

THEODORE "TED, PAP" J. SZALLA, SR.



Age 89, of Pittsburgh (Mt. Washington), passed away on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at home with his loving family by his side. Ted was born on March 3, 1934, in Pittsburgh to the late Theodore L. Szala and Florence C. (Waleczewski) Szala. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served in the U.S. and Germany between December 1956 and December 1958 and in the U.S. Army Reserves from December 1958 to 1962.

Upon returning to Pittsburgh, Ted worked a myriad of jobs before becoming a member of Plumber's Union Local 27 and recently received his 55-year membership certificate from the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada. Upon retiring from the Local in 1996, he worked in the Maintenance Department for the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh in their main office downtown, from which he retired in 2011. Ted was an avid Pittsburgh sports fan, especially of his "Stillers"; he also enjoyed bowling, playing golf and dancing in his younger years. Theodore is survived by his son, Donald E. (Fred Lytle) Gillenberger; daughter-in-law, Kathy Gillenberger; daughter, Patricia Gillenberger; daughter-in-law, Cathy Gillenberger; daughter, Kathleen Chapman; son, Dennis (Barb) Gillenberger; daughter, Marie (Gary) Trilli; son, Ted (Julie) Szalla, Jr.; son, Jim (Donna) Szalla; and daughter, Lisa (Brian) Cratty, with whom he made his home and was cared for over the last 13 years. Also surviving Theodore are his sister, Mary Lou (Zubik) Fullard; sister-in-law, Etta Jean Morehouse; 40 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren, all of whom he thought the world of - he was always happy to see them and find out what was going on in their lives; and numerous loved nieces and nephews. Ted will be greatly missed by the family dog, Champ, his best friend with whom he watched Ancient Aliens every day and liked to sneak table food to as a show of how much he loved him. In addition to his parents, Theodore was preceded in death by his wife of 37 years, Lillian "Lil" (Hanbury) Gillenberger Szalla, who passed away on July 1, 1996; son, Ronald "Mickey" Gillenberger; son, John "Jack" Gillenberger; son-in-law, Charles Chapman; son-in-law, Dorsey Palmer; grandson, Michael Bronder; and brother, Louis F. Szala in 1935. Visitation will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at **WM. SLATER & SONS, INC.**, 301 Virginia Avenue, Mt. Washington, PA 15211 (412-381-3345). Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024, at Mary Queen of Peace Parish, St. Mary of the Mount Church, burial to follow in Jefferson Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in memory of Ted to UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Little Sisters of the Poor, or a charity of your choice. www.slaterfuneral.com



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