



William Ziemba

July 28, 1917 - September 29, 2016

After living 99 years and 2 months in the Chicopee area, William Ziemba (aka Walter during his school years), died peacefully on September 29, 2016 in the comfort and familiar surroundings of his home. Born in Webster, MA, he had fond memories of his Sandy Hill section upbringing, remembering the simple times of barefoot summers, baseball games, and Boy Scouts. William was part of the first graduating class from Kirby Junior High School in 1932 and graduated with honors from Chicopee High School in 1935. He was modest about his two stints in the Navy and his part in World War II, landing on Utah Beach with the 2nd Beach Amphibious Force from which he earned several medals, and serving aboard the USS Lander and USS Dewey. At age 93, he accompanied his grandson Billy, to visit the World War II Memorial with American Warriors. He was employed by Van Norman Machine and worked part-time at Lysek's Hardware. He was an avid reader and had an amazing memory of poems and songs that he learned many years ago, singing and reciting until the end. William enjoyed attending family functions, where even non-family members called him "Dziadziu". His woodworking talents are displayed in all family members' homes. He enjoyed bowling, crossword puzzles and all New England sports, especially UConn womens basketball. William was kind, generous, witty, non-judgmental, patriotic, and appreciated nature. The patriarch was predeceased by his parents, John and Mary (Garbarz) Ziemba, brother, Emil Ziemba, former wife, Barbara "Sonie" Eke from California, and friend, Helen Wojciak. He will be deeply missed by his loving family; children, John W. Ziemba and wife Gail of NH and VA, Laura Birks and Tom Martin of Chicopee, and Bonnie Sullivan and Dennis McCue of Chicopee; grandchildren, Cheryl Hastings, John Birks and wife Jolanta, William Birks and wife Lynne, Robin Joao and husband Dan, Kathleen Sullivan and Jim Banville, and Daniel Sullivan and wife Darlene; great grandchildren, Christopher, Matthew & Michael Hastings, Samantha, Jenna, Connor & Kyle Birks, Lukas, Savanna & Noah Joao, Zachary Sullivan & Leslie Burke. The family expresses their loving appreciation to his caregiver, Donna, who has cared for and loved him for the past 4 years. Family and friends are invited to a service and burial with Military Honors for William on Friday, October 14, 2016 at 11AM in Fairview Cemetery, Armory Drive, Chicopee. There are no calling hours. Memorial contributions may be made to The Friends of the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front St.,

Chicopee, MA 01013 or the Disabled American Veterans, State House, Room 546,
Boston, MA 02133.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

Armory Drive
Chicopee, MA

Previous Events

Service

OCT 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Fairview Cemetery
Armory Drive
Chicopee, MA