



John Mark Prebish

November 7, 1926 - March 21, 2014

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, neighbor, teacher, coach and friend, died Friday March 21 in Santa Barbara, following a lengthy illness.

Born in Masontown, PA to John and Mary Urchek Prebish, John was the eldest of four. He served in the US Army during WWII as a surveyor and was later educated at Kent State University.

John never lost the work ethic he learned from his farming and coal-mining family, but he also had a taste for diverse experiences. For example, for two years he worked as a surveyor in Alaska.

Seeking adventure in the early 50's, John struck out for Los Angeles. One day he drove up the coast and was smitten by his first look at Santa Barbara. By that afternoon he had a surveying job and an apartment.

John became a high school math teacher and coach, and eventually a guidance counselor. Throughout his career he taught in Los Angeles and Ojai and at Santa Barbara Junior and Senior High Schools, but his longest tenure was at San Marcos High School. He pioneered innovative teaching strategies, sometimes surprising his students with assignments to write poems, letters or essays about math. He also coached a variety of sports including football, swimming, track and cross country.

In 1958 John married Gwen McAree, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the Navy Nurse Corps, who shared his zeal for adventure. Their 32-year marriage featured domestic adventures including raising their daughter Tracy, buying twenty acres of land in the Santa Ynez Valley, populating their acreage with black Angus cattle and building two houses of their own design.

Cemetery Details

Santa Barbara Cemetery

901 Channel Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
(805) 969-3231

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

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