



Mr. Elmer H. Wingate, Jr.

October 26, 1928 - February 27, 2016

Elmer H. Wingate Jr. – Celebrating a Life Well Lived

Elmer H. Wingate Jr., former Baltimore Colts defensive end and University of Maryland All-American, dies at 88 of Alzheimer's at Presbyterian Home of Maryland.

Elmer Wingate Jr. was a proud grandfather and intense competitor with a huge heart. His infectious enthusiasm, generosity and positive spirit made him a recognized leader throughout his college, professional sports, military and business careers.

Born in 1928, the son of a barber, Elmer grew up in Baltimore's Hamilton neighborhood, and later raised his family in Stoneleigh. A boyhood friend, Vince Bagli, known as the Dean of Baltimore Sports when working as sports anchor at WBAL-TV, remembers Wingate as a gentle giant, never a bully, but someone who knew he was bigger and better.

"We let Elmer play in our pickup football games, but we would not let him run the ball," said Bagli.

Elmer graduated from the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1947, where he was voted All-State End.

He went on to the University of Maryland where he was President of the Senior Class of 1951; Vice President, Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) honor society; and Vice President, Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity.

But it was sports where Elmer first made his mark. At 6 feet 3 inches and 235 pounds, Wingate immediately impressed coaches at the University of Maryland, quickly becoming one of the Terrapins' most valuable players. He played both offensive and defensive end positions from 1948 to 1951, scored the second touchdown ever made in Byrd Stadium, and was part of two Gator Bowl appearances.

He achieved All-American status in 1948, was selected for the All-Southern team in 1951, and played in the North-South All-Star game. While at Maryland, Wingate also discovered a spring sport to play — lacrosse, achieving All-American ranking twice.

Following college, Wingate was called to active duty with the U.S. Air Force where he saw service during the Korean Conflict. He had been a member of the Air Force ROTC at the University and received his commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation. He played football for the Air Force at Bolling AFB in Washington, D.C., where his team won the Service Championship in 1952 and 1953.

In between college and the Air Force, Wingate made time to marry his hometown sweetheart, Jeaneen Brady, in the summer of 1951. Senator Joseph Tydings, a college classmate and best man in Elmer's wedding, remarked, "Elmer was a very handsome and popular young man on the campus – where many young ladies would set their caps to try and captivate the dynamic young football star. Yet all of their efforts were in vain when word began to spread around campus that his heart had been stolen by a beautiful

young lady in Baltimore.”

On completing his military service, Elmer joined the 1953 Baltimore Colts with fellow players Don Shula, Gino Marchetti and Bill Pellington. The Colts Players Guide wrote this about Elmer, “Wingate was regarded as one of the finest local products ever to earn a name in football.”

Even after leaving the Colts, Wingate remained a Baltimore sports presence as co-host of a local TV show with Colts head coach Don Shula.

Following football, Elmer worked for National Beer from 1955-1962 before joining New England Financial. For more than 38 years, he held a leadership position in financial services where he achieved membership in New England Financial’s Hall of Fame as a Life Member of the company’s Million Dollar Round Table and a Life Member of its Leaders Association.

Elmer was very active in the community, participating on numerous boards of directors including John D. Lucas Printing and Telesis Design. He happily served as Honorary Chairman of the Johnny Unitas Statue Tribute Committee, which brought the statue to the entrance of M&T Stadium, as well as Co-chairman of the 1982 World Lacrosse Games in Baltimore and Co-Man of the Year for the Lacrosse Foundation in 1983.

He enthusiastically gave back wherever and whenever he could. Because of his love of lacrosse, he volunteered as coach of the Maryland Junior Lacrosse teams for more than ten years, along with Tom Nuttle, Fielding Lewis and Dave Ford, where they mentored many athletes who went on to become collegiate All-Americans.

The Maryland sports community remembered and recognized Wingate’s many

achievements and contributions with his induction into the Maryland State Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997.

But beyond all of his sports achievements, it was his human qualities that truly defined Elmer. He was bigger than life itself. As Fred Kail, his close friend and sculptor of the Johnny Unitas statue, once characterized him, “Elmer didn’t just have dreams, he chased them 100 miles an hour. He recognized talent and virtue in others, and believed in turning dreams into reality.”

“Elmer was always upbeat, always cheerful, always positive. He was a friend you could always depend upon,” recalled Senator Tydings.

Elmer is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Jeaneen; three sons, Ken, Paul and David; seven grandchildren, Slater, Paige, Julia, Jenifer, Brooke, Matthew and Parker; and innumerable colleagues, friends and teammates who were touched by his love and generosity.

A memorial service to celebrate his life is planned for Saturday, March 12th at 11 a.m. at the Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21212, with a reception immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in honor of Elmer H. Wingate Jr. to the Alzheimer’s Association (www.alz.org/nca/in_my_community_donate.asp)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace United Methodist Church
5407 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Our sincere sympathy on the passing of a wonderful father, friend and great person. The Family of the late Rev. John P. Buchheister .

John P. Buchheister, Jr. - March 09, 2016 at 01:56 PM

ER

“ Dear Jeaneen, Ken, Paul and David,

The Feldmann siblings were all so sorry to hear of Elmer's passing. Living across the street from you in Stoneleigh for many years was truly special. Some very funny antics and pranks played out by Elmer, Art Morris and our dad, Frank Feldmann, are etched in our memory. We will miss Elmer but remember him fondly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

~ Jon Feldmann, Susan Feldmann Thompson, Ellen Feldmann Roberts and Jane Feldmann Cook.

Ellen Roberts - March 07, 2016 at 09:50 AM

HF

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We remember Elmer as such a kind man, someone who was both gentle and strong.
Barry and Helen French

Helen French - March 03, 2016 at 07:43 AM

PL

“ Paul, it was with sadness that I read of your father's passing. Back in the 60s and 70s, your father and mother (along with many other wonderful families) made Dumbarton JHS one of the most outstanding schools in Baltimore County. Their legacy still remains throughout that community today. Not only will he be missed by your family and so many friends, but also by many Poly alumni. He truly was the epitome of a Poly boy. May you and your family find peace at this difficult time.

Phil Lieske

Poly'63

DJHS '67-'72

Phil Lieske - March 02, 2016 at 07:59 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mr. Elmer H. Wingate, Jr..



March 02, 2016 at 03:50 PM

DM

“ We are deeply saddened to hear of Elmer's passing. Our hearts go out to Jeaneen and family at this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Barbara & Adrian Mehrling

DRIAN MEHRLING - March 02, 2016 at 10:40 AM