

Obituary - William "Bill" Tunney



William "Bill" Tunney, a civic and community leader, passed away peacefully at his home in Fontana on Saturday, Jan. 19.

Bill was the first New Year's baby born in Pittsburgh, PA on Jan. 1, 1923, where he grew up to marry his high school sweetheart, Katherine Louise Reola. Bill was a homicide detective in Pittsburgh before moving to Fontana and going to work for Kaiser Steel in the tin mill. Bill was an active member of the community, being one of the founding members of the Fontana Gridiron Club, along with Pop Warner Football. He was also responsible for bringing Jr. ROTC to Fontana High School. Bill spent many Christmases riding with the Fontana Fire Department dressed as Santa, delivering toys to needy children and spreading good cheer. He served tirelessly on the Fontana Unified School District Board of Education for a total of 16 years, and was a key organizer for the Meal-on Wheels program for senior citizens in Fontana. Bill spent countless hours serving the

community in many organizations and service clubs such as the Kiwanis, the Lions Club, and the Italian American Club. After 25 years, Bill was able to retire from the tin mill at Kaiser Steel. He then devoted much of his time to the Oldtimers Foundation Home Maintenance for other retirees from Kaiser. In addition to enjoying playing bingo at the Fontana Breakfast Lions Club on Arrow Boulevard, Bill regularly made trips to San Manuel Casino with his many friends. He also spent many memorable hours as a member of the Fontana Community Senior Center on Ceres Avenue, where he was a regular at his special table, No. 16.

Preceded in death only one month ago by his beloved wife of 64 years, Kay, Bill is survived by his loving daughter, Denise Pullaro (Michael) of La Mesa, and proud sons Bill Jr., of Etiwanda and Dennis (Kathryn) of Fontana. He also leaves behind grandchildren Alyssa Pullaro, and Billy, April, and Katie Tunney. Also missing Bill are two sisters, Helen Lafontain of Rialto and Ruth Lukinich of Fontana. He will be deeply missed by all those who knew him, and the many whose lives he touched in special ways. He was a great family man who cared deeply about his community and his fellow man. He was truly a good neighbor.

Viewing will be on Monday, Jan. 28 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with military honors, with Scripture service and eulogies at 6 p.m., at Dickey Mortuary, 8030 Mango Avenue in Fontana. Private burial services will follow at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside the next day.