



John E. Graham

September 21, 1929 - February 5, 2022

John E. Graham, 92, passed away on Sat. Feb. 5, 2022 in Vernon Hills. He was born Sept. 21, 1929 in Chicago to the late Edwin W. and Pearl C. Graham (nee Lesch). He was also preceded by the “love of his life”, his wife of 50 years, Arilda L. “Tammy” Graham, nee Dygon.

He is survived by his four wonderful, and loving children, Paula G. (Mike Clark) Graham, Judy (Bill) O’Brien, Gary J. Graham and Peter B. (Melissa) Graham. In addition, he leaves 10 outstanding grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

John attended and played basketball at Parker H.S., Wilson Jr. College, and Northern Illinois State Teachers College, now NIU. He also played one season on the post basketball team, at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

John began his teaching and coaching career in 1956 at Rock Island Sr. H.S. where he served as an asst. basketball coach and Soph. baseball coach. From 1958-1961, he was an asst. basketball coach and cross country coach, at Libertyville H.S.

He transferred to the new Mundelein H.S. in 1961, where he remained until his retirement in 1993. While at Mundelein, he served in a variety of positions, including P.E. Director, Intramural Director, Girls Sports Coordinator and

Athletic Director. In addition, he served in a variety of coaching positions at various levels for football, baseball, golf, tennis and basketball.

John was also a longtime Certified IHSA football and basketball official and is a lifetime member of the Northern Officials Association. In 2012, he was inducted into the Lake County High School Sports Hall of Fame. Upon his retirement, John enjoyed a career as a real estate agent for Koenig & Strey Realtors in Libertyville from 1994 to 2009.

A celebration of his life will be held from 1 to 4pm Sunday, March 6, 2022 at The Regent Center, 1200 Regent Drive, Mundelein, IL 60060. In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to Lambs Farm in Libertyville <https://lambsfarm.org/support/make-a-donation/> Arrangements by the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. Info: 847-362-3009 or please share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Such a a KIND, SWEET MAN.....Always had a Smile for Eveyone. I knew him as Mr. Graham in Highschool and then as “John” my Dear Friend Judy’s, Dad Since the 70’s ~ His Determination to make one last trip to Sanibel Island spoke volumes of the Man he was. Now he is reunited with his Love, Tammy, dancing 🕺💃 again. I’m Honored to have been a Family Friend. What a guy💕. So sad I wasn’t in town for his celebration of Life😞

Margie Bierwirth Costa - March 10, 2022 at 11:51 AM

SW

My name is Shirley Woods, I became friends with Mr John E. Graham in 2003 when I worked as a sales consultant at Wickes Furniture Co, and he stopped into my store location looking for a comfortable lounging chair, as he was experiencing trouble sleeping in a regular bed. But when I tell you that this is a great man among men, whom I found to be extremely kind, interesting, loving, caring, a natural that I grew to trust explicitly,

I’d never met any human being better than John, I could not have ever done too much for someone like him, I developed a very close relationship with him, and I’m only to sorry that in our 19 year close friendship I called him just as I always do, only to find that he wasn’t answering his phone anymore, and it was not in service anymore either, so I searched the obituaries and his photo appeared, and I just burst into tears, and I was sad for the longest time, and all I could think of was John, the best man I have ever known.

as I tried to visit him many times in his last few years but he was having many health scares that prohibited him from visitors during the Pandemic time span. I still cry about this sometimes thinking of him, I miss my dear friend immensely! I don’t think that there are any real appropriate words to celebrate how wonderful he was. And also he had the most beautiful family life with his lovely Tammy, and 4 lovely children, who all loved him dearly!!! ... John in my opinion was decency in it’s finest, and I loved him dearly!!! ✨👍🙏💋

Shirley Woods - October 04, 2023 at 01:03 AM

M(

“ Mr Coach Graham was an incredible inspiration and support for me. I loved the team sport of basketball but was a more gifted softball player. Coach encouraged me to become more of an offensive player (I was pretty good at defense). I developed “the kitchen” shot practicing my shooting. He was a wonderful man, friend to my parents, and great coach. I’ll never forget his kindness, patience, and gentle way. He will never be forgotten.

Merry Quinn (Dickman) - March 06, 2022 at 08:09 PM

BT

“ I have known John for the last 60 years. In 1961-62 , he was Mr. Graham, my PE teacher at Mundelein High School. In 1968 as a new hire and colleague he told me to call him John, no more Mr. Graham. Since his retirement in 1993 and mine in 2003, I have been fortunate to have him as a friend. Things that come to mind when thinking about John are his positive outlook, kindness, great sense of humor and endless numbers of entertaining coaching stories. I, along with countless others whose lives he has touched, will miss him.

My sincere condolences to the entire Graham family,

Brian Thatcher

Brian Thatcher - February 17, 2022 at 10:47 PM

LM

“ I am truly saddened and very sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Coach Graham devoted so much time and effort into making our Mundelein High School basketball team the success it was. He taught us sportsmanship, fair play and many values that we use today. His patience and dedication, never giving up on us, made our team the best. Loving memories last forever!

With heartfelt sorrow and sympathy, Lori Myers-Opitz

Lori Myers-Opitz - February 15, 2022 at 11:48 AM

NM

“ Our sincere sympathy to John's wonderful family.

Neil McLoughlin - February 14, 2022 at 01:33 PM

NM

“ We were deeply saddened to learn of John's passing. He was a dear friend who always had a smile and was so enjoyable to visit with. He will be sorely missed. We want to express our sincere sympathy of Joh's wonderful family.

Neil and Joan McLoughlin

Neil McLoughlin - February 14, 2022 at 01:31 PM