



John Calvin Ciptak

March 30, 2018

John Calvin Ciptak, 86, of Venice, Florida and formerly Pittsburgh, PA, died peacefully on Good Friday. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Leona Mae Narbuth Ciptak and his children Mary Ellen, Larry, Valerie and David Ciptak, and granddaughter Lily Ciptak and grandson Julian Ciptak Viera. Eldest son John passed away in 2008.

John was born in 1932 in East Carnegie, attending Langley High School. In his childhood years, John got to hang out on the Pirate's bench with his dad's friend Honus Wagner and his teammates, and went on to play semi-pro baseball himself. An Air Force veteran and labor union organizer for the USWA in the 1970s and 80s, John was old-school tough. Whether it came to his boundless energy organizing unions to coaching yearly championship baseball teams, John Ciptak did so with a verve and vigor that left him a local legend in both Pittsburgh and Venice.

John never wavered in his beliefs; he was a champion for the underdog, fearless, and he stood proud. Through his lifelong example, John instilled a strong work ethic in his children. As an electrician for Westinghouse and growing up with a father who owned a home appliance repair business, John remained an epoch tinkerer whose "one-stop shop" garage was truly his castle. John volunteered his electrical/motor repair services to people in need throughout his life. He was also an avid gardener.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00 AM Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church at 1301 Center Road.

In lieu of monetary donations, perform a random act of kindness in John's honor instead. Toale Brothers Funeral Homes, Ewing Chapel is handling arrangements.