

MIKE CLAYTON

May 6, 1948 – March 9, 2022



Mike Clayton, who was one of the best student-athletes to ever graduate from Port Angeles High School, passed away peacefully on March 9th, 2022 at his home in Gardiner at the age of 73 after a long bout with pancreatic cancer.

Clayton was an All-State basketball player at Port Angeles High School on the team that finished second in the state, the highest finish by a PA basketball team ever. In addition, he was one of 15 students who were recognized as No. 1 in their class by PAHS during graduation.

An RC Cola honorable mention All-America in high school, he was a 4-year starter at Western Washington University. When he graduated, he was the all-time leading scorer for WWU, the 1970 Western Athlete of the Year, and later was named to the WWU Hall of Fame.

Upon graduation, he went on to be the starting guard and received his Master's Degree in Cultural Anthropology at the University of the Americas in Mexico. While there, they had victories over LSU and Oregon State.

From there he went on to play pro basketball in Sweden for the City of Gothenborg, and in 1973 was invited to try out for the Portland Trailblazers, and was the last player cut from the squad before they began regular season play.

He later was recognized as one of the best slow-pitch softball players in Washington State, served as the head basketball coach at Peninsula College from 1977 to 1979, and in his 60's was a 1 handicap golfer, which was a lifelong passion.

Clayton was born on May 6, 1948, in Port Angeles, and attended Jefferson Elementary School and Roosevelt Junior High. He was a standout badminton player for Vern Burton's standout Port Angeles teams, finishing second in the nation in mixed doubles in the 13 and under division in 1961.

He taught elementary P.E. and worked as a golf pro in Arizona and Seattle, and retired to Port Angeles. Later in life, he became a devout Christian and a very active member of the Bethany Pentacostal Church and a bible study group at the Independent Bible Church.

Mike is survived by his daughter Jennie, granddaughter Sadie, son-in-law Jason, former wife Kellie, brother Terry, sister Susan and an exceptional group of friends. He was preceded in death by his sister Dorothy. Mike Clayton was an amazing Dad and Papa to his granddaughter. He enjoyed time spent in nature, especially hiking, and had a wonderful ability to appreciate the simple things in life like a good cup of coffee on a sunny morning and the changing seasons. He loved his family, playing cribbage and scrabble, and all sports- remaining undefeated against his daughter in a foot race sprint for his entire life.

In lieu of flowers, Mike would have loved to have donations to his granddaughter Sadie's college fund. Gifts can be made at www.ugift529.com, enter Ugift code 34H-G87, or by check.

Please hug your children and grandchildren extra tight at your next opportunity in honor of Mike. He gave the best hugs.

A service will be held on April 23rd at 1 p.m. at the Bethany Pentacostal Church, followed by a celebration of life at Seven Cedars Casino.