



Michael J. DiRenzo

April 29, 1923 - April 23, 2009

AUBURN - Michael James DiRenzo died Thursday Morning, April 23 at the Hospice House in Auburn, Maine. Michael was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, on April 29th, 1923 to James and Carrie DiRenzo. The family moved to Auburn, Maine when Mike was a boy. He graduated from Edward Little High School with the Class of '41. Mike attended the University of Maine at Orono where he lettered in basketball during the 1942-43 season. He temporarily left college to serve in the US Army Air Corps 1943-46, after which he returned to Orono, graduating in 1948 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. For ten years, Mike taught Physical Education and Mathematics while coaching varsity basketball at Rockland High School. He later received a Master of Guidance degree from Orono and served in that capacity at Edward Little High School for many years until his retirement in 1980. Although an avid enthusiast of all sports, Mike specifically contributed a great deal to the sport of basketball in the State of Maine. At the age of eight he began playing basketball at the YMCA after school. When he was in high school, aside from being a member of the "Red Eddies" undefeated state Class A championship basketball team of 1940-41, he was honored individually that season by being selected to the All Western Maine Conference and All-Tournament Teams. Later, following his 10-year career as a teacher and varsity basketball coach at Rockland High School, Mike continued his involvement in basketball by becoming an official. In 1986 he was honored by the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches and received their "Contributor Award." Mike has been named "Man of the Year" by the Maine College Basketball Coaches and Writers Association and received the James R. DiFrederico Award for service to Eastern Maine Basketball. In addition, the trophy for MVP and top sportswoman in the Western Maine Class B tournament bears his name. Mike was also inducted into the Auburn-Lewiston Sports Hall of Fame. By this time, he had officiated 1,800 high school and college basketball games spanning a 28-year career, including schoolboy tournaments, from 1959 to 1975. A 43-year member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, he officiated nine state final games and served as Commissioner of Maine High School Basketball for many years. In 1996 he was awarded the Dick Michelsen Award, given to an EL graduate who exemplifies what Edward Little basketball is all about, namely "teamwork, sportsmanship, dedication and the desire to win." In 2008, Mike was

inducted into the Coastal Sports Hall of Fame. Next to his family, his students and the world of basketball, golf was the love of his life. An active member of Martindale Golf Club for most of his adult life, he first worked there as a caddy when he was fourteen years old. His spirits were never so high as after a good golf match with his congenial yet competitive foursome. Mike is survived by his sister Marie White, his wife, Marjorie DiRenzo, three children; Victor DiRenzo, Linda DiRenzo and her companion Rick Jackson, Carolyn DiRenzo, four grandchildren; Michael, Nicole, Anthony and Mercedes, and three step-children; Don MacMillan, Lynn Lepore and her husband Tony, and Laurie MacMillan. A Mass of Christian Burial honoring Mike's life will be celebrated TUESDAY 11:00AM at St. Philips's Church. A private burial will be held later at Gracelawn Memorial Park, Auburn. Memorial donation's in Mike's memory may be made to either the Androscoggin Hospice House 236 Stetson Rd., Auburn, 04210 or to the Auburn YMCA 62 Turner Street Auburn, 04210. Online condolences and sharing of memories may be expressed at www.lynchbrothers.com Family and friends are invited to visit Monday 2-4 & 7-9PM at DILLINGHAM & SON MEMORIAL CHAPEL 62 Spring St., Auburn, 784-6449

Comments



“ Hi Marj, It's Piper, Terry Sprague's granddaughter. I am so sorry for your loss! I hope that you and your family are doing okay. You are all in my thoughts.

Piper Carey - April 24, 2009 at 06:45 PM



“ I didn't know Mike personally but I know from his reputation that he was an exceptional person in many ways. As a fellow educator, I know that a teacher with a reputation like his touched the lives of many people in their youth and planted seeds of hope and courage that have made the world a much better place. My prayers are with you, Marj and all of Mike's family and friends.

Wanda Sprague - April 24, 2009 at 06:45 PM



“ The Doyle family sends their deepest regrets to this wonderful family...Mike touched our lives for so many years, in so many ways.

April 24, 2009 at 06:45 PM



“ Mike was a true gentleman, and I'll miss him dearly. Before I knew Mike, I used to heckle him from the stands at USM basketball games. Like with everything else in life, he'd just smile and continue on with the task at hand. Marge, it's Monday night, and I can't get a sub for tomorrow's funeral, but I'll say my farewells from the classroom, and when I play this weekend, I'll hit a few for him. If Pat and I can help in any way, please call us. Love, The Driscoll's

Bob and Pat Driscoll - April 24, 2009 at 06:45 PM



“ Thank you Mike. My dad and I will miss you. Rest in peace.

Dr. ♦John James and son ,Jon. - April 24, 2009 at 06:45 PM



“ A greatly admired and respected friend. I'll always remember seeing Mike at tourney time, always with a smile and a hand shake. He gave a lot to the State of Maine.

Allen E. Huntley - April 24, 2009 at 06:45 PM