

# HOWARD MACK BARAKAT



Age 78, of Dormont, died peacefully Saturday, September 30, 2023, after a long battle with multiple illnesses, including leukemia. He was a lifelong Pittsburgher, oblivious to his Yinzer traits, like his inability to let anyone else pick up a restaurant check. He met lifelong friends in the Forbes Field bleachers. He was a Penn State grad who served as a manager for the men's basketball team and the rare rabid Nittany Lion fan

who also rooted for Pitt, where he obtained a graduate degree. He was a tireless worker, who had a long career selling Cheerios, yogurt and Betty Crocker cake mix for General Mills. He also worked many years as a part-time cab driver, and knew every side street in Allegheny County, or at least he acted like he did. In retirement he worked as an usher at Heinz Field, a fitting job for a diehard sports fan who held season tickets throughout the years for the Steelers, Pirates and Penguins. And he was a familiar face to anyone who spent time in the city's poker rooms, first in underground card games and then in the casinos. He is survived by his two sons, Peter and Matthew (Christine); his daughter, Julie (Kenny Hammond), for whom he regularly made sacrifices great and small; and his two grandsons, Mark and Jake, whom he believed were perfection incarnate. He is also survived by his brother, Thomas; and many cousins. Per his wishes, there will be no funeral services. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements by **BALL FUNERAL CHAPEL, INC.**

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)