



## Daniel A. Torisky

January 12, 1932 - November 10, 2022

Daniel A. Torisky, formerly of Monroeville, passed away on Thursday, November 10, 2022. Mr. Torisky was born in Pittsburgh to Andrew and Helen (Buchko) Torisky and was the brother of the late Evelyn, Roseann, and Sylvia. He served his country in the Marine Corps during the Korean War, where he was awarded the Purple Heart, UN Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and The National Defense Service Medal-Korean P.U.C. He later graduated from Duquesne University. He married his first wife, Constance Van Dine. They had 4 children born between 1957 and 1960. He worked professionally for 3 advertising firms in his career: Batton, Barton, Durston and Osborne (BBD&O), Lando, and Marsteller. Mr. Torisky made the decision to leave his advertising career and devote his life full-time to autism advocacy to help families affected by autism, which was inspired by his oldest son Edward, when he showed signs of being different and was eventually diagnosed with autism. He has served as a conduit for information to parents and siblings, and an advocate for education and treatment tailored to the unique needs of autism. Daniel, Connie, and others co-founded the National Society for Autistic Children (NSAC) for support and information-sharing. NSAC later became the Autism Society of America, of which Mr. Torisky served a term as President from 1990 to 1994. Daniel became the President of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh [now Autism-Pittsburgh], replacing his wife Connie, who had been the founder and President, until she passed in 1996. Daniel's chief focus was on the autism/ special needs families of the Pittsburgh area. He

and Connie were active in promoting local organizations to help families like theirs. He helped found the Allegheny East MH/MR Base Program, established in 1969. An advocate for establishing and expanding the group home system, Mr. Torisky helped found the first community group home in Pennsylvania in 1969, the Summer Program for the Education of Autistic Kids (S.P.E.A.K.) in 1974, and the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix in 1983, which still serves as a fundraising event for the Autism-Pittsburgh and Allegheny Valley School. He was also the co-founder of the Spectrum Charter School for Autistic and Developmentally Disabled Adolescents in 2000. In May of 2002, he married his second wife Dr. Donna Durno, who is a fellow traveler in education advocacy. Mr. Torisky was hospitalized in 2018, and spent his remaining years in Longwood Senior Care in Oakmont PA. He nevertheless remained active to his final days with autism advocacy, assisting his son Jesse, who had succeeded him as President. He has left a legacy of good works and enlightenment for special needs families in the Pittsburgh area, and along with other pioneering parents has helped foster the current massive interest, research and understanding of autism that is seen today. Daniel is survived by his beloved wife, Donna Durno; his children, Edward Torisky, Danielle Torisky, Rebecca Torisky, and Jesse and his wife, Tracy Torisky; his grandchildren, Benjamin (Lauren) Torisky and Carly Torisky (Ness Sufrin), and his stepchildren, Keith (Jill) Wall, Karen (Allyn) Lamoreaux, and Kristin Chou; and step-grandchildren, Kelsey LaCroix, Caitlin and Fred Larson, Max and Stephanie Chou, Lief Chou, Jaden Chou, JR Chou, Eric and Chelsea Wall, and Nathan and Kathleen Wall. His children remember him as an avid golfer, a lover of the outdoors and gardening, and an inspiration to them all. Friends will be received Thursday, November 17th from 6-8 p.m. and Friday, November 18th from 1-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the GENE H. CORL FUNERAL CHAPEL INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES OF MONROEVILLE, 4335 Northern Pike (412-372-2100). Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 19th at Christ the Divine Shepherd Parish at St. Bernadette Church, 245 Azalea Drive, Monroeville. (Everyone please meet at

the Church). In lieu of flowers, Daniel had requested that donations be made to the autism advocacy organization he so faithfully served: Autism-Pittsburgh, Professional Bldg. 1, Suite 1200, 11676 Perry Highway, Wexford, PA., 15090. Please visit [www.corlfuneralchapel.com](http://www.corlfuneralchapel.com) to leave condolences to the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.  
4335 Northern Pike  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
(412) 372-2100  
ghcorl@comcast.net  
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

## Visitation

NOV 18. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.  
4335 Northern Pike  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
(412) 372-2100  
ghcorl@comcast.net  
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

## Visitation

NOV 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.  
4335 Northern Pike  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
(412) 372-2100  
ghcorl@comcast.net  
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

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NOV **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ the Divine Shepherd Parish at St. Bernadette Church  
245 Azalea Drive  
Monroeville, PA 15146

*Everyone please meet at the church*

# Tribute Wall



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Daniel A. Torisky.



November 29, 2022 at 12:31 PM



“ deepestympaathytothetoriskyfamily rememberingdanfrotheamicathclubatstsylvestr'syouthclubandapiccnica danbroughthisukeadvice sanghisheartout goodmemories goodfriendofsistersevelynandtippy restinpeacedan louise

**louise c** - November 24, 2022 at 12:46 PM



“ Dan Torisky, the gentleman of all Gentlemen one of the smartest,kindest,funniest guys on planet earth and Also in Heaven. God's blessings to him,family and Friends. John Malarik

**John Malarik** - November 19, 2022 at 03:20 PM



“ My condolences to the family of Dan. I enjoyed his company very much when he and I served on the Board of Directors of LAKEWOOD. jim Vandeck...

**james Vandeck** - November 18, 2022 at 02:43 PM



“ Dan and his son Jesse have been "Life Friends" for almost 20 years. His wonderful, fresh perspective and wit will be missed here, as it moves to heaven. His inspiration and commitment continues through his son Jesse with Autism Pittsburgh.

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**Tom Fauls** - November 17, 2022 at 10:51 AM

DL

“ Dan has done so much to changed the lives of people with autism. He helped me fight the system for my son.

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**Debbie Lewis** - November 17, 2022 at 09:22 AM

BB

“ Dan and Connie helped us organize the Westmorland Chapter of the Autism Society of America back in 1975. Marian and I are extremely grateful for Dan's support throughout the years, advocating for persons with autism. No one in America has done more to help those individuals. Thank You Dan, and Connie. Ben and Marian and our autistic son Christopher.

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**Benoit Beaudoin** - November 16, 2022 at 07:42 PM

DD

“ I only met Mr. Torisky once a few years ago at an event in Pittsburgh, but immediately recognized his passion and dedication for disability related causes. My condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and others he touched with compassion and goodwill.

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**David Dominick** - November 15, 2022 at 03:20 PM

RE

“ It is with tears of sorrow mixed with quiet smiles that I learned of the death of my long- time friend, Daniel Torisky. As the director of the International Foundation for Genetic Research/Michael Fund, I spent almost 40 years sharing the offices of the Pittsburgh. Autistic Society. Dan was always there to support our prolife Down syndrome research and always ready with a kind word and sometimes a funny joke. He was a great defender of life especially children with autism and Down syndrome. May God continue to bless and keep him and bless his family in this time of sadness. Sincerely, Randy Engel, IFGR.

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**Randy Engel** - November 15, 2022 at 11:51 AM

PL

“ I am so sorry to learn of Dan's passing. He was a special friend of the Penguins Booster Club. It was a pleasure working with him on various fund-raisers for the Autism Society. We looked forward to his jokes at our meetings, too.



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**Peggy Lonett** - November 14, 2022 at 12:23 PM

KL

“ Dan was my father's cousin. His mother was my grandmother's sister. Dan was such a joy at family gatherings...his wit was amazing!! He made us laugh on so many occasions. You could always tell that Dan was a family man, first and foremost. His work with the Autism Society touched so many lives throughout the years. I know many people are grateful for his involvement to make other people's lives easier. God Bless, Dan. Say hello to your mom and dad and MY mom and dad as well.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ann (Kuchta) Lippert

(Oldest child of Joe Kuchta, Aunt Elizabeth's son)

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**Kathy A. Lippert** - November 13, 2022 at 01:20 PM

BM

“ I loved this great man.. I worked so many Autism fund raisers with him. He will always be part of great memories for me...Condolences to his family.

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**Barbara Masters** - November 13, 2022 at 09:07 AM