



## John "Coach" DeNardo

June 24, 1925 - April 26, 2013

John "Coach" DeNardo, 87, went to be with the Lord on April 26, 2013. John was born in Pueblo, Colo., and graduated from Central High School. He was preceded in death by his parents, Pauline and Nick DeNardo; brothers, Louis and Sam; and sister, Mamie DeGrado. John is survived by his loving and dedicated wife of 66 years, Mary E. DeNardo; son, Sam (Christianne); daughter, Debbie (Bill) Been; grandchildren, Samantha and Michael; sister, Virginia Plowman; numerous nephews, nieces and special friends. John was a World War II veteran, and after serving with the United States Coast Guard, he attended Pueblo Junior College and Western State College, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees. He played football and wrestled at Western State. After teaching several years at the junior high level, he transferred to Pueblo County High School's opening year in 1954 as a teacher and coach. He was the first football coach and started the wrestling program. He later transferred to Pueblo South High, where he coached four sports, was a counselor and retired as the activities director. He also taught graduate level courses. He was a people person and through his coaching touched the lives and the hearts of many of his students. He had a genuine interest in all of his students and built strong relationships based on mutual respect that continued throughout his life. He cherished this relationship and often stated that his students and athletes touched his life as much as he touched theirs. His family was the center of his life — his heartbeat; his love was unconditional and absolute. His friends, students and athletes, his pulse — his loyalty and

pride never diminishing. Rosary will be at 6:30 p.m. today, May 1, 2013, and funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 2, 2013, both at the Shrine of St. Therese. Interment to follow at Roselawn Cemetery. Relatives and friends will be received at 1 p.m. at the Lady of the Meadows Church Hall. Donations in his honor may be made through the funeral home designated for the American Diabetes Association or the South High School Wrestling Foundation History Wall of Fame. Online memorials may be made at [www.roselawnpueblo.com](http://www.roselawnpueblo.com)

# Cemetery Details

## **Rosealwn Cemetery**

1706 Roselawn Rd  
Pueblo, CO 81006

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ Dear Aunt Mary, and family, I'm so sorry Carol & I weren't able to be with you in your hour of such monumental loss. We want you to know that we were and are with you in spirit.

*He was such a wonderful man, he loved all of you so very much and was so thankful to have all of you in his life. He so often made reference to how much he appreciated all of you and how much you all did for him and meant to him. Aunt Mary he gave you complete credit for his wonderful life and credited you with his longevity.*

*Like many others I wish I had told him how much I loved him and how much he meant to me. He not only was my Uncle but my God Father, my Mentor, my Best Friend and yes my Coach in golf & basketball one summer when I was in grade school.*

*He was a man of such great integrity and he made one feel so good when one was around him. He will be dearly missed. We were all so fortunate to have him in our lives for the time we did. He positively influenced so many people including us.*

*Carol & I will keep you all in our prayers and we will remember all the wonderful times we spent together. We send to you our deepest sympathy and our love,*

*Sonny (Carl) & Carol Bongirno*

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**Carl & Carol Bongirno** - May 09, 2013 at 02:26 PM

KM

“ May the love of those around you help you through the days ahead, our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

*Kipp Miller class of "64"*

*Sylvia (Hartman) Miller class of "67"*

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**Kipp Miller** - May 02, 2013 at 11:11 AM

GS

“ John "Coach" DeNardo was a special person in my life. He was my mentor when I played football in high school, chose teaching for my career, and became a coach. I will always remember his guidance, his compassion and his generosity. I don't think I told him often enough how much I appreciated his support.

*I was there when he was inducted into the GPSA Hall of Fame and it was because of his influence that I became an inductee as well. The memories that we shared will always be with me.*

*Mary, Sam and Debbie - you have lost someone very special and I cannot express how sorry I am for your loss.*

*Gary Salimeno and Family*

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**Gary Salimeno** - May 01, 2013 at 10:33 PM

SK

“ It has been an honor to know John over the years. Everyone had love and admiration for him. He has left a great legacy. John and Mary were like two peas in a pod. They were a loving and fun couple. Rest in peace, John. May God comfort Mary and the family during this time of sorrow. I was very lucky to have had the pleasure to know John.

*Shirley Krasovec*

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**SHIRLEY KRASOVEC** - May 01, 2013 at 04:01 PM

SM

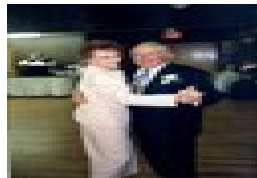
“ I had the pleasure of having Coach DeNardo as a golf and football coach in the 1970s. i have many great memories of golf trips in his old Cadillac with Kelly Tucker, Rick Pobst, Chuck Tadisco and Sam DeNardo. John touched the lives of many student athletes in Pueblo -- Godspeed Coach!  
Steve Moore  
Boulder

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**Steven Moore** - May 01, 2013 at 01:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Roselawn Funeral Home & Cemetery** - April 30, 2013 at 01:24 PM

BP

*I had the honor to get to know John, Mary and the family while recuperating from his fall. I was able to get to know John & Mary very well and share lots of their memories. The photo is so beautiful, and even after all these years Mary you never left John's side. (believe me, I know) except to get your hair done after lots of coaxing. You shared a beautiful life together after so many years. I got to see how lucky John was to have such a supportive family who loves him very much. He was so proud of his family and life accomplishments. Words cannot describe the sorrow I feel for you all at this moment. Just know that I've always been there spiritually, never far from my heart. I will never forget John as a patient and a friend. I am so glad God gave me the opportunity to meet such a noble man. May You All Always Walk with God and Never leave his side. God bless you all. Your friend, Bonnie Palma, RN*

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**Bonnie Palma** - May 01, 2013 at 11:25 AM



Ann  
Taibi

*John was a big part of my life growing up. He and my dad, Jim Daugherty, were great friends as were Mary and my mom. I have many fond memories of weekend wrestling trips with Debbie sitting next to me, crying together when one of our guys lost. He was the best storyteller. I will miss him very much. Prayers to Mary, Sam, Debbie and family.*

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**Ann Taibi** - May 01, 2013 at 07:38 PM



*Godspeed Mr. D.*

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**David Carlo** - May 02, 2013 at 01:08 AM



JS

*Coach John DeNardo was always such a positive influence. I attended my first Class Reunion, our 45th, and he was there. I had not seen him since graduation but he came up to me, grabbed me around the neck in the old familiar wrestling hold and asked me by name why I had stayed away so long. After all those years he remembered my name. May his memory never be forgotten.*  
*John Sandoval*

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**John Sandoval** - May 02, 2013 at 11:28 AM



TB

*Recently found out down here in Arizona of John's passing. I enjoyed my time with John working with him during the summer school Driver Ed. program. Also, the many times we had visiting about our experiences coaching football. My heart goes out to John's family.*

*Coach Tom Brockman*

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**Tom Brockman** - May 07, 2013 at 10:32 AM