

# *Samuel A. Bender*

January 7, 2012

Samuel A. Bender, 70, a lifelong resident of Frackville, died unexpectedly Saturday evening at his residence.

Born in Frackville, Dec. 29, 1941, he was a son of the late Andrew and Helen C. O'Donnell Bender.

He was a 1959 graduate of the former Immaculate Heart High School, Fountain Springs, and attended Mc-Cann School of Business, Mahanoy City.

Sam was an active member and sexton of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Frackville, and a member and past Grand Knight of the Rev. James A. Hogan Knights of Columbus Council 2580, Frackville. He was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and ran many bus trips to the local and New Jersey casinos.

He worked with his father for more than 50 years at the former Bender's Cigar Store and Bus Agency. He also worked as a ticket agent for Capital Trailways Bus Co., Pottsville, and previously worked as a clerk at the former Ashland State General Hospital.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a nephew, Vincent A. Puritano, in 2008.

Sam is survived by two sisters, Margaret Ann Puritano and her husband, the Hon. Vincent Puritano, Annandale, Va., and Diane H. Bender, Arlington, Va.; a nephew, Charlie A. Puritano and his wife, Jeanette, Fairfax Station, Va.; grandnephews, Nick and Chris Puritano; a grandniece, Sofia Puritano.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday in St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Frackville, with the Rev. Robert T. Finlan as the celebrant. Relative and friends are invited to a visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Albert L. Gricoski Funeral Home, Frackville.

Interment will be in St. Joseph Parish Cemetery, Englewood, Frackville. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Samuel's name to the St. Joseph Church Memorial Fund, 14 N. Nice St., Frackville, PA 17931.