

John A. Rommel, retired bank official, title company president and businessman, dies

By **Frederick N. Rasmussen**
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John A. Rommel, a retired former savings bank official, title company president and businessman, died of cancer Wednesday at Gilchrist Hospice Care in Towson. He was 85.

The son of William Rommel, a builder, and Catherine Rommel, John Andrew Rommel was born in Baltimore and raised in Parkville. He was one of the family's 13 children.

He was a 1948 graduate of Towson High School, where he had been an outstanding pitcher. After leaving high school, he was a minor league pitcher with the Washington Senators.

"When he was playing baseball, he was called 'Fox' because of his red hair, and he was known for his mean curveball," said his wife of 46 years, the former Elizabeth Beall "Betty" Savarese.

Mr. Rommel's baseball career was interrupted in the early 1950s when he was drafted into the Army. He was sent to Korea and played baseball for Army teams.

After being discharged from the Army in 1954, he went to work for Provident Savings Bank, where he rose to become senior vice president.

While at the bank, he studied at the University of Baltimore and attended the Graduate School of Savings Banking at Brown University. After leaving the bank in 1977, he joined the Real Estate Title Co. where he served as president until 1982.

He and a group of partners then operated several businesses, including a food packaging concern, a canning company and skating rinks.

Mr. Rommel later founded a building and development company, Rommel Builders, which he operated until retiring in 2001.

Every year, he worked on the annual Tops in Sports banquet and had served as president of Saints and Sinners.

The former Glen Arm resident was an avid golfer and a charter member and sixth president of the Eagle's Nest, which is also Towson Golf and Country Club.

In recent years, Mr. Rommel, who was a Mays Chapel resident, enjoyed spending winters at a second home at the Harbour Ridge Yacht and Country Club in Palm City, Fla.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday in the chapel at Ruck Towson Funeral Home, 1050 York Road.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Rommel is survived by a son, John B. Rommel of Perry Hall; a daughter, Anne Rommel Potterfield of Towson; a brother, Oscar Rommel of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and seven grandchildren. An earlier marriage ended in divorce.

—*Frederick N. Rasmussen*

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