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Kenneth Ralph McGonagle

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Coach Ken McGonagle would like you to know that his work here is done and he has hung up his #22 uniform for the last time. His new assignment takes him to a place where he will be in perfect health, including functional vocal cords so he can once more yell directions to his players and express his opinions to umpires and referees. Coach McGonagle, age 88, died peacefully on May 10, 2018, surrounded by his family. He is survived by Cele, his loving wife of 66 years, his sons Tim (Marcie) and Mike, and daughter Kristi French (Paul), grandchildren Lindsey DeLisle (Justin), Allie Glinski (Chris), and Andrew and Will French, plus great-grandchildren Timothy and Peyton DeLisle and Aiden Glinski. Ken was born in Seattle, Washington, moved to Minnesota in 1944 and graduated from Royalton High School in 1948. He lettered in baseball and basketball at the University of Minnesota and graduated with a B.A. in Physical Education. In 1958, he earned a Master's Degree at the University of Illinois and a Doctorate in Secondary Education and Physical Education at Indiana University in 1970. His first job after graduation from Minnesota was as the varsity boys basketball coach at St. John's School in Houston, Texas, where his team won the Texas State Private School Championship in 1953. Before joining the faculty at Evanston Township High School (ETHS) in 1955, he played 3 years of minor league baseball in the Cincinnati Reds organization. Ken taught and coached at ETHS for 34 years until his retirement in 1989. He served as the varsity boys baseball and soccer coach, co-chairman of the Physical Education Department, and helped out as an assistant coach in basketball, football and girls badminton when needed. Ken loved to learn and loved to teach...and his family members and thousands of students and players are grateful for his instruction, inspiration, and example. Ken was inducted into the Royalton High School Athletic Hall of Fame, the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame, the Illinois Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame, and the Illinois Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame where he was named 1982 "Man of the Year". After retiring, summers at Lake Alexander in Minnesota found Ken swimming, sailing, canoeing, participating in senior golf leagues, and water-skiing until age 79 just to prove to his children and grandchildren that he could still do it. During the winters in Tucson he was very active in Senior Olympics, winning more than 150 medals in basketball, golf, badminton, novelty track, and punt, pass and kick competitions. He played two softball doubleheaders every week and did

his share of solicited and unsolicited coaching from the bench until two days before he and Cele moved to Brookdale Senior Living in Lisle when he was 84. Ken loved to participate and he loved to compete, but most of all he loved his family. A casual gathering to celebrate Ken's life will be held on Saturday, June 9, 2018, with an Open House from 11am-2pm at the Wheatstack Restaurant on River Bend Golf Course, 5900 S. Rte 53, Lisle, Illinois, 60532. If desired, contributions in Coach McGonagle's memory may be made to the Evanston Township High School Educational Foundation, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, Illinois, 60201 (supporteths.org) or to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org).

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