

GUS HARRIS NAUMAN



Age 86, of North Hills, passed away at home on December 29, 2023.

Gus was a 1956 graduate of West View High School, and is best known as the defensive coordinator for the North Hills Indians Varsity Football team, where he taught and coached for 30+ years. At West View, Gus played under Mario Martorelli and was captain of the football team. He went on to play at Thiel College and

Slippery Rock, where he was again captain of the football team. Gus graduated from Slippery Rock with his teaching degree in Physical Education in early 1962 and started off his teaching career at Cochranon High School. He then moved on to Ellwood City, where he was an assistant football coach. Gus began teaching at North Hills in 1965, was head coach of the varsity team for four years in the early 1970s, and spent most years until the mid-90s as the defensive coordinator. His proud football accomplishments include over 80 shutouts in his career; the 1979 team, which boasted 10 shutouts and gave up only 19 points for the season; his 1987 team, who celebrated 11 shutouts and gave up only 20 points for the season and was named #1 in the nation by USA Today; WPIAL championships in '82, '85, '87 and '93; and a PIAA State Championship in 1993. Gus retired in 1997 and was inducted into the North Hills Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

Gus was the embodiment of "work hard, play hard". He not only worked as a teacher and a football coach, but held multiple jobs during his tenure as a teacher and after retirement. During his summers, he was the manager of Valley Brook Swim Club for 25 years. Over the years, he coached track and field, worked the intramural basketball league, coached wrestling, and was an active mentor for many of his players. After retirement, he taught physical fitness at CCAC, worked as a handyman to keep himself busy, and spent time with his grandsons (to whom he was known as "Poppy") - easily securing the honor of being the favorite grandparent.

In addition to football, Gus loved the great outdoors. He was a hunter, who enjoyed the poker games and male bonding of hunting camp as much as the hunt itself. He and two life-long friends shared "Our Place", a hunting camp in Clarrington near Cook's Forest, where he spent some of his happiest times off of the football field. Over the decades at Our Place, he would ride motorcycles through the forest with his family, starting with his daughter, then later with his step-children, and eventually his three grand-kids. Many of his family and friends will cherish the memories of weekends spent at camp building camp-fires, fishing, playing cards, making mountain pies, spotting deer, and hiking quietly through the woods in hopes of catching a glimpse of a deer. Later in life, Gus liked to travel to national parks in the US and Canada and treasured the view of the woods behind his home in McCandless, where he could watch the deer, turkeys, otters and Mother Nature's other creatures out his back door.

Gus had a language all his own. He came up with a dictionary full of playful, colorful phrases, most of which are not suitable for print. He embraced a bit of yinzer, and would 'warsh' his car and look at the deer in the 'crick'. He coined the term, "Gummer", which might be defined as 'term of endearment; oaf; fool; or halfwit. Possible origin: Gumshoe Louie'.

It is no surprise that Gus was a die hard Pittsburgh Steeler, Pirate, Penguin and Panther fan. Some less well known facts about Gus include that he was an avid numismatist (coin collector) and dissectologist (jigsaw puzzler). Gus would take pleasure in going through coins for hours in search of that rare treasure that might sneak into the till at his parents' place of business, the Evergreen Hotel, from the bank, or just loose change. To the great annoyance of both his first and second wife, Gus would park himself at a table with a jigsaw puzzle and refuse to leave it even for meals. During his younger years, he and his daughter would buy and complete the hardest jigsaw puzzle that they could find over every Christmas break. In his later years, he did jigsaw puzzles to keep his mind sharp when his body sometimes demanded that he be still. Gus also enjoyed playing sudoku and solitaire on the computer.

Preceded in death by his parents, August and Mary (Boyle) Nauman; and sister, Cathy Crozier. Gus is survived by his wife, Carol (Hepler) Nauman; daughter, Marci Maher and Adam White; step-daughter, Kristyn Brimmeier, step-son, Joseph Brimmeier IV and his wife, Christie; grandsons, Connor Maher, Nathan Maher, and their father, Bryan Maher; grandson, Joseph Brimmeier V; brother, Jim Nauman; sister, Joan Mangola; loving sidekick, Benson; and a multitude of former football players too numerous to mention, whom he loved like sons.

Family will welcome friends on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 2nd and 3rd, from 2-8pm at **SHELLHAAS FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 388 Center Avenue, West View, PA 15229. A private funeral service for the family will be held on Thursday, January 4th.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations are made to either of the following charities:

The North Hills Foundation in memory of Gus Nauman
135 Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15229

<https://www.nhsd.net/NorthHillsFoundation.aspx>

or

Animal Friends c/o Development Department
562 Camp Horne Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

<https://www.thinkingoutsidethecage.org/other-ways-to-give/tribute-or-memorial-gifts>

Please leave all condolences at www.schellhaasfh.com.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb