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**Tom Butters**

Tom Butters

April 8, 1938 - March 31, 2016

Durham

On Thursday, March 31, 2016 the very full life of Tom Butters ended at his home in Durham, North Carolina. He was born in Delaware, Ohio on April 8, 1938 to the late Harold and Florence Butters.

Tom was a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, he served in the United States Army and was a professional pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Following his baseball career he returned to his alma mater as Associate Director of Admissions. He came to Duke in 1967 as the Assistant Director of Development. The following year he began a career in the Duke Athletic Department that spanned three decades. During those years he became the head baseball coach, the Director of the Iron Dukes, Associate Athletic Director, Assistant to the Chancellor, the Director of Athletics and Vice President of Duke University.

For six years he served on the NCAA Basketball Committee, chairing the committee for two of those years. He was chairman of the College Football Association's football championship study committee.

He was inducted into the Duke Sports Hall of Fame, the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame and the Ohio Wesleyan Sports Hall of Fame.

It was his good fortune to play some of the finest golf courses in the world. He loved the game, the competition, the friendships, and the wagers. Conversations with friends, colleagues and complete strangers were vital to him. He always had time for people.

He is survived by his wife, Lynn, his daughter, Jill Butters Steidle and son-in-law, Ward Steidle of Malvern, Pennsylvania; his son, Bret Butters and daughter-in-law, Nancy McDonald Butters of Durham, North Carolina; his grandchildren: Britt Steidle Kehoe and Tommy Kehoe, Conor Steidle, Cole Steidle, Thomas "Tee" Butters and Lauren Hadley Butters, Kendall Butters and Haley Butters.

On Sunday, April 10, 2016 a Memorial Reception will be held at 3:00pm at the Washington Duke Inn, 3001 Cameron Blvd., Durham, North Carolina 27706.

Education was important to Tom. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Duke University, The Tom Butters Endowment, Box 90542, Durham, NC 27708.

His life was a journey.....his family is glad to have been on the trip.

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