

TILLEY

Albert W. Tilley, of Marietta, died Friday, July 18, 1997. For more than five years, Al bravely battled leukemia, complications of a bone marrow transplant, and most recently a stroke, which he suffered in Barcelona, Spain in October '96. He and his wife, Joan, had gone to Spain to embark on a victory cruise through the Mediterranean. They never went on the cruise....Al had a different journey than he had planned.

Al loved life and people, and many people loved him. He grew up in New York City. He attended City College of New York, and became a salesman for Olin Chemicals, which was his career for more than 35 years. He was married to his best friend, Joan, for more than 36 years. They had four kids who they loved and guided with great care and unselfishness.

Al made many friends in his 59 years, among whom were customers of Olin, guys with whom he played basketball, and nurses who cared for him during the times he was ill. He always connected with people one-on-one, and he believed that life should be savored and embraced. Al loved playing basketball, and was often on the courts playing a few games every weekend. Before his illnesses, Al had become an avid runner and was frequently seen running by the Chattahoochee River and in numerous races around metro Atlanta. He always liked to quote his hero, Coach Jimmy Valvano, whose motto was, "Don't give up—don't ever give up." These simple, yet powerful words kept Al going when things were toughest.

In addition to his wife, Joan, Al is survived by a son, Michael Tilley of Marietta; three daughters, Mary Zeman of Woodstock; Eileen Tilley of Marietta; Alyssa Waddell of Flowery Branch; a sister, Maureen Conkling and two brothers, Michael and William Tilley, all of New York; two grandchildren, Brooks Tilley of Marietta; and Emily Waddell of Flowery Branch.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Leukemia Society or the Jimmy V. Foundation. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, July 22 at 11 a.m. at the Catholic Church of St. Ann, Father Ron Gagne, officiating. Family will receive friends Monday from 2 until 4 p.m. and 6 until 8 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:45 p.m. at Canton Hill. H.M. Patterson & Son, Canton Hill, 1157 Old Canton Road, N.E., Marietta is in charge of arrangements, (770) 977-9485.