



Obituary

Born: Tuesday, November 5, 1929

Died: Wednesday, October 10, 2018

SAMUEL ANTHONY SCARPONE

Nov.5,1929-Oct.10,2018

" People always liked me, I don't know why"

Sam was born a first generation American in the Berwyn Pa. home of his Italian immigrant parents and was fluent in both languages. He was a natural athlete and a 3-sport star in football, basketball and baseball which led to induction into his high school hall of fame. Upon graduation Sam forwent a basketball scholarship to pursue baseball professionally as a versatile catcher, 3rd baseman and outfielder. He was playing for the Vincennes Velvets when drafted into the army during the Korean War. Assigned to the "old guard" of Washington D.C. at Fort Myers Va., weekend passes with Sam were coveted by his new army buddies as they were a train ride away from big Italian Sunday dinners and his 3 sisters in Berwyn. Aside from his other duties, Sam played for the posts' basketball and baseball team which curiously was comprised of mostly drafted professionals like himself including a few major league players. They won the 1952 National Baseball Congress championship in Kansas City followed by tune up games against the military teams in Hawaii. Then Sam and his teammates continued across The Pacific Ocean to Tokyo where they defeated the Japanese national baseball champions. Once honorably discharged Sam returned to professional baseball playing for minor league teams from Texas to North Dakota. While playing for the Paris, Ill. Lakers Sam met a young reporter for The Paris Beacon News, Carol Smith whom he would wed in 1956. Leaving baseball behind Sam enrolled in Vincennes University while working for his father-in-law at The Argus Printing House in Robinson, Ill. After juggling work and classes, Sam accepted a job with the Central Illinois Power Service in Springfield, Ill. as editor of their company magazine. The gregarious Sam especially enjoyed traveling to various plants and work sites to meet and do features on employees there. In 1966 now with 3 young sons, Sam and Carol left many dear friends behind moving to Deerfield, Ill. when Sam was hired by Duraclean Int. as editor of their trade journal and sales promotion manager. Annual trips to visit dealers across the U.S. made Sam familiar with every major city. The company also held conventions in different cities each year allowing Sam to bring Carol along for a mini vacation. Aside from work, Sam was beloved by an entire generation of Deerfield youth baseball and softball players as a tireless coach, umpire, commissioner and after summer downpours, groundskeeper! He also found time to referee basketball, coach a youth football team and volunteer as the

Service Summary

Visitation

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM, Sat Dec 01, 2018

Pulliam Funeral Home

1005 West Main Street
Robinson, Illinois 62454

Memorial Service

2:00 PM Sat Dec 01, 2018

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PA announcer for a semi-pro football team. In 1981 now a vice president, Sam left Duraclean so he and Carol could assume ownership of The Argus. A blowout going away surprise party held by their friends had their house overflowing. Once settled back in Robinson The Argus Newspaper found a new following among high school athletes due to Sam's colorful accounts of their games. He always made a conscious effort to not only write about the stars, but to make sure the lesser known players would see their names in print too! Besides covering sports, Sam loved interacting with all who came through the office door and the weekly rite of "pasting up" the layout of the Argus each week. Continuing his volunteerism in Robinson, Sam umpired little league and helped in the inception of the youth football program by refereeing the games with his good friend the late "Doc" Elliot. He also enjoyed active involvement with The Crawford County Museum and St. Mary's Episcopal Church. In 1994 Sam was honored by the chamber of commerce as it's distinguished citizen. In 2016 Alzheimer's forced a move to assisted living in Indianapolis where son Greg and his family could provide loving oversight. The disease claimed Carol in 2017 and now the Lord has lifted the fog of confusion for Sam.

Sam is survived by sons Vic (Dona) Samuel Bradley, Greg (Laura) Grandsons Sammy and Vic, Granddaughters Jessy, Maddie, and Anna.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday December 1, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Pulliam Funeral Home, Robinson, Ill. with Rev. Ann Tofani officiating. Visitation will be Saturday from 1:00 PM until time of service at 2:00 PM at the funeral home. A combined interment service for Samuel A. Scarpone and Emily Carol Scarpone will take place immediately following services in the Oblong Cemetery, Oblong, Ill.

Memorial donations may be made to the Crawford County Historical Society, Robinson, Ill. with envelopes available at the funeral home.