



John Andrew Suren

November 2, 1920 - December 4, 2015

John A. Suren, 95, passed away on Friday, December 4, 2015, at Greenfield Reflections in Strasburg, Virginia.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Patricia Lindsley; three brothers; and two sisters. He is survived by daughters, Patricia Bankert and her husband, Bill, of Winchester, Virginia; Zan Deitz and her husband, John, of Charleston, South Carolina; Marti Evans and her husband, Joe, of Manassas, Virginia; and Joann Reed and her husband, Kevin, of Culpeper, Virginia. Mr. Suren is also survived by five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A graduate of Shelton High School in Shelton, Connecticut, Mr. Suren was president of his class and earned 12 letters in athletics. Mr. Suren received his B.S. and M.A. degrees at the University of Alabama. He played football and baseball at the University and was a Phi Delta Kappa student. Mr. Suren and his wife had a great love for the University throughout their entire lives, especially to Crimson Tide football teams. Roll Tide!

Mr. Suren and his wife met while they were in the service during World War II. They were married in Newton, New Jersey on November 30, 1946.

Mr. Suren retired in 1985 after 38 years as an athletic coordinator, coach, and

teacher. He also served as a baseball scout for the Cleveland Indians. He spent 26 years in the Prince William County School System. He was the first athletic coordinator at the original Gar-Field High School, which opened in 1953. In addition to coaching football and basketball, Mr. Suren coached and scouted hundreds of baseball players, an experience he greatly enjoyed.

Mr. Suren is a Veteran of World War II. He received the VFW Medal of Honor and the American Legion Citation for Meritorious Service. When he retired in 1985, President Ronald Reagan honored him with an autographed photo which he delighted in showing to people. He was also proud of an autographed photo he received from Coach Don Shula on the occasion of his record setting 325th victory as a professional football coach. In 2010, the Prince William County School Board voted to name the Gar-Field High School baseball field, John A. Suren field, an honor which Mr. Suren deeply appreciated.

During the course of his life, Mr. Suren was a member of the NEA, the VEA, and the PWEA. He was commissioner of Babe Ruth baseball, a director of a boys and girls club, served on the Board of Directors for the YMCA, and was a recreation director. Mr. Suren also served on numerous educational committees. He was a charter member of the Woodbridge Lions Club.

Mr. Suren and his wife loved to travel, read, and spend precious time with family and friends. They toured the United States twice, each time for six weeks. Mr. Suren received great pleasure and was humbled by the visits he received from individuals he coached and taught since the beginning of his career, many of whom kept in contact with him until his death. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas. A Mass of

Christian burial will be offered at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at All Saints Catholic Church, 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas. Interment will follow at Stonewall Memory Gardens, 12004 Lee Highway, Manassas, with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Children's Miracle Network at Children's Hospital, 111 Michigan Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010 in the name of Brooke Rosenberg in memory of her great-grandfather, John Suren. Family and friends are welcome to donate online in Mr. Suren's honor using the following link.

<http://childrensnational.org/giving/partners/childrens-miracle-network#dvDonateForm>

Cemetery Details

Stonewall Memory Gardens

12004 Lee Highway
Manassas, VA 20109
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 9. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall

SS

“ I was just thinking about Coach Suren today for some reason. He was tough, but had a heart of gold. I saw him at the grocery store many years ago. I approached him and he recognized me right away. What a good man and influential person in my life. Continue to Rest In Peace Coach❤️

Scott Stanley - September 26, 2022 at 12:52 PM

MS

“ Wonderful man..good, tough Coach! Great for kids...bless hm and his.

Mary Sonksen - December 14, 2015 at 11:00 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Gar-Field Senior High School



Mike Meadows - December 13, 2015 at 04:49 PM

RC

“ What a wonderful, accomplished man who set a wonderful example for all of his students. RIP Coach.
Ruth Caton Chun, G-FHS Class of 1962

Ruth Caton Chun - December 09, 2015 at 06:24 PM

BD

“ Coach Suren will always be enshrined among my heroes at Gar-Field High. Beside that, I seem to recall that he was a neighbor in Marumsco Village. He always wanted the best out of his athletes, not only on-the field- but also in character off-the-field. RIP.

Bernie Donahue
GFHS '62

Bernie Donahue - December 09, 2015 at 04:42 PM

TS

“ Dear Suren family, please accept my deepest sympathy. I am Tibor Surin your Dad's immigrant cousin from Hungary (1956). The simple, but positive message given to me by "Uncle John" (as I called him) :

"Tibi, stay true to your family and be a good man as you make your life in America"

Thank you Uncle John, those words guided me through the years and did my best to live up to your advise and hopefully, added a positive chapter to the Suren family name.

Rest in peace Uncle John, you have left a great legacy. See you in Heaven.

Tibor G Surin - December 09, 2015 at 11:55 AM

JJ

“ Condolences to the family on Coach passing. I love and respected him, he had a great influence on my life. I played football and baseball for Coach Suren at Occoquan District High School in the 50's.

James Barbee, Jr.

James Barbee Jr. - December 09, 2015 at 06:15 AM

KR

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Kevin D Reed - December 08, 2015 at 10:07 PM

KR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kevin D Reed - December 08, 2015 at 09:44 PM

TF

“ The Pennington Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of John Andrew Suren.



The Pennington Family - December 08, 2015 at 09:01 AM

MD

“ I did not personally know coach, through family, friends and as a Gar-Field Alumni, I heard many wonderful things. He was truly loved and respected by all and rightfully deserved it. Rest in peace.

Mickey Dent - December 08, 2015 at 06:30 AM

JD

i played football and baseball for Coach Suren only one year in the mid-1950s before my family moved to New jersey, but he had a lifetime of positive influence on my life. I loved him; he will always be my coach.

Jimmy Deegan

Jimmy Deegan - December 08, 2015 at 04:28 PM

PI

“ We are sorry to hear of Coaches passing. He was one of my very favorite patients for 20 years. He also coached my husband in the 1970's, and always gave him rides home from practice. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers..Mike and Pam Isner..the picture below was taking at his last visit..😊



Pam Isner - December 07, 2015 at 07:49 PM

ME

“ 13 files added to the album Dad



Marti Evans - December 07, 2015 at 06:49 PM



“ *Condolences to the family. My husband had great respect for Coach. I still have the letters he wrote to Billy a few years back.*

Janie Bauckman

Jane Bauckman - December 07, 2015 at 06:05 PM

BP

“ *Coach Suren was a dear friend and a mentor for me in our years coaching together at Stonewall Middle School. He helped formulate my coaching philosophy as well as serving as a strong second father image for me. I count as blessed our years of friendship and will miss him. Go Tide!*

Bill Ponn - December 07, 2015 at 04:06 PM

JC

I was taught and coached by Coach Suren (and Coach Ponn) at Stonewall Middle in the mid-70s. They each left lasting influences on my life, for which I'm thankful to this day a half century later. 🙏

Joe Corderman - June 04, 2025 at 01:01 PM

JR

“ *2 files added to the album Dad*



Joann Reed - December 07, 2015 at 07:34 AM