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NEWS RELEASE

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**CROSS-COUNTRY COMMUNITY  
MOURNS LOSS OF LAKE HAVASU'S RAY REYNOLDS**

PHOENIX, AZ (Sept. 29, 2009) – Aside from the London Bridge, Ray Reynolds might have had the most recognizable profile in Lake Havasu City.

*There's that guy out there running again.*

What Reynolds loved more than running was showing high school students how to run, how to dig deep within and be successful. Victories were nice, but not mandatory. It was the journey that was important.

As the cross-country coach at Lake Havasu High for 17 years and a science instructor, Reynolds took students on a wonderful journey of discovery. He produced four state-champion teams (two each for girls and boys), was the state coach of the year in 1993 and was region coach of the year eight times.

Reynolds died on Sept. 24 in Lake Havasu City at age 67. Services were held Monday, Sept. 28 in Lake Havasu City. A Michigan native, Reynolds is survived by his wife, Patricia, a daughter, Jennifer Johnson, a son, Gary, and grandchildren. Another son, Timothy, preceded him in death.

Pat Rooney knew Reynolds just about as well as anyone.

Rooney taught with Reynolds, he was the athletic director, the principal and the assistant principal. He also served as a vehicle driver for the girls' teams when his two daughters ran for Reynolds. And, oh yes, they were next-door neighbors.

"He was a great neighbor," Rooney said.

"As a coach, he epitomized that I thought a coach should be. He was humble, reluctant to take credit. He gave his kids all the credit. The example he set made the athletes buy into what he was trying to teach them, that they could do good things as runners and in their lives as a whole."

Matt Scott ran for Reynolds in 1992-93. He had fond memories of those days.

"He was a workhorse and kept track of everything, times, conditions . . . he was a great coach," Scott said. "I also had him for physical science that year. He was a great guy."

Rooney said Reynolds was an avid runner, pounding the pavement and desert around the Lake Havasu area and participating in various races.

"He always wanted his kids to be the best, so he searched out the best races for them to be in," Rooney said. "A lot of people respected him and thought highly of him."

Current Lake Havasu High athletic director Roger Burger worked with Reynolds for about 20 years. He knew of Reynolds even before that.

“I used to run for Glendale High, and we always heard about how good Lake Havasu was,” Berger said. “That’s a tribute to him, building the programs and continuing to have that reputation.”

Lake Havasu hosted the Mark Weston Invitational cross-country meet on Saturday. A moment of silence was observed in Reynolds’ honor. The victorious boys and girls teams from Brawley, Calif. and the second-place boys and girls finishers from Lake Havasu gave their trophies to Reynolds’ wife and daughter, who were in attendance.

“To me, those are great examples of the AIA’s (Arizona Interscholastic Association) Victory With Honor theme,” Burger said.

Those interested in making a donation in Reynolds’ honor can send them to the Hospice of Havasu, P.O. Box 597, Lake Havasu City, AZ., 86405.

**Have a Story Idea:**

The AIA is looking for story ideas on member high schools, including its student-athlete, coaches and administrators. Have a story that you think should be shared with the AIA community? Email your idea to Don Ketchum at [dketchum@aiaonline.org](mailto:dketchum@aiaonline.org).