

JOHN R. BROWN



John R. Brown, age 89, a much-loved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend, peacefully passed away surrounded by family on Saturday, October 26, 2024. A resident of Valencia, PA, formerly Gibsonia, he was born in Duncombe, IA, on March 20, 1935, to the late John W. Brown and Helen Sue (Hoyt) Brown.

Beloved husband for 69 years of Rosemary L. (Ohnemus) Brown, the two jitterbugged their way through life, standing strong and making wonderful memories together. Loving father of Julie (Vic) Cerra, Kathy (David Goldstein) Brown, Peggy (Pete) Hudac, Tim Brown, Maureen (Dan) Razum, Sheila (Mark) Thomas, Bridget (John) Lane, and predeceased son, John W. Brown. Brother of the late Beth (Tom) Tierney and Fran (Bill) Apatoff. Dear grandfather of Liz, Emily, Mike, Carrie, Nicole, Jessica, John A., Josh, Nate, Owen, Coby, Megan, Tara, Jesse, Curt, Molly, Olivia, Diana, Riley, McKenna and Mason. He is also survived by 20 cherished great-grandchildren; and by much-loved nieces and nephews.

During his teens, John moved to Illinois, graduating from Bloom High School, where he met the love of his life, Ro. He continued his education at the University of Notre Dame, proudly graduating with the Class of '56, earning a degree in Mechanical Engineering. John and Rosemary made northern Indiana their home and he began his distinguished career in management with Dodge Manufacturing, that eventually led the family to East Tennessee. In 1976, he joined Robroy Industries in Verona, PA, and a new home base was established.

His faith, family, and community were of utmost importance to him. Known for his generosity, intelligence, and helpful nature, John was a lifelong volunteer, serving in multiple areas; he was active in Parish Council, St Vincent De Paul Society, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Richland Water Authority to name a few. He was also a staunch supporter of his grandchildren's activities, where he was often found in the stands and audience at many games and performances. He was also a resourceful handyman and, at one point, even served as general contractor when building their very large Tennessee home.

John enjoyed traveling, cheering on the Fighting Irish, and cooking up a batch of chocolate sauce, a well-guarded recipe, to the delight of his family. With his dry sense of humor and noted quick wit, his amusing rhymes were always a hit!

John will be deeply missed by family and friends. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at a future date at Holy Sepulcher Church, Butler, PA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in care of Holy Sepulcher Church or Holy Cross Association, Notre Dame, for The Care for the Elder and Retired Religious or to a charity of your choice.

Arrangements by **SCHELLHAAS FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, LTD.**, Bakerstown, PA.

www.schellhaasfh.com

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb