

John Walden Durham



JOHN WALDEN DURHAM '60 John W. Durham passed away peacefully on 6 January 2022 with his wife, Nadine, at his side. He died of natural causes at age 83.

“Bull” was born on 22 June 1938 in Wheelwright, KY. His family moved to Portland, OR, during World War II, where his father was an electrician in a naval shipyard. He graduated from McKeesport High School in 1956. His love of football had deep roots and was inspired by his time as a high school player under Tigers coach Duke Weigel. He won an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, graduating with the Class of 1960. He was commissioned in the U.S.

Army and served as a company officer stationed in South Korea in 1963.

Following his military service, John was a teacher and an assistant football coach at Port Vue Liberty High School. In 1965, he was hired as head football coach and mathematics teacher at Bradford (PA) Area High School, where he remained for 11 years. He also served as athletic director.

In 1976, he returned to the Pittsburgh area when he was hired as head football coach and mathematics teacher at Keystone Oaks High School. John coached at KO for 21 years and taught there for 27 years, until his retirement from teaching in 2003. As a reflection of his contribution to coaching high school football, he was inducted into the Pennsylvania High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 2000.

Following his 32 years as a high school head coach, he coached in the collegiate ranks, first as a defensive assistant for Washington and Jefferson College, and later as a defensive assistant at California University of Pennsylvania, where he finished his 49-year football coaching career in 2011. He was the author of five books on technical football.

John is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 60 years, Nadine Study Durham; sons, Steven (Catherine), Douglas (Susan) and Michael; daughter, Arlyn Wasco (William); three grandsons; and two granddaughters.

He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He loved teaching both on the field and in the classroom almost as much as he loved ice cream. He was a great inspiration and touched the lives of so many over many years. His commitment to excellence was only surpassed by his unwavering commitment to integrity.

March-April 2022 Shipmate