



Rocco F. English

January 30, 1919 - September 14, 2017

Rocco Frank English, “THE ROC” was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA on January 30, 1919. He was born to John and Cora Demarsel English (Inglese), both of who were born in Italy. Roc was the youngest of their six children. He grew up in the Wilkes Barre area and attended GAR high school where he lettered in basketball and baseball as well as being named an All-Star on both teams. After graduation from high school, Rocco was drafted by the Boston Red Sox who awarded him a scholarship to attend The College of Holy Cross. He played baseball and basketball during the school months and played for the Red Sox farm league in the summer months.

In 1942 in his senior year of college, Rocco was drafted into the US Navy during WWII, where he was a Chief Petty Officer and an athletic instructor in the Pacific Theatre. Rocco also played on the Navy baseball All Star team with Dom Dimaggio, Phil Rizzuto and other Notable players. After the war, Rocco finished his degree at Mansfield University and earned his Masters degree from NYU. Upon earning his Masters degree, Rocco taught and coached in Piermont, NY before being accepting the position of athletic director at Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He also coached basketball and baseball at Kings college. Rocco played professional basketball for the Wilkes-Barre Barons under the name of “Jackie Hogan”, and coached his basketball team to the NIT at Madison Square Garden, which was the first time that Kings College had the honor to play there. Rocco invented the “Rocco Rebounder” to help train the players.

Rocco was instrumental in starting the UNICO East/West football game in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1951. This football game gives young athletes an opportunity to be recruited to colleges. This allstar game is still in existence today. Proceeds from the game are donated to the area hospitals. In 1988, Rocco was inducted into the Lucerne County Sports Hall of Fame for his Sports Achievements and contributions to sports (UNICO).

Rocco married the love of his life Marie Papsen from Stroudsburg, PA in 1951. They met in Piermont, NY while they were both teaching. Rocco called Marie "Ave". They loved each other dearly and were always together. They had 6 children, sons Rocco Jr.(Megan) and John (Nicole), and daughters Karen, Susan (Clay Townsend), Cory, and Judy (David Underwood), 19 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He absolutely adored his children, grandchildren , greatgrandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Rocco joined State Farm Insurance as a manager in 1951 in Pennsylvania. In 1967, Rocco moved his family to Winter Haven, FL to become an assistant agency director at the SF regional office. Rocco finished his State Farm career in Orlando, FL as an agency manager. He took pride in his agency which was known as "the district with a heart". Rocco retired in 1995 from State Farm at the age of 76.

After retirement, Rocco loved to spend time with his many grandchildren attending their school and sporting events, while having a good hot dog! Also, he enjoyed traveling with his beautiful wife, Marie.

In addition to his family , Rocco's faith was instrumental in his life. His nightly prayers (kneeling) and every Sunday mass were his strength. Even up to his last car rides, as he passed a church he always tipped his hat or made the sign of the cross.

Dad, you will always be remembered when we hear the birds sing, when we see smiles of babies that you loved, when we look up to the clouds and remember the ways you used to play the "cloud game". We will miss your strong hugs. No one will ever whistle like you –you always called us home with your whistle. We adored your infectious smile and how you taught us to

“take pride” and to live by the “Golden Rule.” You never met a stranger and your generosity was overwhelming. There are a lot of Pebbles on the beach but there is only one ROC! We will miss you dearly. We will love you always “Pappy”—we are so proud to be your family.

Rocco Frank English passed away peacefully on September 14, 2017 at the age of 98. He was surrounded by his beautiful wife and 6 children.

Visitation: Monday, September 25, 2017 6-8pm

9001 N Orlando Ave

Maitland, FL 32751 407-695-2273

Funeral Mass: Tuesday, September 26, 2017, 10am

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

526 North Park Ave

Winter Park,

Palm Cemetery, Winter Park, FL

Previous Events

Public Visitation for Family and Friends

SEP **25.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

SEP **26.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
526 North Park Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Graveside Service

SEP **26.** 11:30 AM (ET)

Palm Cemetery
1005 N. New York Ave
Winter Park, FL

Tribute Wall

AB

“ Dear Judy and family,
I am so sorry to read of your loss. I know your dad was a very special person to each of you.

It was just last weekend when driving home from FSU that I thought of you, Judy, and my thoughts went to your family and the memories I have of being your friend. I laughed and told my husband about a morning when Cory had picked me up for school and for some reason we went back to your house... Your dad came out to the car dressed for work and leaned in with his awesome smile to tell us to have a great day! I complimented his tie..(Nice wrong insurance company tie)! He cracked up and took it all in stride as was his style and temperament. Always kind, always smiling, always encouraging. May you find peace in the awesome memories of your sweet dad.

With love and deepest sympathy, Mandy

Amanda G. Borysiewicz - September 28, 2017 at 11:41 AM

DC

“ Roc was an inspiration and a very kind, generous and giving person.

It was an honor to be part of his "District with a heart" and forever grateful for the career opportunity he gave me.

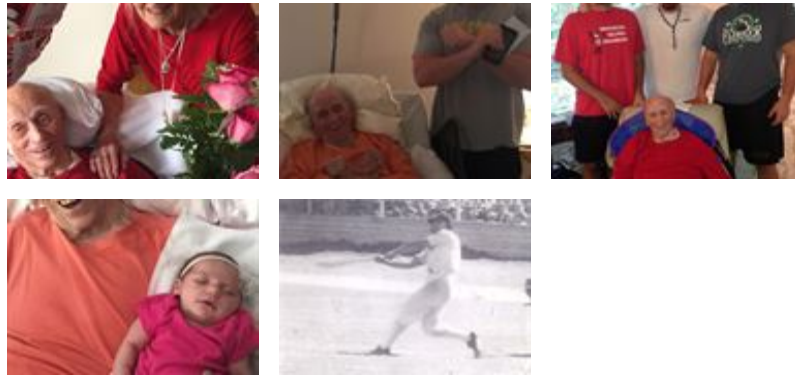
It is never easy to lose a loved one but the family should take comfort in their knowledge that he enjoyed a long and fulfilling life with his beautiful family and all the people he encountered.

Don and Fonda Cerenzio

Don Cerenzio - September 25, 2017 at 10:59 AM



“ 106 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - September 25, 2017 at 10:15 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes* was purchased for the family of *Rocco F. English*.



September 25, 2017 at 08:36 AM



“ *MARK WUJASTYK* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of *Rocco F. English*.



MARK WUJASTYK - September 24, 2017 at 07:47 PM

RM

“ To the English family - We were saddened to learn of the passing of your husband and father. Find comfort in the many memories you have. Through those he will live forever in your hearts. Rick and Pat Marshall

Rick and Pat Marshall - September 24, 2017 at 06:45 PM

EH

“ Rocco was a wonderful husband and father. He raised six great children and I am sure he was proud of all of them. My memory of Rocco is his wonderful times he was Santa for our Breakfast with Santa. What fun!!! No one will equal his ability to HUG. He will be greatly missed. Emily and Ralph Hatfield



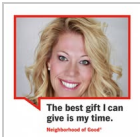
Emily Hatfield - September 22, 2017 at 08:33 AM


DF

“ Dorene, Joe & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rocco F. English.



Dorene, Joe & Family - September 21, 2017 at 05:12 PM



“ Roc Senior was a very loving devoted man to his wife and children. What a legacy he left and he must be so proud to have such beautiful children, grandchildren and daughters and son in laws. I was fortunate to have worked him and because of him I am better- he always saw the very best in people and situations! You had an amazing life and impact for so many generations to come!! Thank you for your passion in people and life! May we Be all so blessed. Rest In Peace 



Deanna Woodruff - September 20, 2017 at 08:53 PM



“ Rocco always had a smile on his face. He always treated everyone with respect. I treasure having known him and know he is smiling in Heaven. Charlotte Garland

Charlotte Garland - September 20, 2017 at 07:44 PM



“ Bill and Ada Reed purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rocco F. English.



Bill and Ada Reed - September 20, 2017 at 03:57 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rocco F. English.*



September 20, 2017 at 12:54 PM



“ *Many great memories from the English's home in Lakewood. Mr. & Mrs. English were always so nice to me and all the friends of their children. I will always remember the big smile Mr. English had on his face when he was talking to Rocco and I about sports, especially football. My deepest condolences to Mrs. English, Rocco and the entire English family. He had a long, great life and was loved by all. May he rest in peace.*

Dave Wujastyk and Family

Dave Wujastyk - September 20, 2017 at 12:37 PM



“ *Dearest English Family, You have lost a loved one here on earth, but you have gained an angel in heaven that watches over all you. May you take comfort in knowing this. Our hearts and our most sincere condolences go out to all of you.*



~Barbara Wujastyk and Family

Susan Wujastyk - September 19, 2017 at 09:41 PM

MW

*To the English Family, I will always remember your father's great smile and laughter. Especially when he got together with my father. Together they always had such a good time. They were like two kids and had such enthusiasm for life. I remember talking to your father when i was in high school. He always had such positive things to say to me. I could always tell how much he loved his wife and children. He will be greatly missed but his spirit will always live on with his wife, children, and their children for decades, if not centuries to come (lots of kids).
Mr.English, enjoy your eternal happiness.You will be missed. Our love and best wishes to the English family,
Mark and Terry Wujastyk 9/23/17*

MARK WUJASTYK - September 23, 2017 at 01:19 AM

JW

*Dear English Family, should anyone read this note written on January 5, 2018, please know that Rocco's very good friend, Bill Boynton passed away on December 22.
Bill was a dear friend who always told me that he and I shared a "link" and that link was Rocco. I graduated from King's College in 1966 and played basketball and baseball there. On two or three occasions I met Rocco prior to Rocco moving to Winter Haven. I met Bill on Beech Mountain,NC, and we became good friends right to the end. Bill called me on Friday, Dec. 22, to say goodbye. He passed three hours later. We always wanted to get together with Rocco but time and distance seemed to have prevented that. For that I'm so very sorry we never got together.
Anyway, please know that Rocco and your family are in my prayers. I have a feeling that Rocco, Bill and their good friend, Glen Davidson have reunited in Heaven and that all is well with them.
Thank you,
Jim Weaver
jweaver28.jw@gmail.com*

Jim Weaver - January 05, 2018 at 08:10 PM