

Lyons remembered at memorial

SEEN FROM SEASIDE
R.J. MARX



It was appropriate that the crowd for Raphael “Stubby” Lyons’ memorial assembled at Broadway Field, the playing fields the late coach helped to create.

“He had a key role in the renovation of this field,” Mayor Jay Barber said on Saturday morning. “Stubby and his wife, Sharee, have impacted so many lives over their years of teaching and community service, and especially supporting and caring for the children and youth of our community.”

Barber was among the many speakers to recall the career of a man who made a difference to thousands of Seaside High School students. Lyons died on Dec. 25 at 86.

Former coach Jim Auld called the day a celebration. “Just a reminder, the sorrow and sadness and the mourning, that was six and seven months ago,” he said. “This is a celebration.”

Lyons’ family moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1942, when Stubby was 7.

As a 20-year-old Marine, Lyons spent 14 months in Korea as a military officer in the demilitarized zone.

His teaching and coaching career began at 35, first in Nevada, then Washington state.

Arriving in Seaside in 1980, he served as assistant for Auld before taking the football head coach role.

In 1994, the Gulls won their second championship, defeating Brookings-Harbor High 27-14 in Eugene — a score posted on the Broadway Field scoreboard for the memorial on Saturday.

“Now we all have memories of coach Lyons, for that is his gift to us,” said Casey Jackson, who was a running back with the Gulls’ 1994 team.

“Coach Lyons now lives within each and every one of us,” Jackson said. “He lives in our hearts and in our souls. So I encourage you all to keep his spirit alive by reliving those memories and sharing them to others.”

Lyons’ words provided inspiration to his athletes.

“If I ever felt defeated and wanted to quit, he simply just said, ‘Tape an aspirin to it,’” Jackson said. “Those locker room speeches taught me to never give up. I learned how to be somebody and get fired up. In 1994, we were the champions from the coast — let us never forget who loves you most. I love you,

Photos by Jeff TerHar
ABOVE: Crowd at Broadway Field remembers coach Stubby Lyons. RIGHT: Ben Archibald and Adam Israel share a moment. Both were on the 1994 Gulls’ state championship team. At right, Kristi Israel.

coach. Rest in peace.”

Former Gulls’ football star Kyle Camberg said he did not come to the memorial because of Lyons’ wins and losses. “I’m here because of how much he cared about all of us,” he said. “He really had a special gift for getting kids to turn out and feel like they’re a part of something bigger than themselves and that they had a family.”

If you could play a little bit, he certainly recruited you, Camberg said. “And if you didn’t have a single solitary athletic bone in your body, he found a spot for you doing something else. It didn’t matter if you were the star, or somebody that didn’t get in the game or the manager, you were part of the family,” he said. “And that’s a huge thing: really being part of the family.”

Along with coaching, Lyons taught “everything” at Seaside High School, Camberg said, English, U.S. history, personal finance, a law class.

Connie Benson, a lawyer, said Lyons taught her “first-ever law course.” “And he taught that class with as much passion as he brought to the football field,” she said. “And he helped me to see that the law was exciting and fun.”

Benson, whose passion was dance, said not only athletes found motivation from Lyons.



“Coach worked to remind them that they had gifts, and were truly wonderful, even if they weren’t making the game-winning touchdown,” she said. “Where he found the time, I have no idea. But it’s a driving force that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

Lyons retired from teaching in 1999 and entered a period of community service and civic involvement.

A lifetime member of the Marine Corps League, Elks, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, he won election to the City Council in 2000.

“He was a strong advocate for civility and decorum,” Barber said. “He served as council president for several of his 14 years on the council. And he, by the way, was recognized for his leadership not just here in Seaside but

statewide by the League of Oregon Cities. In 2003, he was presented their education and community service award during their annual meeting — a really high recognition of his service. He was a prime mover in many areas of improvement in the city.”

After the remembrances, the hundreds of family members, former students and visitors heard taps played by Dain Cowan.

“This is certainly a case of the world being a lesser place without you in it,” Lance Lyons, Stubby’s son, said in his remarks. “But today we finally get to hopefully take a small step forward in that and honoring you and your amazing life as you so well deserve. Today, you come back home, to Broadway Field, a place where it all began, a place where your legacy started. This place right here was your sanctuary.”

HONORING RAPHAEL “STUBBY” LYONS

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Lance Lyons remembers his dad

Seaside Signal

Lance Lyons delivered these words in honor of his father, Raphael “Stubby” Lyons, at Broadway Field last Saturday.

First off, my family and I would like to thank everyone for their time and efforts to make this happen today. Coach Auld, Coach Hamer and Skyler Archibald, thank you! We will always be grateful and appreciate you all.

I’ve always wondered especially as the years went on, how I’m going to get through today. In my life, today was the day I feared the most. But, there are a few things I would like to say and I wrote it down, because I don’t want to miss anything.

The last seven months without you Dad has been challenging to say the least. Processing your loss has been hard. I feel numb, like it’s not even real. I guess maybe, I just don’t want to accept it and I don’t know if I ever will. You were that one person that this world and me personally needed and wanted to live forever. This is certainly a case of the world being a lesser place without you in it, Dad.

But today we finally (hopefully) take a small step forward with that in honoring you and your amazing life, as you so well deserve. You always taught Lacy and I and others that its bigger than



Lacy Pannebaker, Vanessa Underhill, Karen Lyons and Lance Lyons.

one person. You taught about brotherhood and sisterhood, about the team, about giving a damn about one another and about giving back. But, today it’s about you and it’s your day. Today you come back home to Broadway field. A place where it all began, a place where your legacy started. This place right here...this was your sanctuary.

We have a group of speakers who I’m sure will talk about your legacy as a coach, teacher, leader, mentor, and friend. We will forever be thankful for that and for them. We are truly thankful to have so many people who truly loved our Dad. It warms our hearts. Sometimes when I find myself deep in thought about you, which is often. I become emotional when I think about the respect so many people have for you. People just didn’t like you Dad, they loved you.

You positively impacted

countless lives from all walks of life during your time and your legacy will live on for generations to come. You had a great ability to reach people and make people feel seen, important, loved and made them feel that they were apart of something. You gave people the greatest gift you can give someone, you believed in them. You gave them a chance when not many other teachers, coaches or even their own parents did. When they at times didn’t even believe in themselves or their own futures, you believed in them. You brought the best out of people. Something this community and world for that matter so desperately needs again.

As a father you were on another level. I feel like someone would be hidden for the past 30 to 40 years not to know the love and relationships you had with Lacy and I. We had a private bond that a father and children could only

dream or hope of having.

Dad, in many ways you were a perfect father. I know you loved us and we deeply loved and respected you. You were always proud of us and we were damn proud to have a father like you. You had a busy and demanding schedule, as so many others wanted and needed your time and attention. But, yet, you always made us your number one priority ... always. You were deeply involved in our lives from the day we were born, all through our adult lives. You were always there for us right by our side and we were always there for you, right by your side. We always loved to walk by your side, but always learned the most when we walked behind you.

Even though you aren’t with us physically, I can close my eyes and I can feel your presence. Your hugs, your humor, hear your voice and words of reassurance that everything is going to be OK.

They always had a higher power and meaning to them and I can hear one of your many lines, “now damnit listen to me.”

We know we will see you again. Our love for you is as strong in death as it is in life. While physically we have to let go, we never will emotionally. You were an amazing father. We love you deeply and will never forget what you did for us and taught us. You were all these things Dad and in many ways, still are and always will be.

Death leaves us a heart-ache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal. Time is simply how you live your life and the difference you make in this world. It’s about the baton being passed to the next generation. That it takes a team and you can’t go at it alone. The future will never remember what was in your bank account or what car you drove. The future will remember that wild ride of life, where you believed in others and left a gift behind. That gift was your amazing life, Dad. Your fingerprints, impact and legacy in this world will live on forever. You left know doubt, that I know for sure. You were a blessing from God and my hero!

Thank you for being our father and the GOAT:

The Greatest Of All Time!
Rest in paradise, Dad!
We love you always and forever

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

MONDAY, JULY 26

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, JULY 27

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Gearhart City Council and Small Business Committee work session, 6:30 p.m., www.cityofgearhart.com.

TUESDAY, AUG. 3

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Library Board of Directors, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway St.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4

Seaside Improvement Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

THURSDAY, AUG. 5

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

MONDAY, AUG. 9

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., cityofseaside.us.

THURSDAY, AUG. 12

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., cityofgearhart.us.

TUESDAY, AUG. 17

Gearhart Small Business Committee, 6 p.m., cityofgearhart.com.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., work session, 989 Broadway.



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