



William Robert Gentile, Sr.

December 28, 2025

William Robert Gentile Sr., husband of the late Diane Marie Gentile (Curren), passed away Sunday morning December 28, 2025, in Sarasota, Florida.

Born in Philadelphia, PA., he was the son of the late Nicholas Gentile and Laura (DiOrio) Gentile. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sons-in-law, Scott Chaney and Frank Rocco Milillo, Sr.

He is survived by his daughters, Colleen Chaney and Kimberly Milillo; sons Kevin Gentile (Lisa), William Gentile, Jr. (Bernadette) and Nicholas Gentile (Lerae) thirteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held 11:00 am Friday January 9, 2026, at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, 40 N. Orange Ave, Sarasota, Florida 34236

Interment will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel

40 N. Orange Avenue

Sarasota, FL 34236

(941) 955-4171

info@toalebrothers.com

<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Tribute Wall

CC

“Dad I think of you and mom every day along with Scott n Frank. I hope you are all watching over all of us as you are all so missed and loved.
Love Colleen

Colleen Chaney - March 20 at 06:15 PM

CC

“Dad I hope you are resting in Mommy's arms. You both are so loved and missed along with Scott n Frank. ❤️💔❤️ Love Colleen

Colleen Chaney - January 21 at 07:19 PM

MI

“To our cousin Bernadette and family, we are sending you our sincere condolences regarding the loss of your father in law. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Miriam and Mike Jacobus

Miriam - January 10 at 06:30 PM



TF

“Dearest Billy, Bernadette, Julianna, and the Gentile Family, Our love, thoughts, prayers, and strength are with you all during this difficult time. With our deepest sympathy. Love, The Siefer and Perri Families

The Siefer and Perri Families - January 07 at 03:07 PM

SG

“ *My sincere condolences to the Gentile Family on the loss of Big Billy.*

I can recall with such fondness the great times, laughter, fun, food, and especially the card games on Schley St.

Diane and Billy opened their home and hearts to everyone.

Billy will be missed and always remembered.

Sandy Del Giorno

Sandra Del Giorno - January 02 at 11:10 AM

DM

“ Tuff day!!!!

I was called and informed by Nicky Boo Gentile that his father passed away. He was 83 years old.

Coach Bill Gentile or coach G which affectionately he was known by was my coach for three years, 10, 11 and 12 years of age. He worked and then came after work to coach us. He didn't get paid a penny. He lived out Packer Park in South Philly. Many times he dropped kids off including me and my brother (Mucca) and waited until that kid got inside the house. If that kid could not get in he would either wait or tell the kid to get back in the car as he dropped off the other kids before he returned to then attempt to drop a kid off that could not get in their home. He also had us bring our report cards as well, if you had bad grades you were going to be doing a lot of running, push ups, sit ups and leg scissors. You also depending on the grades would not be allowed to play or your playing time would be diminished significantly. Along with that he had a rule "NO PRACTICE NO PLAY." Our team found out just how serious he was about this rule when arguably our best player Jerome Walker (RIP) missed practice the day before the championship game. Coach a man of his word did not play him. We loss the game. I still remember coach saying when you make a commitment to something it's on you to keep that commitment. You don't understand today but when you become an adult this day will comeback to you as a life lesson. He was right!! I still think about that day. I still use that day for self motivation when I maybe considering not holding up to my commitment.

We playing Jerome Richardson aka Pooh team in the playoffs. Pooh was recognized as the best player in the league as a RB and DB played both sides. We played Pooh team twice in the regular season. Beat them both times. This is weight limit football 95 pounds. Playoffs they allow you to get an extra 5 pounds so it's 100 pounds. Pooh was a bigger kid he weighed like 103 pounds by the playoffs. If Pooh is not able to play their team don't stand a chance.

Put the trash bags on start running laps. Coach has our team (The Mice) run with Pooh. Yes our team not Pooh's team our team. Coach reasoning his words ... Pooh is a good kid and it would not be right for him to miss the playoffs he had a great year. If we are going to win we want to win with their best player, the best player in the league on the field. It's the right thing to do. That was coach.

When I stopped playing for coach at 12 years old he kept in touch. Kept up with me even attending many of my high school games. When I went in the Navy coach kept up with me during boot camp.

I lived 20 years in San Diego and we stayed in touch. I been living here in Indianapolis and we stayed in touch. My wife had a family reunion in Tampa an hour from where coach was now living in Florida. I drove up and seen coach and his son Willie who was a teammate of mines when coach was coaching us down DV.

I learned so much from coach. I remember him coming to practice after work. His sons Willie and Nicky Boo my teammates. His older son Kevin helping coach. One of his daughters on the cheerleaders. His wife there giving kids gloves, hats buys pretzels, hotdogs and coco for kids who didn't have the means to do so. Very strong family man. I remember the first time going to his home felt like a real life episode of the Brady Bunch lol 😂....

I loss a part of my childhood today. I loss a mentor, friend, and a father figure. He was a GREAT man that did a lot of good for a lot of kids from his heart. Spent a lot of money out his own pocket but more importantly spent a lot of his time.

*Rest will Coach Gentile, I am going to miss you. Love you coach ❤️
❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️*

My condolences to the family. Tears ☐

Dwayne Moment - January 01 at 08:10 AM

SW

Big Bill was a wonderful man, loved his family and was wonderful to his friends. Hard worker and a man of faith. May peace with him and his family. It was an honor knowing him. Love to the Gentile family.

Sharon Ward - January 02 at 10:12 AM

KM

“ *So many great times with Bill St and Diane and kids. Bill was a wonderful husband, father and friend. Bill had a great sense of humor and a quick wit. Bill and Diane and all the good times are missed.*

Kathy Mccammon - January 01 at 04:20 AM

CC

“ *Dad I know Mommy was there to greet you and I know you're ecstatic to be with her again. You are both so loved and missed. Rest easy both of you. Love Colleen*

Colleen Chaney - December 31, 2025 at 02:50 PM

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My condolences to the family. Tears ☐

Dwayne Moment - December 31, 2025 at 08:21 PM

DD

He was such a cheerful and welcoming person - along with Mrs. Gentile. I remember fondly visiting at Billy and Bern's house in Packer Park and they would stop in or be there with hugs and fun. RIP and what a beautiful family to honor him!!

Dana Dangelo - January 02 at 09:02 AM

JG

“ Love and miss you so much Pop

Julianna Gentile - December 30, 2025 at 09:53 PM