

## Biega's Funeral Home

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### Eric Schultz

( September 26, 1923 - March 14, 2017 )

Eric R. Schultz, 93, of Cromwell, beloved husband of the late Elizabeth "Liz" (Manning) Schultz died Tuesday March 14, 2017. He was born in Middletown, son of the late Arnold and Mathilda (Pfeiffer) Schultz on September 26, 1923, two weeks after their arrival from Germany.



From an early age, Eric found a great joy in sports. He attended the old Woodrow Wilson High School where he lettered three years in football, baseball and basketball. In baseball he was Captain and All-League in 1942 and is co-holder of the strikeout record by striking out 18 batters in a nine inning game. This record still stands. In football he was All-League and All-State in 1941 and did not play in a losing game until his senior year. In basketball, he was All-League and a member of Wilsons only undefeated 1942 team.

He pitched a No Hit No Run game for the Hillside A.C. in the old Middletown Twilight League and pitched and played the outfield for the Middletown Giants in the old County League. In 1944 he signed a pro-baseball contract with the Hartford Chiefs of the old Eastern League and then signed with the Boston Braves in 1945 until a pitching arm injury ended his baseball career. In 1945, he organized, played and coached the Hillside A.C. basketball team to the City Championship by beating the Garrys, who were the perennial city champions.

In 1946, Eric left Middletown to attend Long Beach City College in California. While there he was a member of the 1946 and 1947 Conference Football Champion teams and the 1946 Conference Championship Basketball team. He received a full football scholarship to the University of California at Berkeley in 1947. In 1948 and 1949 he attended the University of California at Berkeley and was a member of the Conference Undefeated Football teams and the 1949 and 1950 Rose Bowl teams. He was also a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. He graduated from California in June of 1950.

Eric went to work for the California Athletic Dept. for a year recruiting

athletes. He then went on to work for the Schmidt Lithograph Co. in San Francisco as a salesman. He rapidly rose through the ranks and in 1954 became the Branch Manager of their Southwest Territory based in San Antonio, TX. In 1960, Eric was promoted to Assistant National Sales Manager and transferred to their Los Angeles, CA office.

After 16 years he realized that he had reached the pinnacle of his employment with Schmidt, so he resigned and started his own printing brokerage company in 1976 in Lakewood, CA called Eric R. Schultz, Enterprises, Inc. He and his wife Liz ran the business for twelve years and then retired and moved back to Connecticut, settling in Cromwell.

In 1973, Eric founded and was President of the Schultz-Witkowski Cancer Fund. He was a three term member of the Board of Trustees for the Independent Day School. In 1993 he was Vice President and in 1994 and 1996 a two term President of the Cromwell Athletic Club, of which he was still a member.

In 1989 he helped organize the Middletown Sports Hall of Fame and was a member of the first group to be inducted in the Hall of Fame. He was a five term Treasurer and two term President of the Hall of Fame and then became its' Executive Secretary and treasurer. He was very proud of the fact that in December of 1999, he was chosen as one of the nine Middletown, CT 20<sup>th</sup> Century Athletes.

Eric is survived by his son A.J. Schultz of Cromwell, daughters, Cheryl Stabbert of WA, Cathy Parker of CA, seven grandchildren, eight great grandchildren as well as several nieces and nephews. Besides his wife Liz, he was predeceased by his son, Eric Schultz, Jr., brother, Arnold Schultz and sister, Erna Schultz.

His Funeral Liturgy will be held on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Burial will follow at Pine Grove Cemetery. Calling hours will be on Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St. Middletown. Those who wish may make memorial contributions the Middletown Sports Hall of Fame, 58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr. Middletown, CT 06457.