Sam V. DiBlasi

Sam V. DiBlasi, age 81, of Canton, died Monday in Doctors Hospital from an apparent heart attack. He was born August 13, 1922, in Washington, DC, to the late John and Frances DiBlasi. He was a   
  
Canton area resident since 1942, retiring from Stark County Engineers in 1990. He attended Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Sam played baseball as a pitcher and third baseman with the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Canton Terriers Class AA League. He was a member of Stark County Baseball Hall of Fame, Greater Canton Basketball Old Timers Hall of Fame, Ohio High School Athletic Assoc. Officials Hall of Fame. He was past president of Eastern Ohio Basketball and Football Officials Assoc. and Secretary for the Hall of Fame Luncheon Club. Sam served as an official and television liaison for the mid-American conference. He was a life member of the Ohio Association of Football Officials and the Ohio Officials Athletic Association. He served as commissioner for the Class A Baseball League from 1967-1977 and Commissioner for the Federal League for 29 years. He was a World War II Army veteran with the rank of Captain serving in Normandy, Utah Beach, D-Day + 1. He was also preceded in death by one son, David DiBlasi in 1984 and two brothers, John and Anthony DiBlasi. He is survived by his wife, Donna L. (Kitzmiller) to whom he was married 36 years; three sons and daughters-in-law, Mike and Janice DiBlasi of Bryan, TX, Mark and Patti DiBlasi of Pittsburgh, PA, John DiBlasi of Florida; one daughter and son-in-law, Janice and John Bales of Carrollton; four grandchildren, Heather and her husband, Ty Shirley of Vermilion, OH, Justin, Calen and Briana DiBlasi all of Chicago, IL; one sister-in-law, Mary Frances DiBlasi of Silver Spring, MD; numerous nieces and nephews. Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church with Rev. Earl Bailey officiating. Interment in North Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call Thursday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. in the Kreighbaum-Sanders Funeral Home on South Cleveland Ave. and one hour before services on Friday at the church (10-11 a.m.) In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Special Olympics International, 1325 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.   
  
(Kreighbaum-Sanders, 330-484-2525)

Repository, The (Canton, OH) - Wednesday, August 20, 2003