

## **IN MEMORIAM**

**JOSEPH R. RADECKI, SR.**  
**1920 - 2015**

My name is Barbara Hickman and as my Sister Linda is always so quick to point out – I am the oldest of the 6 Radecki children.

Many of you knew dad in various capacities but we would like to really let you know a little more about the real Joe Radecki.

Dad was born in Canton to our Busi (a Polish immigrant) and Dziadzi. Neither of his parents spoke English until their children went to school. As a little “aside” when I used to take dad to the VA hospital I always pretended that I didn’t know the way – he was always so happy to give me the full East Baltimore tour. We would ride by the house where he was born and every time without fail he would say –you know a great thing happened there on December 10, 1920 – on that day I was born in this house... Indeed it was a great thing- Our good Lord was kind enough to place Joseph Radecki on this earth and actually loaned him to us for 94 Blessed years. Dad went to St Casimir’s school then to Polytechnic High school. In April of 1942 he received his Certificate of Engineering from Johns Hopkins. Like many other Patriotic young men of that time on August 1 1942 dad joined the US Navy where he served as a flight engineer until 1946. I’m not exactly sure when he started his career at Bethlehem steel but worked there for about 40 years as a supervisor in the power plant.

After returning home from the Navy, one of his buddies fixed him up with a beautiful and very young Agnes Bogdan. You see dad was 26 and mom only 17 – thus he earned the nickname “cradle snatcher”. They married on April 1948 and I guess that my Grandmother was all wrong about the “cradle snatcher” – dad and mom were a match made in heaven and even with the trials and tribulations of having 6 kids 20 years apart – their marriage remained strong and Blessed. After our youngest sister moved out of the house dad called me to tell me he was changing all the locks on the house but of course he was just kidding.

Dad was a founding member of Our Lady of Fatima Church supporting it many ways. Dad and mom had either a child or grandchild in OLF for 29 consecutive years. That must have been some sort of record. Many a Friday evening he was the “donut” fryer at popular “Friday night Bingo”. He was a member of the Santa Maria Council of the Knights of Columbus and remained a loyal member of the Jolly Club and appreciated all of his many friendships.

Dad was very involved in a Fraternal Organization known as the Royal Arcanum which he joined in March 1942. He held various offices in the organization. Dad was a

Supreme Representative 1966, 1968 and 1970; Supreme Sentry from 1976-1978; Supreme Warden from 1980-1986; Supreme Trustee from 1988-2002 and became a Life Member of the Supreme Council in 2004. (This means he served on the Supreme Council for 30 years). He was also a Distinguished Service Award Member, and Royal Arcanum Legion of Honor Award with 7 Diamonds. During this time, he also was involved with the Fraternal Congress of Maryland for which held several offices until serving on the Board as President and then Past President.

He loved the Orioles, the Colts and eventually he even accepted the Ravens as his home team (though he would call them “bums” if they weren’t winning.)

He loved tradition – especially his Polish heritage. In earlier years he became quiet proficient in making homemade Polish Sausage, Raisin bread and perogee. He loves when his children and grandchildren carry on the traditional Polish customs at weddings, Easter and Christmas.

As his children we were fortunate to have a father that instilled both faith and values. His church and God were very much a part of his life. He worked hard to give his children a Catholic education and taught us by example many of life’s lessons. He was equally proud of his country – every day raising a flag on the pole that still stands in their yard.

He could fix anything. He earned the nickname by a family member as MacGyver – never called in a repair man. I remember coming home from school one day and the entire washing machine was all over the basement floor. The next day it was back together washing clothes just like it was brand new – Dad never threw anything out that could be fixed.

He taught us by his example the value of hard work. He used to say that if you work hard enough you can do anything you want, don’t depend on other people to give you anything – work for it and if you can’t do it right then don’t do it all.

I could go on and on about one of God’s most perfect creations – but I think that you have the picture.

Dad we love you, we will miss you terribly and you will always be in our hearts. With 14 grandchildren and 21 (plus 2 on the way) great grandchildren - your legacy will always live on.

I am sure that dad is looking down from heaven and saying don’t weep for me – but honor me by living well the life that God has created for you.

Thank you all for joining us to celebrate the legacy of our dad’s life.