



Wayne Hintz

February 25, 2019

“Coach” Wayne Hintz, 91, of Traverse City, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 25, 2019, at Munson Hospice House. Wayne was born in Aberdeen, Wash., to the late Major General Alfred E. and Aurelia (Duit) Hintz. On Nov. 23, 1951, he married the love of his life, Janet Grubbe, who survives him. Wayne proudly served his country (1944-48) in the United States Marine Corps. He graduated from Clover Park High School, Tacoma, Wash, and later earned his Masters in Physical Education from Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash.

Wayne began his career at Whitworth, where he taught physical education, coached basketball and golf, and had the honor of caddying for Bing Crosby. In '58 the family moved to Michigan, where he was a teacher and the head basketball coach at Alma College. There, he developed the skills of his first pro basketball player and Hall-of-Famer Bud Acton along with star center Jim Northrup, who later became a Detroit Tiger outfielder. In '66 the family relocated to Traverse City and he became the head basketball coach at TC Central and taught elementary physical education for the T.C. Area Public Schools. Here, he developed his second pro-basketball player, Tom Kozelko. Both Bud and Tom stated, “If it weren’t for Coach Hintz, I never would have made it to the NBA.” For 25 summers Wayne was Director of the Michigan Migrant School. He also coached track in the Traverse City School system, formed the All-City track meets for the elementary schools, and organized various races in the area—most notably the annual Turkey Trot held every Thanksgiving Day.

He was a professional canoe-racing enthusiast, taking sixth place in the 1970 Au Sable River Canoe Marathon. He proudly coached his daughter Barb and son Dan for National and Junior Olympic kayaking competitions. He enjoyed woodcarving, country western music and dancing, and was a fan of professional bull riding, among other pursuits.

Wayne was a man of faith who loved and cherished his family. He was a great father, friend, mentor and inspiration to many. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Janet; three daughters, Sandra (Reed Zitting) Hintz, Karlene (Ted) Boeve, and Barbara (Vince) Edwards; and his son Daniel (Susan) Hintz. Grandchildren include Jennifer (Joe) Patanella, Mark (Bonnie) Boeve, Michelle Boeve, David Edwards and Sara (Nick) Hawkins. Great-grandchildren are Angela Patanella, Jacob Patanella, Carson Patanella,

Lawson Boeve and Abram Edwards.

A private memorial service will be held this spring at the Au Sable River in Grayling, Mich. Burial with full military honors will take place this summer at the Willamette National Military Cemetery in Portland, Ore.

Those planning an expression may wish to consider a memorial donation to the Coach Wayne Hintz Scholarship, through the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation - <https://www.gtrcf.org/give/our-funds.html/307/>) or to the Wayne Hintz Endowed Scholarship at Alma College, 614 W. Superior St., Alma, MI 48801. Gifts may also be made online at <https://www.alma.edu/giving/make-a-gift/online-giving/> with the Wayne Hintz Scholarship noted in the Designation field.

Please share your thoughts and memories with Wayne's family at his tribute page: www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ Wayne Hintz was a dear and beloved friend to our family. Both of our daughters had Mr. Hintz as their PE teacher at Norris Elementary School, and later in life, he and Janet became family friends of ours, when we all took country two-step and line dancing lessons together. We shared many wonderful meals and celebrations at both of our homes. Once, we even traveled to a PBR Rodeo together, where Wayne shared his passion for the sport with us. Today, our house (and Christmas tree) remain filled with the wonderful creations Wayne carved for us over the years. His kindness, sense of humor, and appreciation of fellowship will never be forgotten. He will be missed. Our heartfelt sympathies extend to the Hintz family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

With Deepest Sympathy,

The Donahue Family

Susan Donahue - March 18, 2019 at 09:00 PM



“ Mr. Hintz was my gym teacher and track coach when I was in elementary school at Silver Lake Elementary. I was always his “little princess” as I was the first cherry festival princess for Silver Lake. He was such a sweet man, a fantastic coach and amazing teacher. Years and years later I still remember him very well. So very sorry for your loss Hintz family. He truly was a great person and I am honored to have had the pleasure of knowing him.

Jenny Hurst - March 02, 2019 at 05:55 PM



“ Dear Hintz Family,

I cannot tell you how much our hearts are breaking. We loved your parents. They were the best neighbors anyone could ever have. These past weeks with the house seeming different and knowing things were changing over there has been hard to say the least.

We were used to seeing the basement light on very early in the morning, knowing Wayne was downstairs rowing. We avoided visiting in the early afternoon, knowing it was naptime, and again, knowing Wayne would be back at his afternoon exercise before the day was done. Seeing different cars over there, then different lights on, and different people coming and going, made us know, and appreciate, that our many years next door were going to change.

No longer would we get a hand made sign on our door wishing us Happy Anniversary, no longer running a Christmas gift or treat back and forth to each other,

same with birthdays that we always shared something to make it special with each other. I still have the portrait Janet made of our Labrador, I have all the little and big carvings Wayne made for me over the years - these are all prized possessions to us.

Wayne was definitely one of a kind and a true inspiration. He told me things that I never thought of that would define his true character. Who knew when we moved in next door over twenty years ago that we would find such a lovely couple that treated us so special. I feel your loss, I feel your pain, but I know he had a good life and he lived it long and well.

Sherry and Ed McNamara

Sherry McNamara - March 02, 2019 at 02:03 PM



“ I first met "Coach" in 1970 during the transition when our father, Jim Raymond succeeded "Coach" as the head basketball coach at TC Central. And then my relationship with "Coach" became stronger when he coached our 7th grade basketball team to a perfect 9-0 record. He was a stickler for the fundamentals and I wouldn't have had the success I enjoyed in my years playing without the experience of playing for him. Becoming great friends with son Dan, I recall spending the night at their place on Silver lake one night before Dan and I were to go rabbit hunting the next winter morning. Coach believed having a cold room helped you sleep better and kept you healthier, and the upstairs in their house where Dan's room was at that time was not heated. The next morning when we got up to go hunting, I mentioned to "Coach" how cold it seemed during the night and he told me "just eat your wheat germ".....a supplement I think he added to many foods. Another more recent memory is me stopping over to their house during the years that I had moved back to Michigan and after "Coach" had broken his ankle slipping on ice getting his daily paper. When I entered the living room, there was "Coach" stretched out in an outdoor lawn chair with 25 lb. bar bells on either side so he could keep up with his arm curls. You won't find a 91 yr. old guy in better shape than "Coach". He will be greatly missed but made such a difference in hundreds of kids lives; just like he did mine. Rest now "Coach", you deserve it.....Tom Raymond

Tom Raymond - March 02, 2019 at 12:36 PM



“ We are sending comfort mercies to Mr. Hintz' family as they grieve his passing. We remember him as always tall, happy, and willing here in the Coumadin Clinic. We will miss not having him and his daughter here monthly. God bless you all. Heidi & Theresa

Heidi Grebe - February 27, 2019 at 06:18 AM