



Pete Beck

February 7, 1936 - March 7, 2020

John "Pete" Dwane Beck, 84 of Higginsville, Missouri passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at Meyer Care Center in Higginsville.

He was born to John and Alma (Knox) Beck on February 7, 1936. Pete married Helen Elizabeth Martin on June 30, 1956. They were married 53 years. She preceded him in death on May 5, 2009.

Pete attended Higginsville High School where he was student body president and yearbook editor. He played four years of football, becoming all-conference, all-district, and all-state. As an enthusiastic athlete, he also participated in basketball, track, and baseball. Pete graduated from Higginsville High School in 1954. He also earned the highest level of achievement in Boy Scouts by becoming an Eagle Scout.

Pete received the University of Missouri athletic scholarship. He attended Central Missouri State University where he received a degree in Education and Physical Education receiving his Master's Degree in 1960.

He moved to Fontana, California in 1960 to start his career as a History and Physical Education teacher while also coaching multiple sports including girls' softball. He later acquired a teaching job in Chico, California and became the head football coach in 1971. They went on to win the Northern Section Championship in 1981, 1982, 1987, and 1989; Runner-up in 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993; and Eastern Athletic Conference Champions 8 times. He retired from teaching and a glorious coaching career in 1993. Other athletic accolades include: inductee to the Higginsville Hall of Fame, Chico California

Hall of Fame, Northern Section California Hall of Fame, and the Chico High Unified School District Athletic Hall of Fame. He acquired the longest tenure football coach at Chico High School at that time, with twenty-two years. He finished his coaching career with an impressive record of 153-70-6. The love of his life, Helen, was with him the entire journey only missing one game due to illness.

Pete enjoyed dancing, coffee with friends, gardening, Mexican food and margaritas. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Pete was an Elks Lodge member for 50 years in Chico, CA, and a Moose Lodge member in Sedalia for 5 years.

He will be sorely missed by so many friends, family, students, and sports acquaintances.

Surviving are one brother, Tom (Jan) Beck of Lexington, MO; good friend and dance partner, Margie Weller of Sedalia, MO; six nieces and nephews; fifteen great nieces and nephews; twelve great-great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Helen; one sister, Joyce (Beck) Kays; and one brother-in-law, Frank Kays.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary will be held at 5:30 pm Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at Hoefer Funeral Home. A visitation will follow from 6:00-7:30 PM.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 AM on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at St. Mary's Catholic Church with the Father Thomas Hawkins officiating. Rite of Committal will follow in the Higginsville City Cemetery.

Pallbearers: Cody Beck, Greg Beck, Zach Beck, Drew Irvine, Lance Kays, Mark Kays.

Honorary Pallbearers: Howard Goring, Russell Hughes, Ted Knox, Gilbert Rector.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the American Heart Association or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Cemetery Details

City Cemetery

2275-2491 Lipper Ave.
Higginsville, MO 64037

Previous Events

Recitation of the Holy Rosary

MAR 11. 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home, Inc.
1600 Main St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
1-660-584-3400
hoeferfuneralhome@gmail.com
<http://www.stewarthoeferfuneralhome.com>

Visitation

MAR 11. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home, Inc.
1600 Main St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
1-660-584-3400
hoeferfuneralhome@gmail.com
<http://www.stewarthoeferfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 12. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM (CT)

Saint Mary's Catholic Church
401 W. Broadway St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
smhigg@ctcis.net
<http://www.stmarysinhigginsville.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Pete Beck*

October 22, 2023 at 02:42 PM



“ *Pete Beck*

October 07, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *Pete Beck*

October 06, 2023 at 07:00 AM



“ *Pete Beck*

January 31, 2023 at 02:49 AM



“ *You will be sorely missed, Coach. We had the honor of being in your presence at Chico High School 1974-1977. Your steadfast methods of being a coach was the epitome of what a coach should be. From your crew cut, “coaching” shorts and whistle on a lanyard, it’s what every coach should strive to be. Condolences to the family and many people you have touched and fostered. Rest In Peace. - The Moretti Family*

John Moretti - March 23, 2020 at 10:51 AM

OE

“ Rest In Peace Coach Beck. You were an inspiration of moral character and a beacon of school pride. I remember the school rallies before Almond Bowl you would always lead us in your war chant, ASKIWAWA-SKINNYWAWA-SKINPV. Thank you for all the laps we ran during hell week. You will be missed. Prayers out to the Beck family and thank you for sharing him with us. Godspeed.

Omar Enriquez - March 15, 2020 at 05:28 PM

JS

“ I played football for Coach Beck for three years. We lost our section championship game to our cross town rival, Pleasant Valley, in 1993. I was crushed by the loss of the game because we wanted to bring home one more section championship for Coach in his last year at Chico High. In the locker room many of us were in tears, and he calmly looked at all of us and told us how proud he was of us. He told us how much he loved us. He reminded us about why we ran so many windsprints, why he yelled at us during practice, and why he made us run “pumphouses.” He wanted to make us better men. I cannot speak for everyone that he coached, but Coach John Beck made me the man I am today. I am sad to hear of his passing, and will try to coach kids the same way he did me. Chico High do or die Coach. Rest in Peace, and thank you so much for instilling true values, that society seems to have lost today.

Jay Sabelman - March 13, 2020 at 10:56 PM

ER

“ John and Helen added so much fun and good memories to the lives of their many Chico friends. We all have missed them since they moved back home to Higginsville in 2003. Sending our condolences to the Beck family from Cecil and Eileen Ross.

Eileen Ross - March 09, 2020 at 08:19 PM

LC

Heck of a coach, and PE teacher...I'll miss you coach...the 83 and 84 football seasons were assume

Larry Cavalli - March 16, 2020 at 01:27 AM

MR

“ I was very fortunate to know Pete and Helen. They were amazing people and anyone who had the opportunity to connect with them was blessed.

Monica Ritter - March 09, 2020 at 06:09 PM

AA

Had a lot of respect and admiration for Pete, beginning in high school.

Armin Achannuth - March 09, 2020 at 10:48 PM

EM

John was a loyal friend I enjoyed hunting and fishing with. He was a teacher who taught his students and athletes a lot more than just subject matter and football skills. He taught them about the importance of right and wrong and of always doing the right thing even when it might cost you something.

ed main - March 10, 2020 at 08:58 PM

DS

One of the greatest coaches at Chico High ever! We have missed him for a long time.

Dan Sours - March 12, 2020 at 10:29 AM

BB

Pete and Helen always treated us with love and as part of their family. Hunting and fishing with Pete was always great. Helen made sure we had a great meal. They demonstrated God's love throughout their lives. They will be missed but leave behind so many blessed friends they that have shared their lives with.

Bryan Bird - March 12, 2020 at 02:21 PM

SS

I was lucky enough to teach with John my first few years at Chico High, and he was an amazing guy--a great leader and shaper of young students. He garnered sincere respect from adults and students alike, but he was humble, kind, and very funny. And very generous with advice and mentorship for a brand new teacher. And I agree with Dan--we have missed him here for a long time.

Stephanie Starmer - March 13, 2020 at 12:44 PM



Coach Beck was one of my softball coaches at CHS, and I was lucky enough to learn and better my skills as a softball player under his and Coach Main's guidance. As many times as I heard, "Hays, go to the pumphouse," I will always cherish my time with him there at the softball fields and in class. One last "Osky wa wa..." to our Coach! RIP, Coach!

Julianna Hays - March 13, 2020 at 03:25 PM

RR

He was a great man, kind, and able to transcend the age gap. He made me proud to be a Panther, and Chicoan.

Raj Rana - March 13, 2020 at 06:25 PM

DW

*Coach Beck, thank you for being a great coach and mentor. Such great life lessons and fond memories. Class of 77, Chico high school
Dave Weathers*

David Weathers - March 13, 2020 at 06:27 PM

BM

Chico Legend and one of the greatest men and mentor's I have ever met. God bless ya coach and thank you for everything you did for me and our community.

Bill Mello - March 14, 2020 at 02:06 PM

SK

R I P Coach Beck from us at Alder Jr High in Fontana Ca 1961-1963 i met him again when i moved to Chico in 1979. he was always fair but firm. i remember him calling us panty wastes back then. Steve Kasprzyk Chico

steve kasprzyk - March 18, 2020 at 02:52 PM