

## ROBERT J. O'CONNELL



Robert J. O'Connell, age 98, of Bethel Park, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2024.

Born in Oakland to John. F. and Mary Sweeney O'Connell, both of Ireland. Devoted husband of the late Dorothy J. Steigerwald O'Connell for 62 years. Survived by daughters, Dianne McElhone and her husband Tim, Patti Wick and her husband, Jeff and son Dan O'Connell and his wife Terry.

Bob is also survived by grandchildren, Neil (Aja) McElhone, Bobby Wick, Danielle (Brian) Smith, Dan (Katie) O'Connell, John (Joelle) O'Connell, Jenny (Trent) Zempel and Sarah (Isaac) Smoak. Great-grandchildren include Teagan, Easton, Oscar and Juniper McElhone, Savannah, Liam and Grant Robert Smith, Aiden O'Connell, Adalynn, Grahame and Declan Zempel, Theo and Millie Jane Smoak. Surviving sister Dorothy O'Connell and brother Hugh O'Connell and his wife Maureen. Predeceased by sisters Annette Cannon and Sue Brotherly and brothers Neil, John, James and Edward.

At age 17, in 1943, Bob joined the Navy and served in WWII. Bob had a successful 25 year career for the Pittsburgh Police Department achieving the position of Assistant Superintendent. After retiring from the police, he worked for Gulf Oil Corporation, Corporate Security Department, Pittsburgh Division, for 11 years.

In retirement, Bob volunteered with the Montour Trail in Bethel Park for 23 years helping to convert an abandoned railroad right-of-way into a beautiful recreational trail. He had a great appreciation for nature and enjoyed sitting on his porch watching the activity at his many bird feeders while feeding peanuts to a few of the local chipmunks. Bob was a lifelong learner and avid reader who could fix just about anything that could be fixed.

Bob loved his family and they loved him. He greeted his great-grandchildren at their birth with a letter addressed to each child. He welcomed them to a large, loving extended family and assured them that the love and care of their Mom and Dad

would lead them to be an adult of good character.

Friends and family will be received at **BEINHAUER FUNERAL HOME**, 2820 Washington Road, McMurray PA 5317. Monday, Sept 2, 2-7PM. Mass of Christian burial at 10:30 AM at St. Catherine Laboure Parish, St. Louise de Marillac Church, 320 McMurray Road, Upper St Clair PA 15241.

Internment at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies where Bob will join Dorothy, the love of his life, and the headstone is inscribed TOGETHER IN LOVE FOREVER.

If so inclined, in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital, stjude.org, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)