



Thomas R. Averell

May 15, 1933 - May 26, 2020

Thomas R. Averell

On May 26, 2020, Thomas R. Averell, age 87, of Ross Twp and born on the North Side. Beloved husband of 65 years to Betty Lou Averell. Thomas had a difficult early childhood. His mother abandoned he and his younger brother on the North Side, blocks from his gram's house. His father was killed in WWII, he lost his two brothers Regis and Jim. He leaves behind a devoted wife of 65 yrs, a son Tom Jr., dear cousin Hazel and many friends and relatives. His life was spent mostly in auto sales, football and volunteer work. Tom played minor league football from 1955-1978, he was the Commissioner of the Mid-Atlantic football league for 8 yrs. President of the American Football association. Chairman of Minor Prof. Football Association 1978, Pro-Football Weekly, Minor league Executive of the year 1981. Inducted Minor Pro Football Hall of Fame. Also responsible for the Johnny Unitas Historical Marker on Butler St. Tom started the Pittsburgh chapter NFL Alumni, helped establish the minor pro football hall of fame in the Heinz History center, he declined nomination for the Carnegie Hero award. Also the Manchester Bridge Portal on the North Shore near Heinz Field, a huge beautiful sculpture which the Rooney Family refurbished and made a beautiful site. He was a good man and had a very interesting life. Always the best dressed with a great tie. Goodbye to the Good Guys Club and all of my friends. A celebration will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Simons Funeral Home. www.simonfuneralhome.com