

BERNARD E. "BEN" WILKE



Age 86, of Pittsburgh, formerly of St. Rose, IL, died on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Beloved husband of the late Madeline (Panza) Wilke. Dear father of David (Cheri), Dennis (Christine), and Bernie Wilke. Loving grandfather of Matthew, Michael, Brian, Jack, Luke, Benjamin, Nicholas, and Anna. Brother of the late Roman H. Wilke, Sr., Rosemary Wilke, Dolores C. Wilke, Hugo S. Wilke, Genevieve A. Thole, Thecla

Clemens, Anna Lou Weis, and Thomas W. Wilke.

In addition to being a loving father, husband, and grandfather, Ben is best remembered for his steady, nurturing leadership at private career schools, most recently as President of Rosedale Technical College from 2000-2005. He is beloved as a mentor by the staff and faculty at every school he led. His lifelong mission was to promote student success and achievement.

Ben was a devoted father and encouraging baseball coach for each of his three sons. He was an athlete and lover of sports, especially baseball and golf. He was inducted into the Clinton County (Illinois) Baseball Hall of Fame in 2010 for his amazing prowess on the ballfield and as a manager. He adored his eight grandchildren, and spent many weekends supporting them in all their athletic and other endeavors. Ben will be missed and remembered with great fondness and love.

Family and friends are welcome 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday, **WILLIAM SLATER II FUNERAL SERVICE**, 1650 Greentree Rd., Scott Twp., 15220 (412-563-2800). Mass of Christian Burial, 10:00 a.m., Saturday in Holy Child Church, Corpus Christi Parish. Interment in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies on Monday, March 25 at 10 AM with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in benefit of the Ben Wilke Scholarship Fund payable to Rosedale Technical College (215 Beecham Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15205), or at www.rosedaletech.edu/donate.



SLATER

SHARPSBURG

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb