



Joseph M. Banas

December 25, 1925 - March 26, 2012

CHICOPEE-- Joseph M. Banas, 86, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 26, 2012 at Mercy Medical Center, with his loving family by his side. Born December 25, 1925, son of the late Walter and Anna (Tumidajewicz) Banas, he was a lifelong Chicopee resident. Joseph was a graduate of Chicopee High School, Class of 1943, and a communicant of the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, where he was a member of its Holy Name Society and served as a church usher. In 2003, Joseph and his wife Helen were the recipients of the Father Lawrence Cyman Award, presented by St. Stanislaus School. A US Navy veteran of World War II, he served in both the European and Asiatic Theatres of War aboard the USS Plunkett and the USS Livermore and was awarded the European-African Middle Eastern Theatre Medal with two battle stars, the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Medal, World War II Victory Medal and American Theatre Medal. Joseph was a retired supervisor for the Chicopee Falls Post Office. He was a member of the former Chicopee Colonels Club, and for several years was an umpire for the Chicopee Park & Recreation Department, earning the nickname "Honest Joe". He was an avid fan of the Lady Huskies of UConn, and enjoyed stamp and coin collecting, gardening, and family vacations to the beaches of Cape Cod. Joseph is survived by his beloved wife of sixty-one years, Helen (Cygan) Banas; two loving daughters, Susan L. Bousquet of Chicopee and Jo Ann Athas and her husband Ted of Chicopee; five cherished grandchildren, Jill A. Ryan and her husband Daniel, Amanda L. Pueschel and her husband Jacob, Benjamin J.

Dusza and his wife Michelle, Sarah M. Bousquet and Adam G. Bousquet; six cherished great-grandchildren, Timothy Tetreault, Matthew Tetreault, Jaxon Pueschel, Blaise Dusza, Joseph Ryan and Lilah Pueschel; his sister Wanda Ryan of Chicopee; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son-in law, Chicopee Police Captain Gerald P. Bousquet, Jr., and his siblings, Ted, Max and Frank Banas, Eugenia Kazmierczak, Gladys Rucki and Jane Krason. Funeral services will be held Thursday morning from the Kozikowski Funeral Home, 565 Front St., Chicopee, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 AM in St. Stanislaus Basilica. Burial with Military Honors will follow in St. Stanislaus Cemetery. Calling hours are Thursday morning from 8-9:30 AM. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Stanislaus School Education Fund, 534 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013. "Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight; remember that I am with you every morning, noon and night".