

Representing Jim tonight are his three children, Nick, MaryAnne, and Jay. They first would like to thank the Tornado Hall of Fame Committee for this tremendous honor and recognition of their father.

Jim was born a Clearwater native and lived his youth on Clearwater Beach with his family. Jim played Center for the Tornado football team and gained recognition for being one of the best offensive linemen in the county. He was often called “Big Jimmy” for Jim was known as one of the first players to take a high interest in weightlifting in his youth, and he was recognized for his large physique and strength on the field. After graduating he was offered a scholarship to play for Ole Miss.

After marrying, he attended Florida State University and graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in physical education. He was a devout follower of FSU football and an admirer of Coach Bobby Bowden. He taught physical education in Pinellas County for 35 years. He loved his job because he loved kids. Many of his students remember him for his mentorship in many sports activities. They also still remember the organs, bones, and muscles of the human body which he taught to his classes year after year. He coached little league baseball and middle school basketball. He always encouraged his players to play fair and do their best!

If Jim would have been with us tonight, and you asked him what his greatest accomplishment was, he would tell you it was his six grandchildren. Justin, Brooke, Parker, Nicole, Gavin, and Gabriella who called him Papou and they immensely enjoyed the teasing and the fun he brought to them.

Jim passed away on September 5, 2021, at the age of 77. The recognition given our father this evening will forever cement his legacy at Clearwater High. Thank you!