

LAWRENCE T. "LARRY" RATKUS



Of Penn Twp., age 83, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, beloved uncle, dear friend, and respected community member, passed away peacefully at his home on January 20, 2024. Born on September 24, 1940, in Pittsburgh, Larry's life was marked by his intelligence, passion, faith, and dedication to his wife and family.

A very proud 1958 graduate of St. Thomas High School in Braddock, he continued his studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned his B.S. in Business/Accounting.

For 35 years, Larry was a dedicated employee of Westinghouse at the Research and Development Center in Churchill, where he worked as an accountant. His first retirement was merely a prelude to his continued contributions to society. At the age of 57, Larry was elected as the Tax Collector of Penn Township in 1997, a role he fulfilled with integrity for eight years before retiring a second time. Not one to rest, in 2005, he accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer for Pittsburgh Electric Engines, Inc. in Mt. Pleasant, retiring for a third and final time after five years of service.

Larry's interests and hobbies were as varied as they were passionate. A long-distance runner for many years, he competed in numerous races throughout Western Pennsylvania. He completed 13 marathons, including the prestigious Boston Marathon twice. A shared achievement with his wife, Shirley, was completing the Marine Corps Marathon. Together they encouraged and inspired a 'Rat Pack' of runners.

His commitment to his community was evident in his life membership with the Knights of Columbus, Council #7399 at St. Regis Parish, and his volunteering on the Finance Council of St. Regis Parish. As a Tax Collector, he became a member and Past President of the Westmoreland County Tax Collectors Association. Larry also enjoyed the camaraderie and competition as a former member of both the Westinghouse Long Distance Racing Team, the Norwin Elks, and Joe's Coffee Club Runners.

Although known for being hardworking, Larry loved and knew the importance of family vacations, making many memories with his wife and children in boats on Lake Wallenpaupack, in the little pubs of Ireland, on the shores of Hawaii, about busy Florida amusement parks, and throughout the many beaches of the OBX. In quieter moments, Larry could be found tending to his beautiful yard and abundant garden or indulging in his hobby of collecting trains.

Larry's legacy is carried on by his beloved spouse, Shirley A. (McGivern) Ratkus; and their children, Lawrence T. (Eva) Ratkus, Robert J. (Mary Ann) Ratkus, Christine Ann (Jay) Zaharko, David J. (Beth) Ratkus, Daniel P. (Michelle) Ratkus, and Amy Beth (Jim) Beers. His spirit will continue through his 23 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Larry was preceded in death by his brother, Theodore (late Cynthia) Ratkus.

Friends are welcome Tuesday from 3-8 pm at **PATRICK T. LANIGAN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC., TURTLE CREEK / MONROEVILLE CHAPEL**, 1111 Monroeville Ave., Turtle Creek, 412-823-9350. Mass of Christian Burial in St. Regis Church, Trafford, on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Larry will be laid to rest in St. Joseph Cemetery, North Versailles.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb