

JIM ROSS

Jim Ross was born in December 1931, in the small borough of Huntingdon Pennsylvania located about 90 miles west of Harrisburg. His grandfather was the sheriff in Huntington County, and his dad was the town barber. An Italian immigrant, his dad taught his sons to cut hair, which supplemented the family finances. He grew up the middle child of 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Robertsdale High was his school alma mater where he graduated in 1949. He enjoyed finances and math so off he went to Shippensburg State College where he received his undergraduate degree in business law. He married his college sweetheart, Joanne, and after graduating, enlisted in the Army where the couple resided in Germany for two years. Upon completing his tenure in the Army, Jim and Joanne moved to Northern Virginia, where he attended American University and completed his masters degree in the business field. Jim and his wife raised two children who are currently working in the field of education. Jim's career in public education began in the mid 1950's where he started teaching the 7th grade at Woodlawn Elementary School in Fairfax County. In those days, most elementary schools contained kindergarten through the eighth grade. His enjoyment of finances transitioned him to teach business courses at Lee and Edison High Schools for several more years before moving into school administration. He then became an assistant principal and also spent a year as principal at Groveton High. Moving into the central administrative office, Jim's interest and compassion for students led him to become a valuable team member, working on a myriad of special projects. After a very successful career with FCPS, he retired in the mid 1980's. His interests, in addition to finances and business, led him to build his own home and that of his son. However, his major enjoyment and love during retirement was becoming an active member of an organization called Northern Virginia Athletic Directors Administrators and Coaches Association (NVADACA). His expertise and interest in the stock market led him to become the investment/financial manager for the organization. Under his leadership, NVADACA built its scholarship portfolio. As a result of his vision and prudent investment decisions, today NVADACA has a very solid scholarship fund, creating the opportunity for many student athletes in Northern Virginia to continue their education at the collegiate level. Mr. Ross passed away in the fall of 2019, leaving his wife and a son and daughter. Because of his dedication to young people and his significant role with NVADACA, the organization is honored to present a scholarship in his memory to recognize and aid deserving student athletes.