

## Don Burgess - VHS Class of 1952



Donald Burgess at the age of 85 died peacefully on February 6, 2018 in Victoria, BC surrounded by family. Predeceased by his brothers Art (Dorothy), Andy, Tommy (Judy) and sister Margie, Don is survived by his wife of 60 years Barbara; his children Lisa, Doug (Errin), and Mike (Mary); his grandchildren Trevor, Alison, Kate, Avery and Sadi; and great-grandchildren Hayden and Harper. He also leaves his sister Mary (Ron), numerous nieces and nephews, many friends and his beloved dog Riley. Don and Barb were married in 1957 in Victoria, BC. Don enjoyed spending time with his family. After retirement in 1998, he and Barb enjoyed time together traveling and gardening. Don was an accomplished athlete, teacher and coach. He received his education from Western Washington University and taught for many years at Mt. Newton and Parkland Secondary Schools. He was passionate about physical education, coaching, and his students, and had a positive impact on many people during his career. He had a genuine interest in his students' welfare, and thought nothing about going above and beyond if necessary. Don's lifelong passion for rugby started at an early age and continued throughout his life. "Burge" as he was known shared his enthusiasm, knowledge, experience and wisdom with athletes at all levels. His coaching and playing experience ranged from local teams to the International community. His contributions to the sport of rugby were numerous, and he was a well-respected coach and friend to many people. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. The family wishes to thank the staff at Luther Court, SPH, as well as Dr. David Barry and Dr. Alec Walton for their kind and compassionate care. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society, #202-306 Burnside Rd W, Victoria, BC V8Z-1M1. Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.mccallgardens.com](http://www.mccallgardens.com).