



Mike and Linda Helfrich

Mike was a graduate of North Eugene High School and Southern Oregon College and served in the U.S. Marines. He retired as a vice president of US Bank after 25 years. He was a past president of Jaycees, Lions, Kiwanis, Booster Clubs and Brookings, Ashland and Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Rogue Valley and Coos Country Club. Mike was active in the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board as vice chairman and budget committee, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay and budget committee, Charleston Advisory Committee, Bay Area Sportsman's Association, Coos Bay-North Bend Visitor and Convention Bureau, South Coast Marine Reserve Recommendation Committee, Coos County Urban Renewal and Southwestern Oregon Community College.

Linda Helfrich, who was a beloved teacher and sports mom long before her son became Oregon's head football coach. Linda, like her two sisters, suffered from Huntington's disease, a genetic disorder that has no cure.

In Coos Bay, she spent her career as an elementary school teacher. And she spent countless hours supporting her sons Mark and John in their sports and other activities. That included a lot of transportation and cleaning uniforms as Mark and John grew up as multi-sport athletes — John was a soccer and basketball player and golfer and Mark also played basketball, in addition to being Marshfield's quarterback.

The Mike Helfrich Memorial Scholarship was established by his family after he passed away in 2011 and since her passing in January, 2015, it was re-named the Mike & Linda Helfrich Memorial Scholarship. Mike and Linda felt that athletics was an important foundation that teaches children valuable life lessons. The family felt that it was important that this scholarship should go to a student who participated in at least one varsity sport and who demonstrated the character traits of dedication, determination, commitment and sacrificing with and for others.

Mike believed so deeply in these principles that for over 30 years he made sure students had a healthy, structured athletic environment at Marshfield High School. He served as Booster Club President and was an unpaid volunteer football coach for 15 years. He announced wrestling matches and attended games for every sport. In the late 80's early 90's when there wasn't enough money budgeted for athletics he helped fund participation fees for needing students who otherwise might not have been able to participate. When the determination was made to rebuild the stadium and install Field Turf he championed that raising over \$1 million dollars through his ties at US Bank.