (Larry); and his stepdaughters, Donna Akers, Lisa Skelton (Brooks), and Nancy Akers (Roman). He is also survived by his grandchildren, Shaun Irvin (Karine), Krystal Lipke (Brad), and Nygel Irvin; his step-granddaughter, Christina Strand (Dereck); his great-grandson, Christopher Lipke; and his half-sister, Gail Foster.

Karl's playful spirit and laughter brought immense joy to his family and friends, and he will be dearly missed by all who loved him. His memory will live on in the stories, laughter, and love he shared with those around him.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, November 26, at Pierce Funeral Home in Manassas, VA, with visitation beginning at 10AM and the service at 11AM. Interment will follow at 1PM at Quantico National Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2PM at Pierce Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to Toys for Tots or the Christian Appalachian Project

Cemetery Details

Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Service

NOV **26**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Reception

NOV **26**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home Celebration Room

9609 Center Street

Manassas, VA 20110

<https://www.piercefh.com/who-we-are/celebration-room>

Tribute Wall



“ Karl ran a website where he archived yearbooks and student info from William Dickinson HS in Jersey City. He very kindly searched through one of his 100 year old yearbooks for me to find and scan a photo of my great-grandfather's brother.

Feeling that my name was familiar, we found out that Karl actually went to high school with my grandfather and was on the bowling team with him-- there's even a photo of them together with the team in the 1950 yearbook!

Thank you again, Karl, for aiding me in my family history research journey. May you rest in peace.

Kevin Klebacher - January 29 at 11:36 AM

LS

Thank you Kevin for your kind words. We still have all of his extensive collection of yearbooks from William Dickinson HS which he proudly maintained. Glad your family found joy and peace from his passion of history. Namaste

Lisa Skelton - February 12 at 10:15 PM

P9

“ It was such an honor and pleasure to have Karl share his 9/11 Gander story with us at our charity event last year. Much love from Pay It Forward 9/11 ❤️



Pay It Forward 9/11 - November 25, 2025 at 11:13 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Karl E. Gansberg Jr..*



November 24, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ *I am so grateful you got to know your great-grandson - I know how much his visits meant to you. That boy LOVES you!*



Krystal A Lipke - November 20, 2025 at 09:46 AM