
John Orphal(1917 - 2015)

John was welcomed into God's arms on Feb. 11, 2015. John had just celebrated his 97th birthday in November and lived a wonderful and exciting life for 76 years with his loving wife, Helen.

He was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio to Earl and Florence Orphal and went to Blume High School where he met and fell in love with Helen. He was a talented athlete and became a professional baseball player.

His career for 10 years as a ball player took them all over the United States achieving a brief stay in the major leagues with the Cincinnati Reds before his contract was purchased by the New York Yankees where he was a Triple-A player and became a lifelong fan of the Yankee organization.

During that time, his two children were born, son, Dennis Orphal (Viki, deceased) of Pleasanton, Calif., and daughter, Linda Brown (Denny) of Ft. Myers, Fla. Also during this time, he played guard for the National Cash Register basketball team. This was before founding of the NBA when professional basketball teams were sponsored by corporations such as NCR, Goodyear, Firestone, etc. He moved to St. Marys, Ohio, after his baseball career and worked for 23 years as a supervisor at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

He retired to Ocala, Fla., in 1976 where he enjoyed many exciting hours on the golf course perfecting his game. He is survived by his wife, two children and four grandchildren, Jeff and Kathy Brown, Jonathan and David Orphal and six great grandchildren.

He is also survived by his two sisters, Glenna McCormick and Doris Weber both of Wapakoneta. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Jim and Bob.

Condolences can be sent to his wife, Helen, at 36 Barkley Circle, Ft. Myers, Florida 33907.

Memorial donations may be made in John's name, to St. Marks United Methodist Church, 1839 NE 8th Road, Ocala, Fla., 34470 or to the .

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