

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
ROBERT BRUCE HICKS
(July 12, 1921 — November 24, 2012)

Robert Bruce Hicks passed away on Nov. 24, 2012, at the age of ninety-one. Born on July 12, 1921, in Hazleton, PA, Bob was proud of the fact that he grew up in the anthracite coal region of eastern Pennsylvania. It was there that he began a life-long love of teaching and athletics.

He was a standout college athlete who earned a football scholarship to the University of Tennessee to play for General Robert Neyland. World War II interrupted his college years, and he served in the U.S. Navy during the war. After completion of his naval duties, he returned to Tennessee to finish his degree and athletic playing career.

Bob began his teaching and football coaching career at Milan High School in Tennessee and Spartanburg High School in South Carolina. He entered the college coaching ranks as an assistant at the University of Wyoming, helping to bring the program to prominence before accepting an assistant coach and lecturer position at Indiana. He subsequently served for sixteen years as a football coach for intercollegiate athletics and part-time lecturer in the Department of Kinesiology.

His coaching career was highlighted by a 1967 Big Ten Co-Championship and Indiana's singular Rose Bowl appearance versus the University of Southern California. Both Phil Dickens and John Pont utilized his coaching skills. Additionally, he served one year as acting Head Coach for Indiana.

At the conclusion of his coaching career Bob was appointed as Assistant Athletic Director for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and continued as a lecturer for the Department of Kinesiology. He subsequently assumed the role of Coordinator of Facilities and Instructor in Physical Education for the School of Public Health (then HPER) in 1978. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, Kiwanis Club, and Alpha

Tau Omega fraternity. He retired as the Director for Program Services and Facilities and also as a part-time Instructor in 1986.

Bob was a teacher at heart, taking his experience of athletic competition and using it as a means to instill valuable life lessons in the classroom. Through his creative efforts, work ethic and energetic personality he delighted in the relationships he maintained with the many students and student-athletes he mentored. Known for his optimism and cheerful disposition, he was a dedicated to his family, including nine grandchildren. Bob's life serves as an inspiration for his family and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Throughout his distinguished career, Bob always described himself by stating, "I am a coach in the field of education." His ever positive outlook on life, his refreshing concept of the nature of sport and its impact on youth, and his professional zeal has served as an example for many of his fellow professionals in HPER.

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