

Not health, not weather, not an act of God has stopped him. He has had only two losing seasons (1957 and 2001).

His wife has missed just three games. She's the Green Wave's official historian and her husband's trusted biographer, thanks to the piles of scrapbooks she has religiously kept throughout his career. She's also the curator of the largest collection of Green Wave artifacts, most engulfing the playroom of their ranch house, which the McKissicks affectionately call The Green Wave Room.

South Carolina Gamecocks coach and friend Lou Holtz is keeping his fingers crossed that McKissick will reach 500 Friday.

"I don't know of any individual who has done more for high school football or for the state of South Carolina than John McKissick," Holtz said through his sports information director. "He not only has taught winning football, he has developed winning young men. He has been so unselfish with his time. His loyalty to Summerville and the state of South Carolina really impresses me."

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden (334 victories), second to Penn State's Joe Paterno as the winningest Division I-A football coach, also is sending good vibes to his good buddy McKissick.

"The victories bring pride to the state of South Carolina, especially since he is one of their own," Bowden said through his school's sports information director. "It also brings great attention to what you can do if you just persevere. I don't know if it can ever be broken."

"I think Coach McKissick's longevity is due to the fact that he has his priorities in order and that football is not his No. 1 priority. A man must have persistence and love of the game and love of life to coach so long."

Everything he wants right here.

McKissick's persistence and perseverance were forged from a tough childhood.

Born in Greenwood, S.C., McKissick was the second of Harry and Ethel's three sons. Harry owned the Pepsi and Nehi Bottling Co.

A few months after the 1929 stock market crash, the McKissicks returned home one night to find their house destroyed by a fire. Within months, the bottling plant went bankrupt. The family moved to Lake City, S.C., where McKissick's dad opened a corner grocery that went belly up within two years.

Life got better after his mom got a job as lunchroom supervisor for the public schools in Williamsburg County—she worked there 40 years—and his dad became a guard standing shotgun on the county chain gang. But the tough times didn't stop.

McKissick grew up in homes without toilets and running water. He didn't wear shoes to school until the eighth grade. And the family could afford to eat meat—fried chicken—only on Sundays.

He was drawn to coaching because he recalled how happy his Kingstree High school coach, Jimmy Welch, always looked. "I figured it must be a good profession."

In the fall of '51, he landed a job in Clarkton, N.C.—over the phone, sight unseen. Little did he know he'd be coaching six-man football; it paid \$2,700 a year. He called Lonnie MacMillian, his coach at Presbyterian College and a pioneer of the Split-T offense, for advice.

"He gave me four plays to run told me to run—them to the right and left, so it would seem like I had eight," says McKissick, whose team went 7-0. (None of those victories are included in his 499 wins.)

In the spring of 1952, McKissick applied for the job at Summerville. "The superintendent, Frank Kirk, later told me I got the job because I was the only applicant who didn't ask how much it paid."

McKissick coached boys and girls basketball, baseball and track. He taught two South Carolina history classes and three U.S. history classes. And he mowed and lined the football field, shined the football cleats, washed the game uniforms and taped the players' ankles, all for \$3,000 a year.

"Growing up poor gave me drive," he says. "I put pressure on myself to try to achieve something in life. I had empathy for kids who had a tough time, especially if they were trying, and compassion for those who lacked confidence."

McKissick has been approached about college head coaching jobs (The Citadel, Newberry, Presbyterian), but he has never come close to leaving. His wife was a postal carrier for 30 years until she retired in 1986. They raised two daughters here: Debbie and Cindy, a former Green Wave cheerleader.

"People always ask me why I didn't take another job," McKissick says. "I grew up hard, not having everything I wanted. People have different wants and needs. A lot of people want more than what they really need."

"Working with kids has kept me young; it has allowed me to grow and evolve. And I get so much self-satisfaction seeing former players around town, at the filling station, the barbershop. . . . Even as football coaches at area high schools."

"Why would I ever want to leave Summerville? It's a wonderful community, with wonderful fans and great support. It's my family. I have everything I've always wanted right here."●

REAR ADMIRAL HOWARD KIRK UNRUH, JR.

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to formally acknowledge the great accomplishments and recent retirement from the United States Naval Reserve of one of my constituents, Rear Admiral Howard Kirk Unruh, Jr.

Henry Clay said: "Of all the properties that belong to honorable men, not one is so highly prized as that of character." RADM Unruh is, indeed, a man of character and he has shown outstanding character throughout his 33 years of service to the Navy.

Admiral Unruh's naval career began in the Garden State, where he attended Princeton University on a ROTC scholarship. In 1970, upon his graduation from Princeton, Ensign Unruh was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy.

He reported for duty in Hawaii where he served on the USS Elkhorn AOG-7. As damage control assistant and engineering officer, he accepted a great deal of responsibility for a young man and gained valuable leadership experience. He learned what it meant to serve and what it meant to lead, and he made the Navy an important part of his life.

His work did not go unnoticed, and, after completing a tour of the Western Pacific aboard the Elkhorn, Unruh was selected to participate in Admiral Elmo Zumwalt's Human Resource Management Program in Pearl Harbor.

In 1975, Lieutenant Unruh left active duty, and went on to receive a Masters degree in Education from Harvard University. But the Navy was in his blood. So, while studying in Massachusetts, he accepted a commission in the Naval

Reserves and began the second phase of his service.

For the next 28 years, Admiral Unruh served wherever and whenever he was needed. He taught naval management and leadership courses; he mentored officers and sea cadets; he spearheaded successful reorganization efforts in reserve centers; and he participated in joint military training exercises in the U.S. and abroad. In short, as he moved up the ranks, he gave the Navy his wholehearted commitment on land and sea.

In 1995, he took an assignment as the Department of the Navy's duty captain at the Pentagon's Navy Command Center. There, he served under Secretary of the Navy and Chief Naval Operations Admiral Mike Borda and was in charge of monitoring military activity around the world. On his first day on duty, human émigrés flying civilian aircraft over Cuba were shot down by the Cuban military, which believed that the aircraft were intruding in Cuban air space. Captain Unruh acted quickly and admirably, putting together data to brief the President on the United States on what was happening.

Now Kirk Unruh retires as an Admiral and he has well earned that rank. Over the years, his contributions to the Navy have been duly recognized. He is authorized to wear the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal which he was awarded twice, the Navy Commendation Medal which he was awarded four times, the National Defense Medal with bronze star, and various other Unit and Service ribbons. These decorations attest to the character of the man, the service he has rendered, and the honor with which he has provided that service.

Today I ask that my colleagues join with me in thanking Admiral Unruh for his years of service, for his commitment to this nation and to the United States Navy, and for a job well done. As noted in his Legion of Merit Citation: "By his outstanding leadership, commendable innovation, and inspiring dedication to duty, RADM Unruh reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Lastly, behind the career of most great Naval officers is a loving family that is asked to endure the hardships of constant travel and periodic separation. Admiral Unruh's family is no exception. His wife Diane has made many sacrifices to support her husband. And, as the wife of an Admiral—whose children, Meredith, Allison, and Chip were all born on naval bases—she has earned her stripes and unofficially outranks him. We all know that without her sacrifice his service to our Nation would not have been possible.

Today, I join with Diane, her children, and all Americans in saluting Admiral Unruh for an outstanding career and a job well done.●