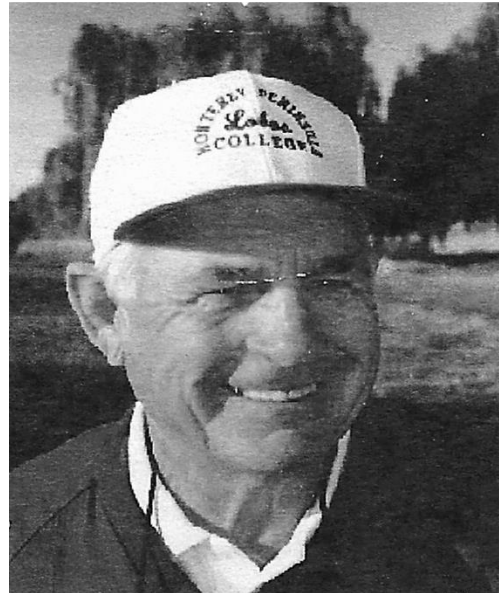


Luke Phillips

1927- 2019

ATHLETE, COACH, COMMUNITY SERVICE

Luke Phillips grew up in Monterey. His maternal grandparents, Antonio and Carlotta Turano, were Italian immigrants who settled in Monterey in the late 1890s. They raised ten children, including Luke's mother, Modesta Turano, who married Luther Phillips, a cavalry soldier stationed at the Presidio of Monterey. During his teenage years, Luke and his brother, Tom, were raised by a large circle of Italian relatives—grandparents, aunts and uncles—who taught them the customs and traditions that were an important part of their Italian heritage.



Luke attended Del Monte Elementary School, Walter Colton Junior High and Monterey High School, where he became active in sports, especially football. He played on the Monterey Union High School football teams coached by Hal Youngman during the 1943, 1944 and 1945 seasons.

After graduation from MUHS Luke attended Monterey Peninsula College and was co-captain of MPC's first football team in 1947. During those years, he formed close relationships with mostly young Italian and Spanish friends and their families and remained friends with them his entire life. After MPC he transferred to University of California, Berkeley, and was a member of Cal's 1949 and 1950 Rose Bowl teams coached by Pappy Waldorf. He was then drafted into the Army during the Korean War and played on Fort Ord's military service championship teams in 1951 and

1952. After his honorable discharge from the Army Luke enrolled at San Jose State (now called San Jose State University), where he received his start in coaching as a student assistant for Coach Bob Bronzan, whose staff also included a graduate assistant named Bill Walsh—the future coach of the San Francisco 49ers.

Luke graduated from San Jose State with a BA degree and teaching credentials in physical education. He was hired by Monterey Peninsula College as assistant football coach for Bill Abbey in 1957 and in 1962 became head coach and served in that capacity for 23 years, for a total of 28 years at MPC.

During his tenure as MPC head coach aided by assistants Chris Pappas, Tor Spinder and Rich Kezirian, Luke's teams compiled a 161-69 win-loss record that included two Northern California championships and four conference titles.

Luke was most proud of the long list of former players who graduated from MPC, transferred to four-year schools, excelled in athletics, earned a degree and became successful and productive citizens. After retiring from coaching football, he served an additional 14 years coaching MPC's intercollegiate golf team that won a state championship, five Northern California championships and eight conference titles. Luke finally retired in 1999 after 42 years of teaching and coaching.

Luke authored the official code of ethics adopted by the California Community College Football Coaches Association. In 1997 he was inducted into the California Community College Football Coaches Hall of Fame, and in 2013 he was inducted into the California Community College Golf Coaches Hall of Fame, becoming the first individual honored by two California community college coaches halls of fame.

Recently the Monterey Peninsula College stadium was named the Pappas Phillips Community Stadium, honoring Luke and his close friend and assistant coach, the late Chris Pappas, athletic director/supportive services instructor. It is believed to be the only stadium in the nation named for two individuals. The name was approved by the MPC Governing Board following established policy after an overwhelming show of community support through a letter and phone call campaign from

community leaders, former students and athletes, coaches, teachers and administrators.



Luke was married to Victoria Samora Phillips, who was the executive assistant for the presidents of MPC and its governing board during the last 23 years of her 43-year career at the community college. The Phillips family consists of six children--Shelly, Jeff, David, Cindy, Susan and Keri Nicole--14 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.

In retirement Luke and Victoria were actively involved in the MPC Foundation, the MPC Alumni Committee and the MPC Boosters Club. They were both active members of the Italian Catholic Federation Branch #36.

ITALIAN HERITAGE HONOREE 2015