



Eugene Franklin Maxim

Eugene Franklin Maxim, 81, of Arlington, WA passed away peacefully January 6, 2011, surrounded by loving family members. Gene was born July 29, 1929 in South Paris, Maine to Phillip and Geraldine Maxim. After graduating from Windham High School, Gene joined the [United States Navy](#) in 1948. He served aboard both the USS Sea Fox and USS Bergall and played baseball at the sub base in Pearl Harbor, HI.

Following honorable discharge from the Navy in 1952, Gene set out to pursue his dream of teaching and coaching. He traveled to Bellingham, WA where he met his lifelong love, Betty Drivstuen, and earned his teaching degree from Western Washington College. Gene also enjoyed playing baseball for the Bellingham Bells during this time. He once struck out seventeen batters in a seven-inning game!

Gene had a distinguished career as an educator and coach. He began his teaching and coaching career in 1957 in Tenino, WA where he served for three years. Next, he was in Napavine, WA where his varsity boys basketball team took third in State. For the next five years Gene served as teacher and coach in Monroe, WA where he was able to take a beleaguered boys basketball team and turn them in to winners both on and off the court. Years later, sports writer and former player, Dan Weaver, paid tribute to his coach. "What elevated Gene Maxim was the way he promoted self-esteem in the bullies, hoods and the good kids he inherited. He kept players who couldn't jump and cut those who wouldn't listen. He took a bunch of slow, short white guys and tuned them into a bunch of slow, short white guys. But on the way we began to think of ourselves as special."

In 1965 Gene reluctantly left coaching behind and joined the administrative ranks. He served as principal at Monroe High School, assistant superintendent at Sedro-Woolley, and led Lower Snoqualmie Valley (Riverview) School District as superintendent for ten years. During his tenure as superintendent Gene served as the national chairman of the Small Schools Superintendents Committee and was appointed to serve on a federal task force for the Department of Education. In 1985 Gene retired from public service, except for a brief time serving as interim superintendent for the Stevenson-Carson School District.

Gene enjoyed retirement living at the beach on Whidbey Island, golfing, and traveling to Arizona. In 2000, Betty and Gene returned to Arlington, Betty's hometown, to be closer to family

and friends.

Gene leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Betty; his children, Brad (Judy) Maxim, Marcie (Mike) Moore, Julie Maxim, and Tom (Orly) Maxim; and his grandchildren, Todd, Tracy, Tyler, Madison, Jack, Elan, and Neri. He is also survived by his mother, 98; his sister, Mary Lou; and three brothers, Bruce, David, and Jerry.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, January 15 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 615 E. Highland Dr., Arlington. A reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Little White Church on the Hill, P.O. Box 100, Silvana, WA 98287, the Washington Talking Book Library, 2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121, or Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 615 E. Island Drive, Arlington, WA 98223.