



John L. Quinlan 1927-2011 PITTSFIELD - Mr. John L. Quinlan, 84, of 44 Albro St., died Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at Berkshire Medical Center. Born in Pittsfield on May 5, 1927 the son of Leo J. and Madeline McMahon Quinlan he graduated from St. Joseph's High School and St. Michael's College. Mr. Quinlan was President of the former J F Kahl's Jewelry Store, which he operated with his family until its closing. He was former athletic Director at St. Joseph's High School, former President of the Western MA Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, former Chairman of the Berkshire County High School Football Officials Association, President of the Western New England Chapter of the Eastern Association of Intercollegiate Football Officials and 2000 winner of the Henry A. Butova Award. Mr. Quinlan enjoyed football, going to the gym, the Atlanta Braves and was an avid golfer. He leaves his wife, the former Barbara Bercury, whom he married on July 12, 1969 in St. Teresa's Church; three children, Patti Franco and her husband Daniel, Jim Quinlan and his wife Erin, and Katie Keenan and her husband Chris; five grandchildren, Joey, Emilio, Rowan, Leo and Molly; three sisters, Martha Barry, Therese Nesbit and her husband Paul and Sr. Constance Quinlan and a brother David Quinlan and his wife Maureen. FUNERAL NOTICE: Funeral Services for John L. Quinlan will be Saturday, September 3, 2011

at 8 am from the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield MA with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 9 a.m. in St. Mark's Church, celebrated by the Rev. John Salatino, pastor. Burial will follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Calling hours at the funeral home will be today, Friday, September 2, 2011 from 4 to 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Monday Morning Quarterback Club, care of the Dwyer Funeral Home in his memory. Please visit www.dwyerfuneral.com to leave condolences and remembrances.

Bill-

I have numerous memories of the great "Q" as you would expect. He was the guy who was responsible for any success I might have had as a football official and was one of my closest friends. Perhaps the chapter could find a way to honor him by naming an annual award after him. Here's one of many JQ stories-

--- After 5 years of HS and Pop Warner, Q told me that I should apply to the college board and take the ECAC exam the following spring.. My reply was that I did not think I was ready for that level. His retort was blunt and to the point- "you will be!!!! - you and Codey show up at my house starting next Monday night".

After a winter of rules test and mechanics and heavy "grilling" by the Q, John Codey and I ventured to Boston one Saturday morning in April to take the test. It was to be administered by the legendary John Bane, the Boston Chapter Sect-Treas. and EAIFO "mucky-muck" to use another Q-ism. There were about 10-12 guys from all over there.

As you would expect, we were very well prepared and breezed through the test and finished well ahead of all the others. So far ahead that Bane sent us out to get coffee and doughnuts. Both John and I felt good about the test and decided to stay around Boston for a bit of a celebration. The celebration went very well- in fact it was daylight as we drove back into Pittsfield!

A week or so later John and I were informed that not only did we pass the test, we were the only two to pass in the entire EAIFO!! Thanks to the Q's mentoring, we made it! He did not know at the time what a couple of "monsters" he had created!!!

John always was willing and more than able to help young officials and was concerned that not enough "giving back" was being done. In fact, he called me the night before he died to ask about something he had seen in the paper about officiating and was it correct. There is no better role model for officials than JQ- one of the best who did it the right way, through hard work, dedication and integrity. As I come up with more stories I will send them to you.

Jim Guinan
Billy,

John officiated at the High School level up until he resigned from college. Throughout that time he was a mentor to officials within the BCFOA. He always volunteered his time on Sundays where he continued to work with new and veteran officials around mechanics and their rules knowledge until he retired completely in 2005. At that point he had been officiating for 40 years. He threw me the football and proclaimed "it's all yours".

For years John was "the last word" with regards to rule interpretations. He would allow banter back and forth until he could no longer take it. He then would ask a question getting at the heart of the discussion and ultimately settling the dispute.

John was a wonderful mentor to me and many others as he wanted to share his knowledge in hopes of making each official not only better at officiating but a better person. He loved to tell stories of past run ins with coaches and fellow officials.

John was a friend and role model and we had a relationship that I will cherish the rest of my life.

Mike Monti

Next to my Dad who had a profound impact in my life with regard to Football Officiating, John Quinlan inherited the title of Mentor to me in the early 1970's, seeing to it that I followed the right path in my quest to become a dedicated Football Official.

John set the guidelines and offered all the support needed for me to achieve my goals, but, in doing so he always reminded me that Football required a continuous work ethic both from a rules knowledge standpoint, and an on-field mechanics understanding. He got me involved in officiating Pop Warner games every Sunday in the fall which turned out to be the best training vehicle available for new officials.

He literally taught me how to referee a game properly. He was always available to talk Football no matter what time of year it was, and always had access to the new Rule changes and interpretations before they were incorporated into our rule books. His personal Rule knowledge was second to none, and his Love for the game was never ending.

John's influence in my Football Officiating career was deeply appreciated and I will miss him very much. The Berkshire County Football community Has lost a Tremendous Ambassador.....Joe Woitkoski

