



Ramon Edward De Cola

September 17, 1930 - April 3, 2017

Ramon (Ray) E. DeCola, 86, of Columbus, Ohio, peacefully passed away with his family at his side on April 3, 2017.

He was born September 17th, 1930 in Shadyside, Ohio to Lucy and Dominic DeCola. Ray graduated from Shadyside High School and West Liberty State College, earning a degree in education. He proudly served in the US Army during the Korean War and was stationed in Germany. After serving in the Army, Ray taught for over 50 years in the Ohio public schools.

Over 24 years, he coached football for New Albany, St. Mary's, Johnstown, and Urbana High Schools. He was a football and tennis coach at Urbana High School for 12 years with many winning seasons. He then started the Urbana University football program where he was the head coach for 4 years. In 2006, he was inducted into the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Ray continued to keep busy in his retirement by volunteering for local food pantries and tutoring students at the Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center. Ray also volunteered extensively for the coaches at The Ohio State University's football recruiting program. He enjoyed attending OSU games with his family, and was a dedicated brother, father, father-in-law, grandfather, and great-grandfather, committed to celebrating his family's life events.

He is survived by 3 sons - Greg DeCola (Nancy) of Springfield, OH, Doug DeCola (Paula) of Ney, OH, and David DeCola (Renee Thorsvold) –of Dublin, OH, 6 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, countless friends, former students

he taught and athletes he coached.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Thomas and Eugene. Visitation will be held from 2:00-8:00 pm with a prayer service at 6:00 pm, on Friday, April 7th, 2017, at Rutherford Funeral Home, 450 W. Olentangy Rd, Powell, OH. A funeral mass will be held at St. Peter Catholic Church, 6899 Smoky Row Rd, Columbus, on Saturday, April 8th at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to HEART Food Pantry of Reynoldsburg or Urbana High School Athletics.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Mass

APR 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Roman Catholic Church
6899 Smoky Row Road
Columbus, OH 43235
<http://www.stpetercolumbus.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Ramon Edward De Cola*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *To Greg, Doug and David:*

It was not only a pleasure to know your father, but it was a great honor to be a player under his tenure at Urbana High School. He could truly inspire us when we were down and his method of coaching has stayed with me to this day. All of you will be in my thoughts and prayers

Bill Caccia

Bill Caccia - April 08, 2017 at 01:59 PM



Thank you Bill for your kind words. My dad will be greatly missed by all!

Douglas De Cola - April 09, 2017 at 10:33 AM

TA

“ Greg, Doug and David, I don't know you personally, but I know you are all great men. You would have to be to carry the name DeCola. I've known your father since I was a kid living in the south end and he coached the neighborhood hero, Mike Montler at St. Mary's High. Mike went on to NFL Fame with the Bills and Broncos. Much of who Mike became he owed to your father.

I was blessed to sit with your dad for hours, watching tape in the recruiting office at Ohio State. He had a keen eye for talent and could find players that some of us missed. What I admired most about your father was his total devotion to young people. He worked with the kids no one else wanted to be around. He lived his life like a disciple of Christ would have. Everyone else came first. He taught me so much more than football and evaluating talent. He taught me what is really important in life, serving others. He truly lived the mantra, Blessed to be a Blessing.

We have lost a great man, but God has gained a great Angel. Be at peace knowing he is with the Angels and Saints in God's Kingdom.

Todd Alles - April 07, 2017 at 03:56 PM

DC

*Todd,
We want to thank you from the bottom of our broken hearts! Our Dad truly loved working for the Buckeyes! He also talked about many he worked with, you included! You gave him value letting him evaluate young athletes with you. As keen an eye he had for talent he had an even bigger heart for any Buckeye or anyone he might have coached through the years! Thank you again for your kind words!
Ray De Cola's Sons*

Douglas De Cola - April 09, 2017 at 10:43 AM

HU

“ God Bless/RIP. A heartfelt Thank YOU, Ray for your service in The United States Army, serving in Korea..... And Semper Fi..... Soldier.



Herb Guyer-Sharfenaker USMC - April 06, 2017 at 06:58 PM

DC

This is a great tribute to my father! Thank you!

Douglas De Cola - April 06, 2017 at 11:28 PM

SP

“ We love you Uncle Ramon!! You will be in our hearts forever!! xxxoooo Suellen and Gary



Suellen DeCola and Gary Perrine - April 06, 2017 at 12:28 PM

DC

Thank you Suellen and Gary!

Douglas De Cola - April 09, 2017 at 10:45 AM

GR

“ Doug & Family,

I don't believe I ever met you father but knowing you is a very good indication that he was a good man.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your loss.

Greg & Helen Reineke

Greg & Helen Reineke - April 06, 2017 at 09:50 AM

DC

Thank you Greg and Helen! He was (is) a great man!

Douglas De Cola - April 06, 2017 at 11:26 PM

SH

“ Doug and Paula - we are all thinking of you and are so sorry to hear of Dad's passing. He was such a good man-and will be missed by many. God Bless- and take care.

-the staff of Schaffer Funeral Home, Defiance.

Schaffer Funeral Home - April 06, 2017 at 07:45 AM

DC

Thank you everyone, from the best people to work with, for your understanding and support through this process I've had with my father. You are the best!

Douglas De Cola - April 06, 2017 at 09:02 AM

TS

“ We are so sorry for the loss of your father, our friend, coach, and mentor. We are currently out of the country on vacation and will be unable to make it back for the funeral. We are so sorry! We have a lot of great memories of such a wonderful person! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all! God bless! Chris and Teresa and Stokes

Teresa Stokes - April 05, 2017 at 07:57 PM

DC

Thank you Chris and Teresa

Douglas De Cola - April 05, 2017 at 11:33 PM



*“ Doug and family,
My prayers for you as you feel the pain of loss. I pray that you will find peace knowing that his race is done and won.
Blessings!
Jeff and Diane Mayer*

Jeff Mayer - April 05, 2017 at 04:03 PM

DD

Thank you Jeff

Douglas DeCola - April 05, 2017 at 11:34 PM

GB

“ Ray De Cola had such a strong positive impact on all of the athletes that were blessed to have him as a coach. Many of the lessons that I learned from Coach De Cola have stuck with me and provide guidance to this day. I'm confident that this is the case for everyone that he touched. I want to send my deepest condolences to Greg, Doug, David and the De Cola family. We are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers. My your father's memory be eternal.

Gary Burris

Gary Burris - April 05, 2017 at 01:36 PM

DD

Thank you Gary

Douglas DeCola - April 05, 2017 at 11:35 PM

CR

“ Coach DeCola touched many souls during his teaching and coaching career. His legacy will be carried on with all the students he taught and coached. Rest in Peace.

Chuck Raterman - Athletic Director at Urbana High School - Member of the 1977 undefeated football team that Coach DeCola inspired and coached.

Chuck Raterman - April 05, 2017 at 01:26 PM

DD

Thank you Chuck

Douglas DeCola - April 05, 2017 at 11:35 PM

WM

Guys... we are sorry for your loss. As you know Ray was a great coach and person and will surely be missed by all that knew him. Many of us played football for coach DeCola on New Albany's first undefeated championship team in 1960. Mr. DeCola also coached us in basketball, baseball and track. When I went through basic training in the Air Force I breezed right through because of the discipline and training he instilled in me. (I also had great support and training from my parents). We had a great visit with Ray last summer at our monthly get together at Harry Buffalo. Bill McKinney

William McKinney - April 06, 2017 at 11:58 AM

DC

*Bill,
Our Dad often talked about All his teams throughout the years! The 1960 New Albany undefeated team was his first and had a special place in his heart! Thank you for your kind words!
Ray De Cola's Sons*

Douglas De Cola - April 09, 2017 at 10:50 AM

JJ

*“ We were privileged to care for Mr. De Cola at Dodd Rehabilitation hospital and our sincere condolences go out to Renee and David and their family.
Dodd 4 Nursing Staff*

Janelle Janowiecki - April 05, 2017 at 08:58 AM



His hard work ethic, kindness, and closeness with his family was always apparent in our therapy sessions. Ray overcame many obstacles to achieve walking before he left Dodd Rehab. I think of the time I got to see his OSU football championship rings and despite all the successes in his life, he remained very humble. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Dan Sulka - April 05, 2017 at 10:26 AM

DC

*Dodd 4 Nursing Staff,
Thank you to all who cared for my father while he was at Dodd Hall.
You helped him have hope of a great recovery and your care was top notch.*

Douglas De Cola - April 05, 2017 at 12:10 PM

DD

Thank you Dodd Hall and Janelle and Dan

Douglas DeCola - April 05, 2017 at 11:37 PM

WB

*David, Doug, and Greg, and families,
Words cannot begin to express my sympathies to you and my feelings
for Coach. He was a role model and an inspiration for me in the short
time that I had the privilege to know him (@20 years). We spent lots of
time together going to lunch, watching tv, and sharing lots of memories.
I have a lot of respect for him. He will always be in my heart, I will miss
him, and may his memory be eternal. He is resting now comfortably,
with the Lord. God Bless!
bill brandal, friend and colleague from Columbus Public Schools*

william brandal - April 06, 2017 at 08:22 AM

DC

*Bill,
Thanks for all the support through the years and for being there when
my Dad needed something. He truly considered you a friend and so do
we!*

Douglas De Cola - April 06, 2017 at 09:23 AM

DB

*If you have ever played a sport or have been part of a team, then you
know the powerful impact a great coach can have on your success
both on and off the field. Coach DeCola taught us the game but more
importantly life lessons. RIP Coach, thank you for touching so many
lives.*

Condolences, thoughts and prayers to his family

Doug Bowman - April 06, 2017 at 11:40 AM

DC

Doug,

Thank you for your kind words! Our Dad had a way of motivating young athletes that seemed to work throughout his career!

Douglas De Cola - April 09, 2017 at 10:53 AM