

JACK WATKINS

Teacher and Coach 1960-1993



Jack Watkins began his teaching career in 1955 at Reader, West Virginia and coached basketball and baseball. With Mr. Watkins as coach, the baseball team won its first baseball championship. In 1957 Mr. Watkins and his family moved to Ohio to teach in the Fort Frye School District. In 1960 he started teaching social studies and physical education at Bartlett Junior High. He also coached basketball as well as Junior High track and was a substitute bus driver while at Bartlett. During the 1961-62 school year, he took over coaching duties for the Warren High School ninth grade basketball team and then began teaching at Warren in the 1962-63 school year. Mr. Watkins taught social studies and physical education at Warren High School until his retirement in 1993.

He coached ninth grade and junior varsity basketball as well as cross country. His ninth grade football team in the '62-63 school year only had six points scored against them all season. He was head football coach for one football game (vs. McArthur High School) during the '64-65 school year when the head coach was sick and could not attend. Mr. Watkins was the first athletic director at Warren High School, a position he held for a number of years. He announced Warren football games for many years and was radio announcer for WMOA Friday football games. He was inducted into the Warren High School Football Hall of Fame in 1995 and served on the Hall of Fame Committee and emceed their banquet for many years. Mr. Watkins also taught evening classes at Washington State Community College for almost twenty years.

He was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where his son-in-law serves as pastor, and was a former member of Veto Presbyterian



Church where he was an elder, Sunday School teacher and active in the Builders Class. He was a charter member of the Scenic Hills Lions Club.

Mr. Watkins grew up in Lumberport, West Virginia, and graduated high school in 1949. He had a love of sports, whether it was playing, coaching, going to high school games, just watching sports on TV or especially going to his grandsons' games. In high school he played football, basketball, and baseball, and sang in the school choir. He graduated from Fairmont State College. His enthusiasm for education was evident as he would hitchhike from Lumberport to college every day to attend classes. He affected many during his teaching career. At his funeral many people said how Mr. Watkins had touched their lives.

His daughter, Kathy, is a former teacher. Two of his grandsons also teach, Ryan (social studies) and Daniel, (physical education) and coach. His youngest grandson, Andrew, who is attending Ohio State University, said he kind of wished he had gone into education after seeing all the lives his grandpa had touched. All three grandsons participated in wrestling, football, track and baseball while attending WHS, each receiving the Loren Weinstock Award for Sportsmanship. Kathy and her husband, Bill, were also very active at Warren, graduating in 1975.

Mr. Watkins had a great sense of humor and was well liked by his teaching peers, administrators and students. He always had everyone laughing during lunch with his stories, comments and anecdotes. He was truly a great person to be around and was an inspiration to many. He passed away November 4, 2010. He will always be remembered for his love of God, family, community, school, sports and for his patience and wonderful sense of humor. He was a loving father, grandfather, and to Dena, his wife of 54 years, a faithful and loving husband.