



Willard John Ikola

July 28, 1932 - January 20, 2025

Ikola, Willard "Ike" Age 92 of Edina, passed away January 20, 2025. Born in Eveleth, MN on July 28, 1932. Preceded in death by his parents Sadie and John. Brothers Roy and Earl, and sister Doris. Ike was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force. He was a longtime Edina community member, educator and coach. While Ike's accomplishments are a mile long, Ike would tell anyone his greatest accomplishment was his family. Survived by his wife Laurie, of 70 years, his children Deb (Brad) Becker, Matt (Amy) Ikola, Steve Ikola, Sarah (Doug) Carter, 7 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. Memorial service 11AM Friday, January 31st, with visitation beginning at 10AM at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave. S., Mpls. To attend the funeral virtually, please go to <https://www.goodshepherdmpls.org/funerals>. Private interment Fort Snelling. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to the Ikola Cup Foundation. www.Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
4801 France Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
4801 France Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN

Tribute Wall

DM

“ My deepest condolences to all of the Icolas, I have so many fond memories from school, hockey, and a trip up to the cabin. He will always hold a special place in my heart, as will the entire family.

Dan McGinley - April 07 at 01:25 PM

NH

“ Sarah, I'm so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. While watching the state hockey tournament, the broadcasters mentioned his name. Your dad sounds like he was a great man and, of course, legendary hockey coach! A life well-lived. Take care. ~Nadi Herriges (SCSU college roommate 😊)

Nadi Herriges - March 07, 2025 at 08:28 PM

RF

“ Coach Ike gave so many wonderful memories to so many young Edina hockey players and their families! He was a True Edina Hero! Thank You for All the Great Years! Love and Hugs s Bob , Karen , Christopher, Jessica and Peter Schwartzbauer

Robert Schwartzbauer family - January 30, 2025 at 04:28 PM

BB

“ Carol and I send our sincere sympathy to Laurie and family. I have always been grateful to Ike and Bart Larson for the opportunity to join them coaching hockey in the Edina Schools System in the 70's.

Bill Beste - January 30, 2025 at 11:05 AM

CK

“ Coaches Mike Randolph and Tom Klein purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Willard John Ikola.



Coaches Mike Randolph and Tom Klein - January 30, 2025 at 09:24 AM

KP

“ There was never -and will never be - a better ambassador for high school hockey . A legend in every sense of that word. My admiration for him is beyond words. Heaven is a richer place today. A great man.

Ken Pauly - January 30, 2025 at 09:19 AM

ER

“ I send my deepest sympathy to Laurie and her family. I will always treasure their visits to Sun City West Az to visit Willard's brother Ike and my sister Geri.

Elaine Runkel - January 29, 2025 at 08:24 PM

CC

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Ikola family from the Cossalter family in Eveleth Our father Clem would talk about the Hockey days in town with Ike and the hockey crew and Ike's Huge contribution to Minnesota hockey Rest in peace. Cal and Renee Cossalter

Cal Cossalter - January 29, 2025 at 11:56 AM

KD

“ Mari and I express our deep sympathy to Laurie and family. He was an incredible person and educator that I was privileged to work with over many years at South View. On my first day as a teacher in 1967 one of the first to welcome this young kid was Ike. I was so impressed with him from day one. I thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to learn from him as a football coach, luncheon supervisor and colleague. He cared for his students and athletes, always supportive and fair to all. He had an amazing career as an athlete and coach and earned every honor he amassed but his love of his family always was something we talked about in our time together. I feel blessed to have known him in many different roles and activities. May his love for all of you sustain you and give you peace. We are sad to miss the funeral in person as we are in Florida but will watch the livestream. Ken and Mari Dragseth

Ken Dragseth - January 28, 2025 at 09:49 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willard John Ikola.



January 28, 2025 at 06:08 PM

PK

“ Thank you, Mr. Ikola. You were THE BEST, I label my knowledge of Coach/Teacher Ikola as priceless! He was my 7th grade gym teacher. I was known as “Peanuts!” I did waaay LESS burpees than I should have. I spent a few years performing in the band (percussion section, Varsity Band, under the direction of Robert Elledge) at the hockey games (1969-71). Memories I cherish to this day! Phi Kjos EHS Class of 1971 and BS Music Ed. U of MN.

Phil Kjos - January 27, 2025 at 07:18 PM