

2023 Hall of Fame Bios

Morris “Morrie” Ness – Teacher and Coach, 1948-1962

Service was at the core of who Morris “Morrie” Ness was. The desire to help others was evident early in his adulthood when the Kenyon, Minn. native graduated from Luther College early so that he could join the Navy. On D-Day Morrie valiantly escorted Gen. Bradley safely ashore during the harrowing event. He proudly served in the Navy from 1943 to 1947 and continued in the Naval Reserves until his retirement as a commander in 1964. It was in 1948 an opportunity to teach at New Ulm High School arose, and Morrie jumped into the teaching career with gusto. He served in many teaching roles at NUHS from social studies and history to physical education. He was also a winning basketball coach and football coach. He was integral to the early success of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church and was involved in building the church at its current site. Morrie taught at NUHS until 1962 when he sought to further his education in guidance counseling. He and his wife, Dee, and children, David, Steven, and Julie moved to Excelsior. He attended graduate school at the University of Minnesota, receiving a master's degree. He went on to become a guidance counselor at Wayzata High School and served as department head. Morrie retired in 1982 and spent his winters with his wife Dee in sunny San Diego. Being close to the ocean and the nearby Naval base was a great fit for retirement. Morrie passed away in 2011 but his legacy remains. His service to our country, the students he taught, and his guidance has left an indelible mark on all the lives he touched.