



Thomas "Tom" Daniel Byrne

January 10, 1924 - July 25, 2015

Thomas D. Byrne obituary
7-26-15

Husband, father, coach, educator, friend! Thomas Daniel Byrne, 91, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 25, in his home surrounded by loved ones.

Tom was born on January 10, 1924 in Anaconda, Montana, where he grew up and graduated high school. He studied for two years at Carroll College in Helena prior to enlisting in the Marines in 1943. On June 16, 1945 he married his high school sweetheart, Rosalba (Babs) Thibodeau, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Following his honorable discharge he continued his undergraduate education at the University of Montana in Missoula. After graduating in 1947, Tom and family moved to Brewster, Washington where he began his teaching and coaching career. Brewster was home to Tom, Babs, and their three oldest daughters for five wonderful years.

Tom then taught for one year at Cle Elum High School.

In 1953 the family moved to Wenatchee, which has been home ever since. At Wenatchee High School he taught science and mathematics and was head football coach from 1953 to 1965.

In 1962 he became Assistant Principal and in 1968 moved into the Principal's

office and gave up his coach's whistle for good.

Tom had an uncanny ability to forge deep and meaningful relationships with people wherever he went. Committed to service in this community, he was often recognized locally and professionally. Some of his honors include: past President of the Wenatchee Rotary Club and Paul Harris Fellow, Carroll College Basketball Hall of Fame, Wenatchee High School Athletic Hall of Fame, past President of the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals, board member of Washington Interscholastic Activities Association. His 1958 Panther squad was undefeated and recognized by the Associated Press as the number one high school team in the state. Tom was selected as head coach for the 1959 State All Star football game in Everett and was inducted into the Washington State Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1988.

Tom is survived by his wife of 70 years, Babs; his brother Bernard and sister Alice Ann; his six children and their families: Rosalba (Bill) Hansen, Patricia (Phil) Robinson, Sharon Shaffer, Danielle (Mike) Nicholson, Charlene Blanchard, and Tom (Kim) Byrne Jr. as well as 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother Eamon and great grandson Cooper.

A celebration of his life will be held Friday July 31st at 2:00 at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Wenatchee.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Colonial Vista for their compassionate care and also extend a heartfelt thank you to the people of the Greater Wenatchee Valley and the Wenatchee High Family for 62 years of caring support.

Interested parties may donate to the Tom Byrne Scholarship Fund for Wenatchee High School graduates. Donations can be mailed to 1580 N.

Ashland Ave., East Wenatchee, WA 98802.

Tom loved Wenatchee and Wenatchee loved him back. Thank you!

Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements are by Jones & Jones-Betts Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

JUL 31. 2:00 PM (PT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
625 S Elliott
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 662-4569
<http://www.stjosephwen.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas "Tom" Daniel Byrne



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - July 29, 2015 at 06:39 PM



This is a beautiful tribute. I recognized a lot of the photos and smiled and shed a tear. Rest in peace Tom.

Sue Cowlshaw - July 29, 2015 at 07:15 PM

RG

“ I was just thinking of Tom today. He was the greatest coach teacher and friend a person could have. Every time I talked to Tom he always made you feel special. He was a true gentleman which the world could use more of today. I was extremely fortunate to have known him

Richard Grosvenor - May 15, 2016 at 02:37 PM

AP

“ Dear Bab,
I just heard from the Leader last night about Tom. I wish I was able to be there with you to talk right now. I know how you feel.
Love,
Sis Peterson



Agnes Peterson - August 28, 2015 at 03:01 PM

ET

“ Dear Babs and Byrne Family,,

Tom and I were both members of the Wenatchee Rotary Club. He became the Program chair person after I was elected to the Legislature in 1972. He did a terrific job and later become the club president where he also excelled.

Tom had a very fine way of complimenting people. He had special insights that, through his words, always made you feel better.

I always felt better when I met Tom in casual encounters.

Sincerely,

Earl Tilly

Earl Tilly - August 26, 2015 at 06:41 PM

GJ

“ I shared this message with Tom a couple of years ago.--

"The highs and lows of life can be many, and I have had my share. But I want you to know how very much I have appreciated the opportunity to know you and be guided by you.

And I would like you to know that I have never received greater praise or a more meaningful compliment than when you told me " I was the toughest mutt you ever coached".

Thank you Tom you will always serve as my inspiration, to rise above and give it my best shot. Although it was for a short time, you were the father I never had. God bless you my friend, It has been my pleasure to have been one of the many that you have touched.

Gene Jessup

Gene Jessup - July 30, 2015 at 05:46 PM

MJ

“ I had quit going to high school in the 1970's as a sophomore at Wenatchee High. Mr. Byrne was concerned, and did some detective work to locate me. I was not in a good place. I had hoped to go to college and make a good life for myself, but was mixed up with a bad boyfriend involved in crime and drugs, going nowhere. Mr. Byrne found me, called me and in a very kind, non-judgemental manner, gave me hope and invited me to return to school, as no one else did. I took him up on the offer and returned to school. I graduated with average grades but took the most challenging courses offered, as Mr. Byrne suggested, but was able to gain admission to WSU, where I got my bachelor's degree in 4 yrs. Since then I have had 3 children as single mom. One child is a chemical engineer, one is an IT pro with a big company, and one provides care to disabled youth. Thank-you, Mr. Byrne, for giving me hope!! Your act of decency furthered the successs of my family. God bless your kind soul.

mj - July 29, 2015 at 10:18 PM

JL

“ I remember Mr. Byrne as my High School principal who, in between classes, was always out in the halls, talking with students, never tucked away inside his office. He always greeted me by name, with a big smile and an encouraging word. Even after I graduated, I came back a few times to say hi, and he always made me feel so welcome and like he was so happy to see me. Mr. Byrne was a special man, and an enormous part of what made my Wenatchee High School years so wonderful. My love and prayers to the family.

Judith Lawson - July 29, 2015 at 05:24 PM

GI

“ *Mr. Byrne is truly a man of respect, concern and unconditional love for all. A wonderful teacher, coach on overall human being. He will be greatly missed by all who new him. Sincere condolences to all the family.*
G.A, Irby

G.A. Irby - July 29, 2015 at 02:43 PM

MC

“ *Tom came to Wenatchee High School the year I graduated but I met up with him again after my mother moved next door to he and Babs. He was a wonderful friend and neighbor.*

Marlene Chadderton - July 29, 2015 at 01:26 PM

CO

“ *Babs, Danielle and family, Memories forever for Mary and me. And the times that Gerry Jessup and I shared with Tom at your homes and at the ballgames were a total delight. Babs, you were and are always so gracious and loving. A fan with a warrior's heart. We all admire you. God bless you and your family.*
Carlton and Mary



Carlton & Mary Olson - July 29, 2015 at 06:08 AM



“ Tom was like a second father to me growing up. I love him and Babs and the family. I feel blessed that I was able to see him before moving in February. Wish I could be there, but am sending love to all. Sue Doggett Cowlshaw



Sue Cowlshaw - July 28, 2015 at 11:10 PM

BB

I worked with Tom for 23 years and always found him to be a great Educator and Gentleman. I treasure those years when we were working at the High School. I also admired the Tom's entire family. Bob Bradford.

Bob Bradford - July 30, 2015 at 03:22 PM

B'

Just a nice - nice gentleman leader who made all of us students feel at home and welcome in his school. Even a kid could see that he enjoyed his job, his station in life and that he felt good about his life's mission. Tom Byrne helped set the tone of WHS and I enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you Mr. Byrne, Mr. Bradford, Mr. Weiss and the special teachers and counselors who made WHS a great place to call home for 3 short years. -

Bruce Bendickson '76 - July 30, 2015 at 06:45 PM