



Richard "Dick" E. Brown

July 6, 1926 - September 30, 2020

Richard E. (Dick) Brown died September 30, 2020 in Rotonda West, Florida. Known to many as "Coach Brown," Dick loved kids, sports, the Florida Gators, fishing, and storytelling. While coaching nearly every sport at Venice High School during his storied career, he specialized in baseball and basketball. He was referred to as the "Father of Venice High School Baseball" when he was inducted into the Venice Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

Dick was born July 6, 1926 in Hagerstown, Indiana, the first child of Eugene and Doris Brown. Upon graduation from Hagerstown High School, he immediately enlisted in the US Navy, serving in the Pacific aboard the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid. Following the war, he earned his teaching degree and graduated from Ball State University in 1949.

Though he began his teaching and coaching career in Sulphur Springs, Indiana, he moved to Florida in 1952 and accepted an offer from Sarasota County Schools to develop the athletic program at what was then Venice-Nokomis High School. Over 27 years, Dick taught at Venice Middle and High Schools and was instrumental in the early efforts to transform VHS from a small south county school into the large school and athletic powerhouse it is today. He retired in 1979 to concentrate on his love of fishing, obtaining his captain's license and operating a charter fishing business.

Dick is survived by Gerri Watson, his beloved wife of 43 years, along with his brother Max and wife Lennie Brown, son Steve and wife MaryAnn Brown, daughter Tammy Wallace and fiancé Ned VanDeree, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Internment will be Friday, October 30, 2020 at 10 Am at the Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72, Sarasota FL with Navy Honors. Pending no state restrictions on public gatherings, and respecting social distancing, all are welcome to honor and celebrate Dick's life.

In lieu of flowers, and in honor of Dick and Gerri's passion for fostering cats together, please consider making a contribution to the Suncoast Humane Society. <https://www.humane.org/donate/>

Cemetery

Sarasota National VA Cemetery

9810 State RD. 72
Sarasota, FL, 34241

Events

OCT	Interment	10:00AM
30	<hr/>	
	Sarasota National VA Cemetery State Rd. 72, Sarasota, FL, US	

Comments



“ Coach Brown was a fantastic teacher and terrific coach! So sorry for the loss of this inspiring man.

Prof. Ken Smith - October 16, 2020 at 11:53 AM



“ My sister (Class of '57), my brother (Class of '59) and myself (Class of '70) had the pleasure of having Coach Brown in school. I always remember a story he told - his in-laws encouraged him and his family to move to Sarasota to teach, but when he moved to Sarasota Superintendent Jimmy Hightower said, no, you're going to teach in Venice. Coach Brown helped begin the building of the sports programs at the schools he taught. To the family - please know that he has touched so many over the years, and will be remembered.

Earl Midlam

Earl Midlam - October 12, 2020 at 07:33 PM



“ Mr. Brown came to us in 1952 as our seventh grade teacher. (class of 58). He was a handsome, young, blue eyed person. Full of a desire to teach and educate. I never heard a cross or curse word from him and never any type racy story. He was a champion and one of a kind. I remember his first words addressing me. "Sit down chubby." Hershel Lewellyn

herschel lewellyn - October 09, 2020 at 11:32 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Jordan - October 09, 2020 at 11:14 AM



“ I first met Coach Brown when I had PE while at Venice Junior High. Coach Brown was a great coach and a fair man. I never knew he was a US Navy Veteran of WWII. God Bless the Brown family and may the Lord comfort you.

Fair Winds, Following Seas to your destination Shipmate, you are piped ashore.

Jim Speed Jr - October 13, 2020 at 04:03 PM



“ Coach Brown was my American History teacher at Venice High School. He required his students to create outlines of each chapter in our history text. The outlines were due on specific dates, graded, returned and weighed heavily on our final grades. I remember the collective groan as he announced this requirement on day one of that class. He encouraged us to use these outlines as a study guide for our exams. I was amazed at my progress in his class. I aced that class and never forgot how good it felt to ace a test. I used that outline technique from that day forward including my college years. I graded Magna Cum Laude from FSU using Coach Brown's outline system. I taught my children that same technique and it works. When I became an airline pilot, I used that technique while in ground school and every year for 34 years during my annual recurrent training. I used his system for 50 years. I recently retired from United Airlines and I am indebted to Coach Brown and I thank him for teaching me how to study. I recognize Coach Brown as one of the top 5 individuals who had a profound Positive impact on my life. On a side note, my father in law also served aboard the Intrepid as a naval aviator. He is 97 years old. Thank you and God bless you Coach Brown.

Roger Hart

Venice

Roger Hart - October 15, 2020 at 08:34 AM