

Louis A. Natale Jr. Obituary

EWING - Louis A. Natale Jr., Chairman of the Board of Ritchie & Page Distributing Company, passed away at his home in West Trenton, N.J. on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010, from complications of pancreatic cancer.

He was born on April 9, 1934 in Baltimore, Md., where he graduated from Loyola High School. He then attended Gettysburg College, earning a degree in business administration.

As a combat ready navigator during the cold war, Lou flew KC-97s for the Strategic Air Command.

In 1963, after several years in the clothing business, Lou came to Trenton as a principal in the Ritchie & Page Distributing Company. Serving first as vice president, then as president, Lou spent the last six years as chairman of the board. Lou was respected in the corporate world of Anheuser-Busch, serving from 1996 to 1999 as a member of the Anheuser-Busch Wholesale Advisory Panel.

Lou enjoyed a lifetime of community service. He served as a member of the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce for more than 45 years, including serving on its board of directors and being named "Citizen of the Year" in 2006. He was also on the boards of several other organizations including Roma Bank, the College of New Jersey Foundation, the 200 Club of Mercer County, the Titusville Academy, the Boys and Girls Club of Trenton and Mercer County, and Boys' Town of Italy. He is a member of the Italian American Hall of Fame. Both the Boys and Girls Club and Boys' Town of Italy recognized him as "Man of the Year."

Son of the late Josephine Peduzzi and Louis A. Natale Sr., he is survived by his wife of 52 years, Patricia Winter Natale; his daughter and son-in-law, Josephine Natale Cameron and her husband Scott of Bellevue, Wash.; his three sons, Louis A. Natale III and his wife Catherine of Burlington, Vt., Michael T. Natale of Hopewell, N.J. and Christopher P. Natale and his wife Michele of New Hope, Pa.; 11 grandchildren: Julie, Scott and Alex Cameron; Tia and Rowan Natale; Jane Natale Kleber, Gabrielle and Hannah Natale; Emma, Jack and Kaela Natale; two sisters, Kathryn Ryan of Hopewell, N.J. and Lena Corrigan and her husband Gene of Charlottesville, Va.; and many nieces and nephews.

Lou philosophized that, "Life is what you make of it, you are responsible for your own actions and most of all, family always comes first." He loved life and enjoyed many recreational activities including deep-sea fishing, tennis, sailing, and watching all sports, especially Notre Dame football. He was an active member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church for over 45 years, a member of the Trenton Country Club and the Little Egg Harbor Yacht and Tennis Club.

In celebration of his life, a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday (Dec. 17) at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. The church is located on 137 West Upper Ferry Road in Trenton, N.J. The family will receive relatives and friends on Thursday (Dec. 16) from 2 until 8 p.m. at the M. William Murphy Funeral Home, 935 Parkway Ave. Ewing, N.J. Visit www.murphyfh.com. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Boys and Girls Club of Trenton and Mercer County, 212 Centre St., Trenton, NJ 08611-2294. Online at www.bgctrenton.org.

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