

LOUIS MICHAEL TARASI, JR.



Louis Michael Tarasi Jr., 92, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on December 30th, 2023. He was born September 9th, 1931, in Harmarville, PA, to Ruth Records Tarasi and Louis Michael Tarasi Sr. He was a graduate of Central Catholic High School and Miami University Ohio where he attended on a track scholarship. In 1954 he married the love of his life, Patsy Ruth Finley. He then

enlisted in the Army during the Korean War and was stationed in Japan. Nine months later on April 1st, 1955, he made headline news in the local paper, when he "beat the stork" by returning home for the birth of his first daughter, Susan. After completing his military service, he obtained his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania on a scholarship. While in law school he worked three jobs and welcomed his first son, Louis Michael III.

After returning to Pittsburgh, he began what would become a successful national legal career. He received recognition in The Best Lawyers in America and served as president of both the Pennsylvania and Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Associations. He was a Certified Civil Trial Attorney and was a member of the Academy of Trial Lawyers and the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He was later admitted into the prestigious International Barristers Society and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Lou was a gifted litigator, championing the voiceless in the fields of class action, personal injury, medical malpractice, and antitrust law.

A devout Catholic, he served in many capacities in his church. Of all his awards, he felt most honored to receive the Saint Thomas More Award, which recognizes outstanding Catholic lawyers. He witnessed his faith to all who knew him through prayer, generosity of spirit, and attending mass every Sunday. All aspects of his life were woven with his high moral character and his faith in God.

Lou and Patsy moved to Sewickley in 1972. He was the first Democrat elected to the Sewickley Borough Council. He also founded the Sewickley 5K race through the YMCA.

Lou is survived by his wife Patsy whom he showed an unwavering devotion throughout their marriage; June 19th, 2024, would have been their seventieth anniversary. They traveled the world together and saved Thursdays for date night.

He is also survived by his six children whom he was very proud of, each with their own talents: Susan Sherbine (Jay), Michael, Beth Tarasi Sinatra (Tony), Brian, Tricia Mantelmacher (David), and Matthew (Chris Brick). Beth, inspired by her father, became a lawyer and partner in the law firm, Tarasi & Tarasi.

Lou's surviving grandchildren are Sara, Teddy, Ben, Emma, Eliza, and Aidan, and great-granddaughter Riley. He was close and lovingly involved in the lives of each and took pride in their accomplishments. He encouraged each one of them to become the best they could be and to stay close to their faith and family. Lou was preceded in death by his parents, and brother, William "Skippy".

Lou greeted everyone with a smile, a joke, and kind words. He was well-known for his humor, countless personal stories, vast knowledge of history and literature, and interest in all things sports. Lou's generosity and philanthropy benefitted numerous organizations and touched many individuals. He was the eternal optimist; Regardless of the situation, his glass was half full and never half empty. His optimism, strength, and endless love will never be forgotten.

Family will receive friends from 4-8 pm on Sunday, January 7th at **COPELAND FUNERAL HOME**, 702 Beaver St., Sewickley, PA 15143. A service will be held at 10:30 am Monday, January 8th at Divine Redeemer Parish, 200 Walnut St., Sewickley, PA 15143.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to The American Heart Association, <https://www.heart.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give>, or The Amyloidosis Foundation, www.amyloidosis.org.

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