



## Arnold G. "Arnie" Symonds

May 3, 1942 - June 30, 2025

Arnold "Arnie" Gary Symonds, 83, of Galway, NY, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 30, 2025, surrounded by family and love.

Born on May 3, 1942, in Bellmont, NY, he was a son of Elmer and Alma Abbott Symonds. Arnie lived a life defined by quiet dedication, simple joys, and unwavering devotion to his family. Arnie was the beloved husband of Carol Symonds for 63 years. Together, they built a life of love, laughter, and lasting memories. He is survived by his son, Kevin Symonds, and daughter-in-law, Chrisandra; and by his cherished grandchildren, Garrett and Gracyn Symonds, who brought him immense pride and joy. He is also survived by his brothers Mertis (Gail) Symonds Sr., Donald Symonds Sr., and Roger (Bunny) Symonds Sr.; brothers-in-law William (Penny) Mausert, Richard (Kathy) Mausert, and sister-in-law Florence Mausert, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins who held a special place in his heart.

Arnie began his working life early as a delivery driver. He then worked with his brothers as a line painter, a job that reflected his attention to detail and work ethic. Later, he became a beloved school bus driver for the Galway Central School District, safely transporting generations of students for 15 years before retiring.

He was known for his passion for CB radios, often connecting with others across the miles with his signature handle, "High Tension". He was also a devoted fan of Stewart's coffee and could frequently be found behind the wheel, exploring back roads and highways, looking for good fishing spots—his

vehicles tallying tens of thousands of miles each year.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, July 11, 2025, from 4 – 7 pm at the Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc. 111 County Highway 106 (corner of Route 29 & Black Street), Johnstown, NY. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Galway Ambulance Corps, an organization close to the family's heart.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the nurses at Community Hospice, as well as to Gail Symonds for her unwavering support and compassionate care during Arnie's final days—a true lifeline to both Arnie and Carol. Arnie will be deeply missed but forever remembered for his humor, stories, and the roads he traveled—both near and far.

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JUL 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Halgas Funeral Home  
111 County Highway 106  
Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 883-5323  
debbie@halgasfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.halgasfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

CF

“ I will always remember you as a my favorite bus driver. R.I.P



Christine F - July 14, 2025 at 11:23 PM

CI

“ Arnie was my kids first bus driver, and they remember him fondly not only for the plants he would share with me but his advice wisdom and great stories. He was always one on my favorite customers when I worked at the Galway Stewart's. I just came across his number on a piece of paper from we when moved, made me smile. So sorry I didn't reach out when I found it. Our most sincere condolences Cindy, Melissa and Cameron MacDonald.

Cindy - July 12, 2025 at 08:14 PM

AS

“ I had the pleasure of having Mr. Symonds not only as my bus driver, but also as a family friend when I was growing up. At the end of the bus run he would always throw sticks of gum to the back of the bus for the last of us kids remaining. We were told to keep it a secret! Man did he have a good throwing arm! Running into him at my local Stewarts was also a welcomed sight. I couldn't wait to say Hi and tell him about things I had been up to. He will be greatly missed.

Ashley - July 08, 2025 at 05:56 PM

NG

*For me Arnie was always fun to be around. His stories; truly a simple man; dedicated; kindness towards others especially children just to mention a few of his outstanding attributes. May you rest in peace my friend.*

*NR Griffin*

---

**norm griffin** - July 10, 2025 at 02:14 PM

VH

*“ Rest in Peace you will be fondly remembered by the Galway school community, children and families. Always a friendly face. Halliigan family.*

---

**Valerie Halligan** - July 08, 2025 at 03:38 PM



*“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Arnold G. "Arnie" Symonds.*

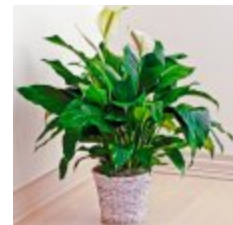


---

July 07, 2025 at 07:55 PM



*“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Arnold G. "Arnie" Symonds.*



---

July 07, 2025 at 04:43 PM

LP

“ Love, The Parkers and Dream Ponies purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Arnold G. "Arnie" Symonds.



---

**Love, The Parkers and Dream Ponies** - July 07, 2025 at 01:14 PM

JM

“ Jeff and Judy Merrill purchased the Springtime Wishes for the family of Arnold G. "Arnie" Symonds.



---

**Jeff and Judy Merrill** - July 07, 2025 at 09:07 AM

JA

“ too many laughs too many tears. much time spent together. then we lost touch only just recently reconnected. but not soon enough to make ore memories. Arnie high tension. will always be in our memories. our families spent so much time together. My thoughts are with carol who is missing him the most...my sincere prayers an thoughts are with you

*jan carter*

---

**jan** - July 05, 2025 at 06:57 PM

DT

“ Such a sad time I will always remember our bus driving days at Galway.

---

**Diane F. Tetlak** - July 05, 2025 at 06:49 AM