

James M Toppa Sr.



James Michael Toppa, Sr., 73, of 31 Harrison Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island, passed away peacefully on Monday, August 9, 2010, at Newport Hospital after a short illness. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Newport on August 10, 1936, he was the son of the late John J. Toppa, Sr. Jim was helped raised by his grandparents, Augustino and Falconilla Toppa. He loved to share stories of growing up with his many beloved cousins and friends on Potter Street - relationships he always cherished.

Jim was the loving husband of the late Elizabeth "Betty" O'Neil Toppa. He will be sadly missed by his two daughters, Kathleen Toppa Landry of Newport and Mary Toppa Dyl of Middletown, his two sons, James M. Toppa, Jr. and Thomas W. Toppa, both of Middletown. He was the special Papa and Grandpa to Meagan and Gretchen Landry, Sarah Toppa, Bobby Dyl, and Sam Rodrigues. Mr. Toppa is also survived by his daughter-in-law John Toppa, son-in-law Frank Landry, and Paul Rodrigues. He is also survived by his dear brother, John J. Toppa.

A 1955 graduate of De La Salle Academy, he served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Intrepid from 1955-1957. He was employed by J.T. O'Connell from 1958 to 1966. He worked for over 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 1997. After retirement, Mr. Toppa enjoyed working at Newport Beach as a gate attendant, making many friends over the years. He was a member of the Newport Elks, Knights of Columbus, Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the FOPA. Jim will be remembered for his gentle spirit, kind heart, and sense of humor.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, August 13, 2010 in St. Augustin Church, Carroll Ave, Newport. Burial at Middletown Cemetery, Wyatt Rd., Middletown. Visiting hours were held on Thursday, August 12 in the O'Neill-Hayes Funeral Home, 465 Spring St., Newport.

Donations may be made to the James L. Maher Center, 120 Hillside Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island, 02840.