

PAUL N. "SONNY" TOMKO



With heavy hearts, we are saddened to announce that Paul N. "Sonny" Tomko, 85, of Swissvale, unexpectedly left this world on Monday, July 22, 2024. Born April 9, 1939, in Braddock, on a beautiful Easter Sunday with the sun shining so brightly, Paul's grandmother nicknamed him "Sonny". Sonny became his legacy as many did not know him by any other name.

He was the son of the late Paul "Putty" and Lena (Mylo)

Tomko. In addition to his parents, Sonny was preceded in death by his wife Diana (Szuba) Tomko, brother Nicholas and sister Rosalee (Richard) Feczko.

Sonny is the father of Lisa (Michael Frizzi) of North Huntingdon and Joseph of North Fayette. Although Sonny did not have grandchildren of the humankind, he was the devoted Pappy

to dogs, Sadie (his princess), Roxy (black beauty), Benzo (warrior), and Kyra (instigator), always looking out for their well-being and spoiling them with so much love. They truly were the greatest joy of his life!

Dear brother of James (Edna) of Swissvale and brother-in-law to Betsy Tomko of Swisshelm Park and Barb Vargo of Munhall. Sonny was also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, who referred to him as "Unc", cousins, and friends.

Sonny honorably served in the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne during the Vietnam Era. He graduated from the Army's Ranger School, one of the elite Airborne Rangers to earn his Ranger Tab.

Sonny was employed by Westinghouse prior to finding his well-established career in Law Enforcement. Initially hired as a part-time patrolman in the Borough of Wilmerding, he did retire after serving as their Chief of Police for many years. For the love of his job, he also was a patrolman with the Swissvale Police Department, including time spent as the Juvenile Resource Officer at Woodland Hills Junior High School.

He was a member of the Madonna Del Castello Church, the Knights of Columbus, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Sonny was a master sportsman excelling in football, baseball, softball and bowling. He was even a participant on "Bowling for Dollars" and assisted in coaching the Swissvale Flashes Football Team. He was an avid card shark who had no issues with taking his opponents' money. He dabbled under the hood of cars too in his spare time. Sonny loved nothing more than spending time with his family, celebrating their achievements and supporting them during times of hardship. He could never turn down any favors asked of him, nor expect anything in return. Those who knew Sonny had the upmost respect for the person he was... a family man, an officer of the law, a powerful role model. He will be remembered for his "tough guy" exterior, a friend who was more than "A-OK" and mentor none-the-less. Sonny was "my man" to so many, considered a hero, a legend, and truly one in a million.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the **THOMAS L. NIED FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 7441 Washington Street, Swissvale, PA. Visitation will be received on Thursday and Friday between 2-4 and 6-8. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at the Sacred Heart Church in Braddock Hills on Saturday at 11:00 with Father Joe Mele officiating. Interment will follow at All Saints Braddock Catholic Cemetery. To celebrate Sonny's life, and in lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to a local animal shelter in his name.

Sonny's family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at the LGAR in Turtle Creek for their care and compassion during his time spent there for rehab.

www.niedfuneralhome.com

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb