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## JOHN RACZKA OBITUARY

**1920 - 2014**



John A. Raczka, 94, died peacefully Sunday, December 7, 2014, at his Manchester home surrounded by his family. Born in Manchester, NH on August 21, 1920, he was the son of Joseph and Julia (Petrowska) Raczka. John graduated from Manchester Central High School in 1938, where he starred as a third baseman for the high school baseball team. He was an all-star third baseman in the local Sunset League for the next two years. In 1940 John was signed by the St Louis Cardinals and started his professional baseball career with Washington, Pa. of the Penn State minor League. In 1942, John left professional baseball to join the US Army to fight in World War II. He was a sergeant in the 553rd Bombardment Squadron and fought overseas until his honorable discharge in 1945. During the war he earned 5 battle stars in the European Theater Campaign. In 1950, John married Lucille Proulx and settled in Manchester where they raised their 5 children. Before retiring, John worked as a Foreman for Associated Grocers of New England for 30 years. He was inducted into the Queen City Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000 for his baseball accomplishments. John was a kind and loving husband and father who enjoyed spending time with his family, along with working in his vegetable garden, baking, watching baseball and football games, and most importantly helping others. Surviving Family members include two sons, Ronald E. Raczka of Hooksett, and the Rev. Gary Philip Raczka of West Roxbury, MA; three daughters, Janice Lupien and her husband Marc of Ottawa, Ellen Lighthall and her husband John of Bow, and Nancy Raczka of Atkinson, and special friend Cheri Hermann; five grandchildren, Rosanne Lupien of Montreal, Meredith Raczka of Concord, Michelle Raczka of Hooksett, Jennifer Lighthall of High Point, NC, and Megan Lighthall of Bow; one great grandchild, Sydney Roche; his two sisters, Wanda Raczka of Sarasota, FL and Charlotte Raczka of Manchester; nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Lucille (Proulx) Raczka, daughter-in-law Cindy (Christensen) Raczka, and grandson Jonathan Lupien. Calling hours will be held on Friday, December 12th, from 4 to 8 pm at Durning, Bykowski & Young, 285 Manchester Street, Manchester, NH. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Saturday, December 13th, at 10 am, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Polish National Catholic Church, 166 Pearl Street, Manchester, NH. Burial will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Holy Trinity Cathedral Restoration Fund, 166 Pearl Street, Manchester, NH 03104.

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