

Michael J. "Mickey" Blank Jr.

May 14, 1925 - October 17, 2015



Michael (Mickey) Joseph Blank, Jr., 90, of Middletown, RI and formerly of Palm Beach Gardens, FL passed away peacefully at home on October 17, 2015.

Mickey was born and raised in the heart of the Newport's 5th Ward on **May 14, 1925** to the late Chief Boatswain, USN (Retired) Michael J. Blank and Nora (Murphy) Blank.

He attended **St. Augustin's School** and **De La Salle Academy** where he excelled in athletics.

As a youth he was one of the famous 5th Ward caddies at the **Newport Country Club**.

A member of the Greatest Generation, Mickey answered the call of freedom and joined the **Navy in WWII** at the age of 17. He served on the **USS Ticonderoga** in the Pacific Theater where he survived an attack by the Japanese that claimed the lives of 100 of his crew-mates.

As a **Torpedoman's Mate (Aviation) Second Class**, Mickey was awarded the **Asiatic Pacific medal** with four stars, the **American Area medal**, **Philippine Liberation medal** with two stars, the **Good Conduct Medal** and the **Victory Medal World War II**.

After the war, Mickey took his oath of office as a **Newport Firefighter** in 1952 and served bravely and heroically until 1976.

He was a member of the **Ancient Order of Hibernians, Dennis Collins Division #1** and a member of the former **Idle Hour Club**.

Mickey married the love of his life, the late **Barbara (Connelly) Blank** in 1950 and they raised seven children;

- **Deborah** (Harry) Winthrop of Newport, RI,
- **Kristine** Millhouse of Palm Beach Gardens, FL,
- **Michael III** (Kathleen) Blank of Middletown, RI,
- **Bruce Blank** of Middletown, RI,
- **Brian** (Lisa) Blank of Newport, RI,
- **Stephen** (Colleen) Blank of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, and
- the late **Sean** Blank.

He also leaves 15 grandchildren; Christian Winthrop, Erin Winthrop Ward, Amy Winthrop Denny, Brendan Blank, Emily Blank, Elizabeth Blank, Michael Blank IV, Patrick Blank, Liam Blank, Matthew Blank, Justin Blank, Peter Blank, Tiffany Blank, Tyler Blank, Shane Blank and 12 great grandchildren.

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Mickey was predeceased by his brothers,

- **Commander Arthur E. Blank, USN** (retired) of North Palm Beach, FL,
- P. Frank Blank of Palm Beach, FL,

and his sisters,

- Aniceta (Teedy) Blank of North Palm Beach, FL and
- Captain N. June (Blank) Nunn, USN (retired) of Middletown, RI who passed away just two weeks ago.

He also leaves his sisters in law,

- **Norma Connelly Christie** of North Carolina,
- **Deborah Connelly Lee** of Rancho Palace Verdes, CA,
- **Jackie Connelly Jones** of Venice, FL,
- **Jean Connelly Grenier** of Orlando, FL and
- **Joan Connelly Janior** of Middletown, RI.

Mickey's constant smile, Irish wit and caring ways will be missed by his many cousins, nephews, nieces and many friends, especially his caregiver and friend **Carol Morris**.

Besides his wife and son Sean, Mickey was predeceased by his beloved grandson **Cully Millhouse**.

Visiting hours will be from 4pm to 7pm on Wednesday, October 21 at the O'Neill – Hayes Funeral Home, 465 Spring Street, Newport.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, October 22 at St. Augustin's, Church, Carroll Avenue, Newport at 10am. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mickey's memory to the Middletown Senior Center, 650 Green End Avenue, Middletown, RI 02842.

[Click here for the O'Neill-Hayes Funeral Home obituary](#)