



## Marty Blake

March 22, 1927 - April 7, 2013

Marty Blake of Milton, the former Director of Scouting for the NBA, passed away at the age of 86 on April 7. A force of nature and great character, he was a pioneer in the world of sports, spending over 60 years in professional basketball.

He was born March 22, 1927, in Paterson, New Jersey, the son of two Russian Jewish immigrants, Elias and Ethel Blake, and grew up in Wyoming, Pennsylvania. After a stretch in the Army and after graduating from Wilkes College, he entered the sports world. He worked for the Cleveland Indians, Detroit Tigers and the then-New York Giants in baseball; the Detroit Lions in football and operated the Wilkes-Barre Bullets of the American Football League when it was considered the top minor league in the country in the late 1940s. He also served as Director of Scouting for the Continental Basketball Association for many years - a league he helped found in 1946. In his colorful and diverse career, Marty Blake has also handled public relations for such famous clients as the boxer Sugar Ray Robinson, the auto racing daredevil Joey Chitwood, the Sports Club of America, and the Harlem Globetrotters.

Marty parlayed his abilities as a promoter and event manager into a job as general manager of the Milwaukee Hawks, and then oversaw the moves of that franchise to St. Louis, where the team won the NBA championship in 1958, and eventually to Atlanta, where the Hawks thrive today. He then

served as president of the Pittsburgh Condors ABA team before going on to work as a scout, ultimately serving 35 years as the NBA's Director of Scouting. Marty was a trailblazer who was equal parts basketball executive, clever promoter and ambassador for the sport. His virtuosity in unearthing basketball talent from far-flung locations was legendary, and spanned generations. Long before words like "analytics" and "metrics" were part of the vocabulary of basketball talent evaluators, he was combing the country for basketball players and devising revolutionary ways to document and compare prospects.

Basketball was only one of his many passions, He loved playing tennis, spending time with family, and reading a good book. Jazz was his great passion; as a general manager, he booked halftime and postgame acts like the Stan Kenton Orchestra, Count Basie and Duke Ellington as well as other prominent musicians.

Marty is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Marcia Blake, his children, Eliot, Ryan, and Sarah and their spouses Kelly, Darla, and Steve, his grandchildren, Elijah, Sarah Jade, Will, Eva, and Daniel, and countless friends around the world.

Marty watched one last basketball game Saturday night, surrounded by his wife and children, scouting until the end.

A funeral service will be held at 11 AM on Sunday, April 14, 2013 at Northside Chapel Funeral Directors in Roswell. Burial will follow at Green Lawn Cemetery. The Blake family will receive friends on Saturday, April 13 from 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be offered to the Alzheimer's Association.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 13. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory  
12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

## Visitation

APR 13. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory  
12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

## Service

APR 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory  
12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Marty Blake*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *From the time the Hawks arrived in Atlanta, Marty was an indelible imprint on the Atlanta sports scene.##imported-begin##Pearce D. Hardwick##imported-end##*

April 13, 2013 at 01:37 PM



“ *Marty is the one of a kind person that each of us should have an opportunity to meet in our lifetimes. I am honored of the conversations and tennis partnerships that we shared together, and the common experiences of the cities of our stops along the way. I will always remember my experiences with Marty.##imported-begin##Rick Leaman##imported-end##*

April 11, 2013 at 07:54 PM



“ *Ryan, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We are all very fortunate to have known Marty for many years. he was truly a great man. he will be missed. and everyone knows that he will be looking down at us as we go on the road and continue looking for players, just the way he taught us !! God Bless. Billy Knight##imported-begin##Billy Knight##imported-end##*

April 08, 2013 at 10:50 AM



“ *Expressing our sincere sympathy for your loss. I am confident that he will always remain a precious memory in your heart and soul. While he is now at peace with God, you will forever savor those memories in your hearts.*

*Jerry and Jeannie Hoffmann  
(Nichole's mother and one of Eva's grandmothers)##imported-  
begin##Jerry and Jeannie Hoffmann of Loveland, CO ##imported-  
end##*

---

April 08, 2013 at 10:31 AM



“ *Uncle Marty...you leave behind a great legacy with all your achievements. A wonderful story teller and great sense of humor, you regaled us all.*

*Aunt Marcia, Eliot, Sarah and Ryan...you are in my thoughts and prayers. Love you all.##imported-begin##Cissy  
Johnson##imported-end##*

---

April 07, 2013 at 10:30 PM