



**WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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Edward Joseph Brooks '41

Edward Joseph Brooks, 88, a former Homicide Sergeant and State Investigator passed on peacefully on November 12, 2011, at his home. He is now happily with his recently deceased wife and high school sweetheart, Patricia Ann Brooks.

Born on the grounds of St. Clements Parish, S.W. Philadelphia, to Edward Clement and Alice Brooks, he was the youngest of four children. He was married for 64 splendid years to his beautiful high school sweetheart, Patricia Ann (nee O'Donnell), who just passed away 7 months ago. Ed staunchly guarded and cared for his wife while she was sick over the past 8 years. His loving devotion to Pat was incredible and beautiful to witness.

Ed was a West Catholic Alumni, played in the high school band and loved those Burrs. Post high school Ed was involved in a band named "The Sirens" and played the saxophone and clarinet. He was a distinguished baseball catcher and fielder for the "RAM A-C" league, a farm team for the Phillies, earning the MVP award in 1944. Prior to joining the Philadelphia Police Dept., he worked for GE on the Manhattan Project in the Switching Dept. As World War II progressed Ed and his crew worked on developing and assembling the signal component for the Manhattan Project

In 1946 Ed joined the Philadelphia Police Dept. Rising in ranks from "walking the Beat", to undercover, and finally achieving his wish of becoming a detective, Ed, who as a sergeant, was selected to head up the "Five Squad". This "Squad" was tasked with cracking unsolved homicide cases, many of which were high profile. He was highly respected by lawyers, judges, and Mayor Frank Rizzo for his integrity, fairness, and attention to detail in his investigations. He was an original "Columbo" with the cigar in his mouth.

Beyond his retirement of 28 years with the force and to his final days, Ed was bothered by the fact that he was not able to solve and bring to justice the perpetrators of two separate cases involving two local young females, who were kidnapped and murdered. It was his wish to bring or see final closure to these young women's families.

Upon retirement from the police force and not one to sit idly by, Ed then applied his detective skills as an investigator working for "the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania". After 24 years with the Board, Ed retired to a wonderful life with his wife Pat. They enjoyed golfing, cruises with family and friends, fishing and crabbing, enjoying their grandchildren and spending a majority of their time at their New Jersey shore house.

In addition to his wife Pat and his parents, Ed was pre-deceased by brothers Clement (Anna) and Vincent (surviving- Virginia) and sister, Margaret (Albert Sgro).

Survivors: Children Patricia Raum (Tom), Col. Timothy USMC (Ret.) (Pilar), Joanne Kelly (Bob) and E. Gerard (Lorraine); 13 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Viewing will be held Thursday evening after 6 PM O'Leary Funeral Home, 640 E. Springfield Rd., Springfield, PA 19026 and Friday after 9:30 AM St. Dorothy Church, Township Line & Burmont Roads, Drexel Hill, PA 19026.

Funeral Mass in celebration of Ed's life will be Friday 10:30 AM St. Dorothy Church, Drexel Hill, PA.

Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to: "Katie Kirlin Fund," 229 Wolf Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148, www.katiekirlin.org.

Delaware County Daily Times (Primos - Upper Darby, PA) - November 16, 2011