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Newsroom: Law Is 'Just Coaching At Heart' 12-1-2016

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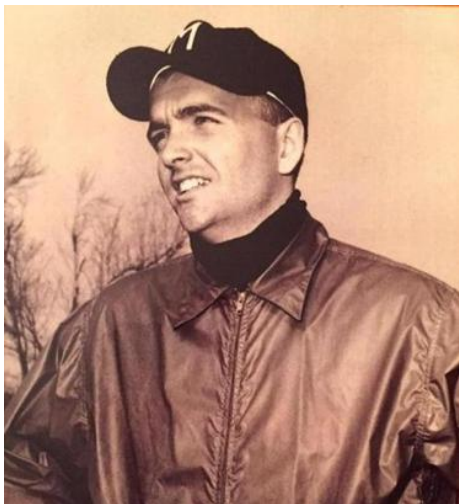
Newsroom

Law is 'Just Coaching at Heart'

Dick Marr, who matriculated in RWU Law's first class and graduated in 1997, in his 60s, has died at the age of 80. His remarkable life story ...

Obituary: Dick Marr, 80, coach, mentor, league official

By Marvin Pave Globe Correspondent



November 30, 2016 - Whether he was traveling across country with his family, coaching a touring private school hockey team overseas, or bringing out the best in his students and athletes, the world was **Dick Marr's** classroom.

Nicknamed Lefty, Mr. Marr was a hockey and baseball coach, a dorm master and director of admissions and financial aid at Milton Academy, and former dean of students and the first girls' hockey and softball coach at Tabor Academy. He also taught English at Milton and directed Tabor's speech and debate programs.

"Every encounter would be one in which learning could take place and lessons could be shared and placed him in position where Lefty could offer his wisdom as a gift," said his son Tim of Chapel Hill, N.C.

Mr. Marr, who was an All-East hockey goaltender and varsity baseball player at Williams College, died of cardiac arrest Nov. 11 in his winter home in Pittsboro, N.C. He was 80 and also resided in Truro.

A volunteer assistant club hockey coach at the University of North Carolina, Mr. Marr formerly was a college hockey referee, baseball umpire, and commissioner of the Cape Cod Baseball League. **While in his 60s, he graduated from Roger Williams University School of Law.**

What is now the Flood-Marr Holiday Hockey Tournament, which was started more than 50 years ago, is hosted by Milton Academy and Noble and Greenough School. It is named in honor of Mr. Marr and Dick Flood, his close friend and former Williams College teammate.

“We were private school rivals as players and coaching rivals who had an extraordinary lifelong friendship,” said Flood, a former Nobles hockey coach. “We shared special moments with each other’s families, and while we liked to beat one another on the ice, we rejoiced in the other’s successes.”

Flood said Mr. Marr “thought outside the classroom or the game, taking his students and players to new dimensions in life.”

[...]

When challenged, Mr. Marr stood up for his team. During an overseas hockey journey in 1970, his combined Milton-Nobles team, co-coached by Flood, was detained at the airport before departing the Soviet Union. Mr. Marr was no stranger to Moscow, having played there in 1959 with the US Senior amateur championship team.

“They didn’t want us taking their money home,” recalled former Nobles star Levy Byrd, “so right in front of the soldiers, Lefty took a wad of rubles and ripped them in half.”

Richard Thomas Marr was born in Dorchester and grew up in Milton, the son of John D. Marr Jr., who had been a football standout at Boston College, and the former Elizabeth Thomas. His uncle Daniel F. Marr, known as “the Colonel,” was a cofounding owner of the Boston Patriots.

Mr. Marr attended Boston Latin School and graduated from what is now Governor’s Academy. He received a bachelor’s degree in American history and literature from Williams and a master’s in English from Middlebury College.

In 1959, Mr. Marr married Ginny Worthington, who became assistant librarian at Milton Academy and head librarian at Tabor.

[...] **As an attorney, Mr. Marr specialized in mediation.** He was a member of the Outer Cape Committee Against Domestic Abuse organization and a Family Court investigator on the Cape.

His son Jerry of Newton, who also is an attorney, said Mr. Marr knew providing legal counsel "was just coaching at heart, and he naturally brought his coaching skills to this new role."

In addition to his wife, his sons Tim and Jerry, and his daughter, Amy, Mr. Marr leaves his daughter Lisa of Galena, Ohio; his sister, Susan Maguire of Clearwater, Fla.; and eight grandchildren.