



# HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

---

February 14, 2016

Dear Hillsdale Alumni,

This past year we lost our friend and Hillsdale alumnus, Mike Abbott, after his long and difficult struggle with cancer. We warmly remember him in many ways, including when, in a moving tribute last spring, he introduced Dick Vermeil for his induction into the Hillsdale Hall of Fame.

As you may recall, at Hillsdale High School Mike was a gifted scholar-athlete, earning an academic scholarship and attending Stanford. In one edition of the 1961 *San Mateo Times*, our coach, Dick Vermeil, "credited the fine performance of his unbeaten Knights to the fact that several of his first-string gridders, including end, Mike Abbott, are also first-string scholars, near the straight 'A' mark in their classroom work." Both the ongoing importance of the link between academic and athletic success and Coach Vermeil's continued friendship with Mike lead us to a unique opportunity to honor Mike's memory.

Hillsdale High remains committed to supporting its student-athletes. The *After School Learning Center* is a critical piece of the school's support network, providing many students with adult and peer tutors and a welcoming place for study after school. Athletic teams utilize the *Learning Center* for tutoring and studying throughout the school year, ensuring that athletes are also successful students. In these challenging times, all students with an academic need are welcomed at the *Center* to receive help.

Coach Vermeil has donated \$5,000 towards funding the *Learning Center* in hopes that it will inspire others to contribute toward the \$22,000 required to keep the doors of the *Learning Center* open and to rename it as *The Mike Abbott Learning Center*. We are now asking you, Mike's friends and classmates, to help meet our goal of raising the remaining funds. Meeting this goal will ensure that today's students will know of Mike and keep his memory alive. An annual award will honor the Mike Abbott Student-Athlete, a junior who benefitted from the *Learning Center* and shared Mike's commitment to both academics and athletics.

We hope you agree that the *Mike Abbott Learning Center* will serve as a meaningful and lasting tribute to Mike. To help us reach our funding goal, you can donate online at [hillsdalehsalumni.org](http://hillsdalehsalumni.org) or by check mailed to the HHS Foundation at the address listed below. If donating by check, please indicate that you wish your donation to be credited to the "Mike Abbott Fund". The total amount of all gifts is fully tax deductible.

Warm Regards,

*Jeff Gilbert*

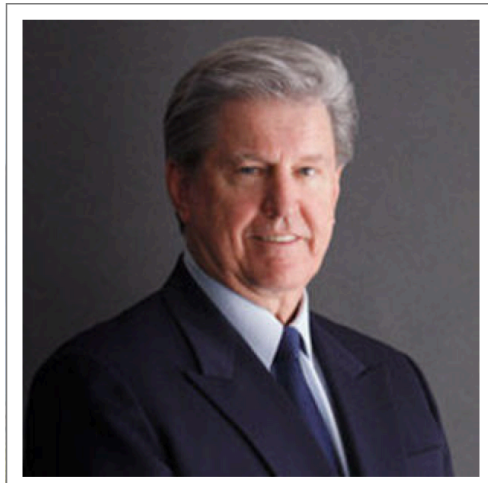
Lead Principal  
Hillsdale High School

*Don Leydig*

Hillsdale Alumni Association

*Bob Christopherson*

HHS Class of 1962



**M**

ichael John Abbott, husband, father, and friend, passed away on October 6, 2015 in Austin, Texas at the age of 71.

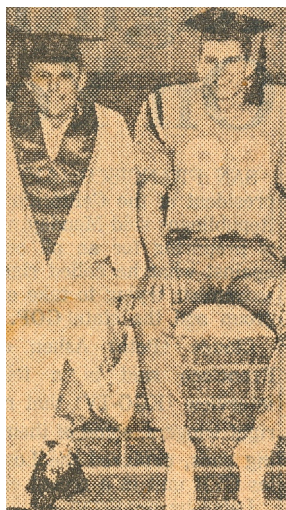
Michael was born in Madison, Wisconsin on July 26, 1944 to Harrison and Gene Abbott. He moved to San Mateo, California at the age of 16 and graduated from Stanford University with a B.A. in 1966. Michael earned his J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1972. He married his wife, Susanne, in 1989.

Michael served as an attorney and partner at Los Angeles law firm Jones, Bell, Abbott LLC for nearly 40 years before retiring with his wife to Austin, Texas in 2011.

Michael is survived by his wife Susanne, son Chandler, daughter Kate, brother Scott, and sisters Kathy and Jae.

Memorial services will be held in Mineral Point, Wisconsin at the end of October.

---



Coach Vermeil & Mike Abbott (1961)