



E. Jerry Brooks

July 8, 2013

E. Jerry Brooks, 88, of Lancaster, PA, died Sunday, July 7, 2013 at Hospice & Community Care of Mount Joy. Born in West Willow, PA, he was the son of the late Paul and Bertha Lawrence Brooks. Jerry was the husband of Dawn C. Peechatka Brooks, with whom he spent many wonderful years of marriage.

An award-winning student athlete, Jerry was a 1942 graduate of J.P. McCaskey High School where he co-captained the 1941 football team, was a shot-putter and hurdler on the track and field team, and an outstanding wrestler. He earned a District III medal in his senior year. He was an Eagle Scout. Jerry proudly served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and landed on Utah Beach in Normandy, France, during the liberation of Europe. After his honorable discharge from the military, Jerry graduated from Millersville University, earned a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and completed additional graduate work at Temple University.

Jerry returned to McCaskey, his alma mater, as a teacher in 1949 where he also coached football, wrestling, cross country, and track and field until 1962. He went on to serve as assistant principal and later principal at Hand Junior High; principal at Penn Manor High School; and assistant superintendent at Penn Manor. During his 18-year tenure at Penn Manor, he served on the District III PIAA Committee for 15 years as Chairman, and also on the State Board, PIAA, as Treasurer, Vice President, and several years as President.

He was president of the Lancaster City Teachers Association, president of the Southern Region PSEA, and served several terms on the State Executive Council, PSEA.

In 1984, Jerry retired from school work and was appointed the first Executive Director of District III, PIAA, a post he held until 1997. The Committee established an award in Jerry's name that honored outstanding senior student athletes in the 10 counties of District III. More than 5,000 student athletes have received this honor.

Known as a "true benevolent guardian of the rules," Jerry officiated football, swimming and diving for 35 years, and track and field for 60 years until 2011. He was the only referee for the Lancaster-Lebanon meets until 2011. He was a District III meet referee for 48 years, and a State track and field meet referee for 40 years.

Jerry's many awards and honors include: George Kirchner Award (1980); American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation award for promoting championships for girls; Basketball Officials Award; J. Freeland Chryst Award; PIAA Distinguished Service Award; and Lancaster-Lebanon Track and Field Officials Award. He was honored with memberships in the District III Wrestling Hall of Fame; Pennsylvania Wrestling, and Track and Field Halls of Fame; McCaskey High School Sports Hall of Fame; and the Susquehanna Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

In addition to his wife, Dawn, he is survived by two daughters: Linda Schoch, wife of Robert Schoch, of Lititz, PA, and Cynthia Doutrich, wife of Paul, of York, PA; two stepsons: Christopher Biemesderfer, husband of Rebecca Jensen, of Tucson, AZ, and Jonathan Biemesderfer of Dragoon, AZ; stepdaughter Lisa Carr, wife of Gary, of Phoenix, AZ; and four grandsons:

Brian, Mark and Erik Medina, and Douglas Schoch.

Jerry was predeceased by his first wife, Geraldine Wiegand, his brother, Edgar, and sisters Esther, Beulah, and Thelma.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Jerry's Memorial Service on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 (tomorrow), at 11:00 a.m. at Church of the Apostles UCC, 1850 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, with the Rev. Kathryn L. Kuhn officiating. The family will greet friends at the Church on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service, and at a luncheon following the service. Private interment will take place in the Church Memorial Garden.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Jerry's name may be made payable to the Apostle Community Preschool, c/o Church of the Apostles UCC, 1850 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603; or the Children's Sunday School Program, with checks payable to Church of the Apostles UCC, 1850 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603; or to the charity of one's choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *E. Jerry Brooks*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Dear Dawn and the Brooks Family:*

I was saddened to learn of Jerry's passing and wanted to send a card but could not locate your address. I always enjoyed my relationship with Jerry and Dawn as we worked together over the years on your financial and investment planning, from before Jerry retired from being a school administrator, to getting married to Dawn, to buying the motor home for your traveling around the country. I felt fortunate to bump into both of you at a restaurant a few months ago. It was great to see both of you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your extended family in this time of sorrow.

As a Friend, Alan

P. Alan Loss - July 12, 2013 at 01:25 PM

PM

“ Dawn and the Brooks Family,

I'm so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. He has been a wonderful friend to my dad for many, many years beginning at Penn Manor and for many years after both of them retired. He will be sorely missed. Until I read Jerry's obituary, I knew that he made many contributions to his country and his community, but I didn't know the degree to which he did his work! I will always remember how much my dad enjoyed spending time with Jerry at PIAA games and events. Jerry was truly a gentleman who I always found to be kind and considerate to all people. Our family sends love and prayers to your family during this difficult time.

Pam Metzger - July 09, 2013 at 10:54 PM

EP

“ So sorry to hear about Jerry's death. In my early writing days (1970s) at the Lebanon Daily News, I found Jerry always approachable and cooperative in every aspect. Could always count on him to answer any questions concerning D3 sports. If you couldn't get along with Jerry, you couldn't get along with anyone. Again, sorry for your loss of a great gentleman.

Ed Ponessa - July 09, 2013 at 01:12 PM

SO

“ To the entire Brooks Family - I am so very saddened by Jerry's death. A great & well respected man in all aspects of life. A true asset to his community and his country with numerous athletic and career achievements. As an educator, he was truly distinguished, admired and loved. My father, Bill Iannicelli, counted him as a close friend and I am sure Heaven now has a newly formed PIAA Officials Club where they are happily presiding as referees for some heavenly track meets!

*Much Love to you all,
Susan Iannicelli Ostman*

Susan Iannicelli Ostman - July 09, 2013 at 09:36 AM

BK

“ Dawn, I am so sorry to hear about Jerry. He was a good friend over the years and I have such great memories of his time at Penn Manor and especially all our trips and experiences with the PIAA basketball play-offs. We had great times together and I have always appreciated both of you. I regret that I only had a few minutes to talk with him at the recent retirement breakfast - I didn't even know he was there until we were leaving. I am so sorry that we will not be able to attend his services since we are out of town this week. Fortunately I saw the obituary on Lancaster Online. You and your family will be in our prayers. May God grant you peace during this difficult time.

Barry Kauffman - July 09, 2013 at 08:21 AM