
Ronald E. Walters(1933 - 2017)

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Resident of San Jose

Ronald Edward ("Ron") Walters, a beloved educator, coach and administrator in the Santa Cruz City School District for more than 30 years, and the founding baseball coach at Soquel High School, died at his home in San Jose on June 22. He was 83.

Born in Sacramento on August 6, 1933, the eldest of four children, Walters and his family moved to Santa Cruz during [World War II](#). He attended Mission Hill Junior High, where he was active in sports, music and student affairs.

Walters was a star basketball and baseball player at Santa Cruz High, from where he graduated in 1951. The following summer, after being named to the Coast Counties League first team, he was selected to the all-Northern California Baseball team for a game sponsored by the San Francisco Examiner held at Seals Stadium. He was named player-manager of the semi-pro Santa Cruz Seahawks in 1954.

Walters played collegiate baseball at Cal Poly and San Jose State University, from where he graduated in 1955 with departmental honors in education. He married his San Jose State sweetheart, the former Marilyn Kechley, on December 22, 1956. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year.

Walters taught and coached at Santa Cruz High and other area schools, before being named the first varsity baseball coach and head of the athletic department at Soquel High for the inaugural 1962-63 academic year. He served as head coach there until 1975. He was named athletic director and, later, vice-principal at Soquel High, from where he retired in 1989, and later served as a full-time regional baseball scout for the Montreal Expos. He was an avid baseball fan his entire life.

Following retirement, he and his wife enjoyed traveling and watching their seven grandchildren play in various sporting activities throughout the region.

Walters is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marilyn; sons Stu (Valerie), Kevin, and Matt; grandchildren Caroline, Gregory, Kate, Samuel, Allison, Margaret ("Maggie") & Maxwell; brothers Bill and Butch (Carmen); and sister Norma Ann Burkett. He was preceded in death by his parents, Norman and Hazel Walters.

A celebration of his life is pending. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Soquel High Fund, designated for athletics, 401 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA 95073.

[View the online memorial for Ronald E. Walters](#)

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