

WALTER H. MILINSKI, SR.



On August 8, 2023, at age 88, Pittsburgh lost a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, educator, and coach. Walter was born on the South Side of Pittsburgh to parents, Joseph and Helen Milinski and lived most of his adult life in Mt. Oliver Boro. Walter was preceded in death by his three brothers, Joseph, Stanley, and Daniel; and two sisters, Rosemary (Lazarz) and Eileen (Mittenzwey). He

is survived, by his wife Nancy; and five children, Suzan (Chuck) Rakaczky, Walter, Jr (Nancy), Michelle Milinski, Janine (Adam) Gross and Cheryl (the late Leon) Bonds. Walter was very proud of his fifteen grandchildren: Sara (Justin) Parisi, Vanessa (Andrew) Pogozeleski, Ryan McCormick, Alexis (Clarence) Reynolds, Charlotte Rakaczky, Emily (Steve) Macomber, Claire (Max) Cookinham, Hannah Gross, Harrison (Samantha) Milinski, Aaron Gross, Walter Bonds, Julian Bonds, Sydney Bonds, Charles Rakaczky, Jr. and Eme Gross. He also is survived by nine loving great-grandchildren: Jasper, Tabitha, Flora, Ellis, Van, Henry, Ada, Theodosia, and Bennett. Walter also had many loving nieces and nephews.

Walter graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1952 and went on to earn a scholarship to play basketball for St. Francis College (PA). As a starter, he was instrumental in helping St. Francis advance to the semi-final round of the NIT tournament in 1955. After graduation from college, he married his high school sweetheart, Nancy Jane Lutz. His first jobs took him and his new bride to eastern Pennsylvania, where he taught and coached for three years at St. Francis Prep and Lancaster Catholic. His return to Pittsburgh was due to his recruitment by the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh to join the staff of the newly opened Canevin High School. He served as a faculty member and the school's first Athletic Director. He was the basketball and football coach for the next 6 years, coaching the boys' basketball team to prominence in the Pittsburgh Catholic league and recognition as one of the best teams in the state. He then went on to complete a master's degree in counseling from Duquesne University and worked as a college counselor at Robert Morris University and CCAC for 30 years until his retirement. He was always committed to helping students achieve their academic and career goals.

In addition to his deep love and dedication to his family and faith, Walter loved coaching basketball. Walt continued to coach at all levels including St. Joseph, Mt. Oliver boys' grade school and high school as well as coaching his grandsons at St. Philip Grade School. He also served as a long-term assistant coach on Pittsburgh's very successful men's basketball teams at CCAC. He was Seton LaSalle High School's varsity coach for the 1986-88 seasons and led the team to the school's first and only state basketball championship. Since his retirement, Walter has enjoyed traveling, spending time with his wife and children and attending countless numbers of his grandchildren's sporting events. He was an avid reader and committed to his Catholic faith. Rest in peace beloved Husband, Father, Old Pap Teddy, and Coach.

Family and friends will be received on Saturday and Sunday, August 12 and 13, 2023 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m at the **JOHN F. SLATER FUNERAL HOME**, 412-881-4100, 4201 Brownsville Road, Brentwood 15227. Funeral prayer on Monday morning at 9:30. Mass of Christian Burial in Blessed Trinity Parish, St. Albert the Great Church at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests scholarship donations to Bishop Canevin High School (<https://bishopcanevin.org/support>) or Saint Francis University (<<https://www.francis.edu/advancement-division/ways-to-give>>). Please send condolences to www.johnfslater.com

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