



PFC Bernard J. Calvi

March 3, 1919 - July 16, 1942

Private First Class Bernard Joseph Calvi, of the US Army Air Forces, died on July 16, 1942 at the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp in the Philippines, where he was interned as a Prisoner of War by Japanese forces during World War II. He was born in North Adams on March 3, 1919, son of the late Joseph and Lena (Cantone) Calvi. He attended North Adams schools and graduated from Drury High School with the Class of 1936. While at Drury, he was a standout member of the Baseball and Football teams.

Pfc. Calvi entered the US Army on September 12, 1940, and was serving with the 17th Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group of the Army Air Forces in the Philippines when the United States entered World War II. During the battle for the Philippines, he was wounded at least once but returned to full duty as an Infantryman as there were no airplane's left operational. When Bataan fell to Japanese forces in 1942, he was taken prisoner and forced to take part in the infamous 65-mile Bataan Death March into captivity. After four months of captivity in deplorable conditions, he succumbed to Starvation, Malaria, and loss of hope. Following the efforts of his family and the US Army over many decades, and with advances in identification technology, Pfc. Calvi is finally returning home, 82 years after his death.

He is survived by his nephew, Bruce P. Calvi and his wife, Joan (Titegens) Calvi, of Clarksburg; a cousin, Sylvia Keehnle, of Pittsfield; great nieces and nephews, including Springfield Fire Commissioner Bernard J. Calvi and his wife Carrie of Springfield, Jennifer Belisle and her husband Bruce of Stamford,

VT and Jeffrey Calvi and his spouse Chris Schaper of Bridgeport, CT; and grreat grandnephew and nieces Elijah Calvi, Lucia Calvi, Ashlyn Belisle and Camryn Belisle. He was predeceased by brothers and sisters-in-law, Raymond Calvi and his wife, Pauline, Atty. Julius Calvi and his wife, Mary Ann, and Joseph Calvi, who died in infancy.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 10th at 12 Noon in St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 70 Marshall St. North Adams. Burial with full military honors will follow in the family lot in Southview Cemetery, North Adams. A calling hour will be held IN ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH on Tuesday from 10:30 AM until 11:30 AM, directly before the Mass. The PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, Adams, is assisting with arrangements. To leave a message for the Calvi family, please go online to www.paciorekfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Southview Cemetery

Church Street
North Adams, MA 01247

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 10. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church
Marshall Street
North Adams, MA 01247

Liturgy of Christian Burial

DEC 10. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church
Marshall Street
North Adams, MA 01247

Tribute Wall

MD

“ I am so happy for the family to finally have this reunification! My father was also imprisoned when the Philippines fell and I am aware of the kind of conditions and treatment PFC Calvi experienced.
Michael Depanian, Paxton, MA

Michael Depanian - December 10, 2024 at 10:29 AM

TM

“ Thank you, PFC Calvi for your service. Condolences to Calvi family.

Tom Molloy - December 09, 2024 at 09:47 AM

PA

“ Thank you for your service soldiers, welcome home.
You can finally rest in peace on your native souls know long you gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.
Thank you, RIP

patriotic American - December 06, 2024 at 08:07 AM

ML

“ I'm so thankful that this young soldier who suffered so much for our freedom is finally coming home to rest in peace. Bernard gave the supreme sacrifice. God bless him and all our servicemen and women.

Mary Beth LaPier - December 03, 2024 at 07:42 PM