

## JOHN HLAWKA



John Hlawka, 91 passed away peacefully Thursday morning February 22, 2024 at his home in Palm Beach Gardens Florida with his family by his side. He was born and raised on the South Side of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He started work at the Pittsburgh Post Gazette as a young teenager selling newspapers on the street corner and spent the rest of his adult career in the newspaper business. He

played sand lot baseball and football. He quarterbacked his team (the Pittsburgh Polechecks) against Johnny Unitas' semi pro team the Bloomfield Rams after Unitas was released from the Pittsburgh Steelers and before he signed with the Baltimore Colts. The Polechecks admittedly got their "butts handed to them" by Unitas' superior team. John Hlawka broke his leg playing baseball. He woke up in the hospital with a cast on his leg and looking into the eyes of the young woman he would spend the rest of his life with. In 1963 he and his wife Marjorie got married, moved to Palm Beach Gardens, bought a house and raised two children. John went to work for The Miami Herald until he retired. He cared for his stroke victim wife for 22 years until his family cared for him for the final 2-1/2 years of his life. He is survived by his wife Marjorie, son and daughter, Nicholas and Pamela, granddaughter Leeanne, and sisters Madge Evanosky and Susie Scheller. He is predeceased by his son-in-law Barry Grunow, grandson Samuel Grunow, brothers Jim Gmitter and Pat Gmitter, sisters Mary Lou Melczak (Gmitter), Carol Veltre (Gmitter). Thank you for everything you have done for us. We love you.