



Richard Bruce Koch

December 28, 1943 - May 17, 2019

Richard Bruce Koch, 75, died peacefully Friday, May 17, 2019 at his home in Pocono Manor. He was the beloved husband of Wendy (Henning) Koch, with whom he shared 45 years of marriage.

Born in Philadelphia, he was the son of the late John Calvin and Ruth (Busfield) Koch.

Dick received his bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg State College, Master's Degree and Athletic Trainers Certification from West Chester State College and Administrative and Principal's Certification from Penn State. He taught health and physical education for 34 years at Abington High School, Abington, and served as Department Chairman and athletic trainer. He also coached wrestling and girls and boys basketball. He "flunked" retirement and served as an Athletic Trainer at the University of Hawaii Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii for 13 years.

A large part of his life was officiating on the court and in the arena and as an assignor of women's college basketball. His passion for golf led to many lifelong friendships.

"Turk" as he was known was a Founding Brother of Beta Pentaton Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa and a dedicated member and officer of the fraternity.

Dick spent his professional life devoted to the health, safety and development of students and student athletes.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his nieces and nephew Christy Taber DeMartino, Ryan Taber, Shannon Koch Wright and Heather Koch Johnson, and countless student athletes whose lives he touched as a teacher, coach, athletic trainer and friend.

He was a great man.

A Celebration of Life will be held on a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to, Richard B. Koch '69 Endowed Scholarship Fund, East Stroudsburg University.

Private cremation has been entrusted to Bolock Funeral Home Crematory.

Comments



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Bolock Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. - May 03 at 09:37 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album

July 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ I am lost for words (and that do not happen too often) I am so sad to hear this news. Dick was like a second dad to me when I was in the US. The nicest person. I never met anyone at Abington who didn't like Mr. Koch!

So happy he and Wendy came to see us in DK 5 years ago. I promised we would come visit within 5 years - we are going this summer! I was looking so much forward to see Dick and Wendy again. Showing Dick my kids now they grew older, hoping he would be proud of me. Just spending time together. I always felt happy when Dick commented my posts on Facebook, knowing he somehow followed my life.. Luckily we can still see Wendy. We are looking forward to that too. But Dick is leaving an empty space.

THIS IS SO UNFAIR - you should be 100 years and travel more!

Condolences to the family- you lost the greatest person.

June 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ Wendy, so sorry for your loss. All of the Phis Sigs will miss Dick's guidance and mentorship, not to mention his presence at various fraternity functions.

Please let me know when the Life Celebration will be so we can organize a contingent of Brothers to send Dick to the Chapter Eternal. You can reach me through the ESU Alumni Association

Walt Rogers '77

May 29, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ A love letter from Hilo big genuine smile, a heavy slap on the shoulder, eye contact and engagement as he focused in on how you were doing. His positive attitude was unwavering. His joy & pure energy for living were unmatched. He treated everyone he dealt with respect. He treated Monday mornings like they were Friday nights. If he was there, he was grateful to be there. If he could help, he would. Dick helped teach me an important lesson. It's not that he didn't have bad days, or wasn't tired after not getting home til 1am and greeting us at 7am in the training room. He showed me that it didn't matter what was going on in your life, you could always choose how you approached the day, and how you treated everybody. He showed me how it affected people when you were truly there for them, with unwavering positivity. Watching Dick live that attitude for a decade rubbed off on me, that you can do it authentically. He gained energy from service to others. Teacher. Coach. Official. Husband. He lived his life to connect with and serve others. When you can live that, authentically, then every day IS a national holiday. I think about all the young men and women who were affected by Dick, just as I was. How many he helped, saved, encouraged and changed their lives. I began umpiring when I was 30. In a couple years I was umpiring games for the college, and there was Dick, standing in the dugout, getting to watch me, years after getting to know me as a student-athlete, officiate the games. As the years passed and I saw him less, I loved knowing he was over there in the dugout, and in the last few years in the stands, enjoying me work, proud of me. I loved him like a Dad, and it was special to have him there, especially after we lost Butchie. He always made sure to come say hi, ask how the kids and my wife were doing. The last time I saw him was a couple springs ago with Wendy after a game. His cancer had thinned him out, but that big energy was still there, that big smile. I was so glad to see him, and I was conscious in the moment that I wasn't sure when I would see him again, or if I ever would. But I wasn't sad, I was grateful. I got far more years than I deserved with him by my side. To Wendy, I send my love. He could have only spent those years in Hilo with your backing and support. As you know he held you in highest regard, and spoke of you with grace. Thanks for sharing that great soul with us. I hope to see you and hug you soon! Thanks and aloha Dick, Rest In Peace my friend.

John Matson

May 28, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ Condolences to the family of the great Coach Koch. He was my basketball coach at Abington in the 80s. One of the most caring and genuine people I have ever met. RIP Coach. I still think of you often.

May 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ The world lost a great man. We all know Dick was good hearted, friendly and larger than life. He cared for his student athletes so much, he would sometimes treat an entire team to dinner and even paid a medical bill for an injury for one who didn't have the means. God bless to you, Dick. Even in heaven, I hope every day is like a national holiday!

May 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ Wendy I am sorry to hear of your loss. Keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Coach Koch was a mentor, educator but most of all a caring and compassionate man. I played basketball for him at Abington High School. On the court he was brilliant and tenacious. He always had a plan. Kept statistics of every pass, shot, rebound and just about every aspect of the game of basketball. He would then use these numbers to teach us how to improve to become better team players and mostly to share his love of the game.

Coach would communicate with his players that we were student athletes and school came first. He would walk the halls and greet us after classes. He knew our strengths and weaknesses.

Personally he taught me that I could achieve any goal with dedication, perseverance and that obstacles would challenge you and make you stronger. With his support/guidance and direction I was able to receive a scholarship to Villanova University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This would not have been possible without coach. I will always remember and honor him.

LuAnn Krothe Robertson
Abington High School
Class of 1978

May 21, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ One of my favorites! Many fond memories of Mr. Koch! Rip sir! John Gushue, Abington High School, Class of 1989.

May 21, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ Lit a candle in memory of Richard Bruce Koch

May 20, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

May 20, 2019 at 12:00 AM



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May 20, 2019 at 12:00 AM