

**THOMAS M. MEKARA, SR.**



Thomas Michael Mekara, Sr., 82, of Fernandina Beach, passed away on August 12, 2022. He was born September 15, 1939 in Cleveland, Ohio to Florence Wells Mekara and Peter Mekara. He grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and left high school his junior year to serve honorably in the US Navy. After his military service, he wed his long-life bride, Daren Estelle Genutis. They were happily married for 47 years. After his honorable military service, he then retired from the Cleveland Plain Dealer Newspaper after 37 years of service.

Thomas enjoyed watching old TV shows/movies, football, golf, working crossword puzzles and fishing. He enjoyed attending baseball and football games. Thomas also visited Canada on numerous vacations. Thomas was a faithful member of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Mission of Yulee. He donated the handicap railing along the entrance to the Church building. Thomas is preceded in death by his wife, Daren; his parents Peter Sr. and Florence Mekara; sister Florence Sabarese; and brothers Peter Jr. and William.

Thomas leaves behind his four children; Thomas M. (Tina) Mekara, Jr. of Jacksonville, Michael T. (Jessica) Mekara, Sr. of Hilliard, Coleen S. (Brian) Mumley of North Augusta, SC and Richard T. Mekara of Yulee; his sister June (David) Erickson; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Thursday, August 25 from 4 – 6 p.m. in the Burgess Chapel of Oxley Heard Funeral Directors. The funeral mass will be held Friday, August 26 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Mission in Yulee. Thomas will be laid to rest in the Atlantic Ocean to join his beloved wife, Daren.

Donations may be made in his memory to Fernandina Beach Community Hospice and/or the Ackerman Cancer Institute of Fernandina Beach.