



Obituary

Died: Thursday, March 17, 2016

Maurice "Mike" Joseph Cretel, 88, of Barnegat, NJ passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 17, 2016. Born in Paterson, NJ to Belgian and Irish immigrants, he lived in Bloomingdale and Butler, NJ for 37 years before moving to Barnegat with his wife of nearly 60 years.

Cretel was passionate about sports and spent much of his time on ball fields and gyms, either refereeing or playing, especially baseball. Drafted out of high school to play for the minor league baseball team of the then St. Louis Browns, (now Baltimore Orioles), he had a few games with the pros before getting called for active duty during WWII, ending his baseball career. He served four years in the US Army, liberating France and helping the post war reconstruction. Upon his return home, he began work in the Paterson Post Office, where he was a fixture delivering mail to downtown offices and residences for 50 years.

Maurice was known to many as a definitive source for clarification of rules for football, basketball and baseball, having been a referee and umpire of New Jersey high school and college games for decades. When he hung up his whistle, he picked up golf clubs and met with long time friends from his Paterson Central High School Lettermen Club.

A devoted husband, Maurice is survived by the love of his life, Mary (nee Mulligan) with whom he shared a love of the beach. He is also survived by, daughters Mary Ellen Fitzpatrick, of Absecon, NJ, Patricia Graham, of Mountain Lakes, NJ, Elizabeth of Boston, MA and son Robert of Dana Point, CA. He has one grand daughter, Megan Fitzpatrick and seven grandsons, Matthew Fitzpatrick, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Christopher Cretel, Jeffrey Cretel, Michael "Luke" Graham, Ian Graham and Peter Graham.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 from 10 to 11 AM at St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City, NJ, followed by a Roman Catholic Mass of Christian Burial. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Maurice's honor to: the Children's Brain Tumor Foundation, 1460 Broadway, New York, NY 10036.

Service Summary

Gathering of Family and Friends

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Wed Mar 23, 2016

St. Thomas of Villanova Church

Surf City, NJ