



Anthony "Tony" St. Onge

September 22, 1955 - April 9, 2021

Anthony "Tony" St. Onge passed peacefully on April 9, 2021 due to heart failure. Born in Longview Washington on September 22, 1955 to Francis and Rebecca St. Onge. He was the second child of four children. As a teenager, Tony excelled in every sport he played. It was during his freshman year of high school the passion of swimming ignited. He qualified for the state tournament his senior year, and also graduated first in his class. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Central Washington University where he competed on the swim team. He qualified for the national tournament his freshman year. While at Central he met the love of his life, Jill. In 1977 Tony faced a "game changer" when he became paralyzed as a result of an accident when his truck hit a patch of black ice while teaching in Alaska.

Tony's injury did not pool side him for long. He found an opportunity to use his talent to coach others when he was offered a position coaching the Moses Lake Manta Ray Swim Team and the Moses Lake High School swim team. He was also a teacher of Health and PE.

The St. Onge family grew in 1985 with the addition of Tyler and then Joanne in 1988. Tony and Jill raised Tyler and Joanne in Moses Lake, Washington where Tony was able to develop his skills as a teacher and coach over the span of 43 years.

Tony positively impacted the lives of those he encountered despite his own challenges. Coach St. Onge formed strong connections with his students and swim team over his 43 year tenure. His impact to the youth in our community was acknowledged when Moses Lake School District unveiled the Tony St. Onge Pool of Dreams.

In 2020, Tony was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. He battled cancer with the same determination, grit, and fearless never-give-up attitude he taught his athletes. As a devout Christian, Tony trusted God's plan for him. He exemplified all that we cherish in a husband, dad, teacher and coach. He left this world a better place because of his life well lived.

Tony was preceded in death by his mother, father, and mother in law Lorraine Ralston. He is survived by his wife Jill of 43 years, his son Tyler (Tenecia), granddaughter Mila, his daughter Joanne and son in law Jay Neal, his is older sister Teresa Gearry (Bryan), brother Chris St. Onge (Patty), sister Mona Handy (Ron), father in law James Ralston Sr.,

brother in law James Ralston (Cindy), brother in law Jerry Ralston (Debbie), and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church on April 30th at 10:45am. Guests will be able to enter the church at 10:30am. Slideshow will start at 10:45am. Mass starts at 11:00am. The mass will also be streamed live on Our Lady of Fatima Church Facebook page.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Moses Lake High School Swim Team Boosters, or Our Lady of Fatima building fund.

Events

APR **Mass** 11:00AM

30

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church
200 N. Dale Road, Moses Lake, WA, US

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Kayser's Chapel of Memories - May 05, 2021 at 11:57 AM



“ To the man that always had a smile for me, except those days that I put chemicals in the pool and kept you from swimming.... Tony you had a wealth of knowledge, which you shared freely with me... I think that you had more knowledge than you realized.... You will be greatly missed....

Scott Allsbrook - May 04, 2021 at 06:28 PM



“ Lynn Mackey lit a candle in memory of Anthony "Tony" St. Onge



Lynn Mackey - April 29, 2021 at 09:17 PM



“ Our sincere sympathies for your family's loss. Thank you for sharing him with the many impressionable young men and women he has helped to grow in our community, our son included. We are thankful for his devotion to growing and coaching swimming in Moses Lake. May your hearts be full with the legacy he has left. Sincerely, Karen and Eric Lindberg

Karen Lindberg - April 29, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies for your loss. It’s really a loss for the whole community. Tony was a huge and positive influence on Jayclynn’ s swimming years. His impact has carried on in her family. Again, our deepest sympathies and prayers for you and your family.

Ron and Debbie Eilers - April 23, 2021 at 11:47 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear about Mr. St. Onge's passing. He was truly one of a kind. I first met him at Chief Moses Junior High School (aka Chief Mo). He was a middle school science teacher. I never had the honor of being in his class, but I know many kids really enjoyed the sciences because of him. I also know that a few of my friends' had Tony as their swim coach and LOVED being on the team.

My involvement with Tony was via track and field at Chief Mo. I was in eighth grade and wanted to be -- of all things -- a high jumper. I got to do that event, but Tony also *signed me up* for the mile run in my first meet. OH MY! THAT was a painful run -- afterwards there was NO WAY I was going to do that again! But, Tony reassured me (1) it would get easier the next go round, (2) saw some promise in me (that I didn't see) and (3) *suggested* I try the mile in the next meet. So I did, begrudgingly. It was still painful, but I got through it and I improved. As the season progressed, he showed me how to train for intervals on the grass track. By the end of the season I had my best race and improved my time by ~40 seconds and I now could see how this could be a thing for me. He hooked me on distance running!

I'm forever in Tony's debt for showing me the way to work hard and work smart and run better. He started the fire for me.

May you rest in peace Tony, huge fan here....

Jeff Enzler - April 22, 2021 at 06:50 PM



“ Tony was a very special person to our family. First met Tony when our son joined swim team Tony had a very positive attitude, always pushing his swimmers to do their best, He taught his swimmers to set goals and work hard to achieve those goals. These are some the life lessons our son and daughter benefitted from as the move thru life. Tony's ability to bring out the best in people was amazing. RIP Tony for a life well lived.

Mary Perry - April 17, 2021 at 09:41 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the St. Onge family. Tony was a wonderful man and will be missed by many.

Pat Ledbetter
Moses Lake, Wa.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish



Patricia (Gerber)Ledbetter - April 16, 2021 at 11:58 PM