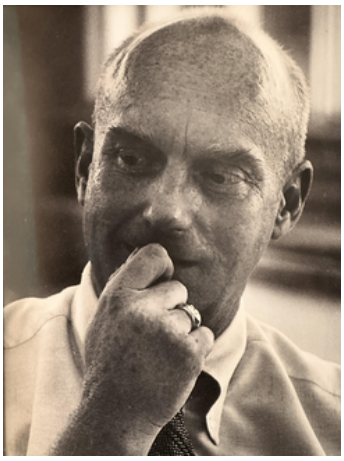


Don Reddish

October 27, 1923 ~ March 11, 2023

Don Reddish passed away peacefully and quietly at his home in Holladay, Utah on Saturday March 11, 2023. Although waiting for his one hundredth birthday, he gracefully left us after 99 1/2 years. Don Beynon Reddish was born on the 27th of October, 1923 to C. Don Reddish and Phyllis Beck Reddish. Except for his tours of duty, Don lived most of his life in Holladay, Utah, living in the same home from age 12 until the day he passed.

Don attended Irving Junior High School (now Olympus Junior) and Granite High School, graduating in 1941. He then entered college at age 17 but his higher education was interrupted by Pearl Harbor and World War II. After serving, Don attended Amherst College in Massachusetts, Hendricks College in Arkansas, Utah State University, and the University of Utah where he received a degree in accounting. He was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity at both Amherst University and the University of Utah.

Don was inducted into the United States Army and was assigned to an infantry division. During his service he also received five semesters of university credit. After leaving the division he went to officer training school and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Don finished his service in the Philippines but was called back into the military during the Korean War, serving in the 27th Infantry Regiment. In total he served 22 months, surviving combat in Korea where he received a Purple Heart, leaving the military as a Captain.

After Korea, Don completed school and went to work in the Athletic Department at the University of Utah where he worked as a coach and as an administrator. Appointed coach of the swimming team at the age of 24, he coached 42 teams, even with his leaves for his military service in Korea. During his coaching career the University of Utah won 19 conference championships. Don coached numerous All-Americans and was recognized as Coach of the Year six times in the Conference and three times in the NCAA region. He worked in the Athletic Department for a total of 49 years, coaching the swimming team with fierce passion for 42 years. During this time, he traveled with the swimming team to many parts of the world for competition and training. He loved teaching and traveling with his athletes, exposing them to the different landscapes and cultures around the world. Don conducted clinics for other swimming coaches and served for three terms on the NCAA rules committee, serving as chairman in his final term. He also conducted NCAA meets and served as president of the National Coaches Association and as a member of the Olympic Swim Committee. He loved every single moment of his coaching career. Don was also a lifetime member of the Fort Douglass Hidden Valley Country Club.

Don is preceded in death by his brothers Jack N. Reddish and Michael Reddish. He is survived by his nephews: Patrick Reddish (Gwen), Jonathan Reddish, Christopher Reddish (Merideth), C.D. Reddish, and his nieces: Mercedes Talbot (Stewart) and Cory Reddish. His grandnephews: Finn Reddish, Peyton Talbot, Beckham Talbot, and Madden Talbot. Oh how he loved his grandnephews!

In passing, Don had written something bringing tears to us all…”I would like to thank each and all of my nieces, nephews, and friends who have helped make my last years so enjoyable. One big thanks to all! Don.”

A celebration of life will be announced for later this spring and we hope to see you there!