



## Don Barton

May 29, 1930 - July 16, 2006

Services for Don R. Barton, 76 of Tyler, will be held on Thursday, July 20, 2006 at 2:30 P.M. at Stewart Family Funeral Home with Dr. Stuart Baskin officiating. Burial will follow in the Cathedral in the Pines in Tyler under direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mr. Barton passed, Sunday, July 16, 2006 in Tyler. He was born May 29, 1930 in Cisco, Texas to Mary Z. (Mashburn) and L.D Barton. He was a member of St. Johns Masonic Lodge. Mr. Barton was a graduate of Longview High School, attended Kemper Military School and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin where he played football and baseball. Don went on to play for the Green Bay Packers in 1953-54 until he was drafted into the Army. In the Army, he was a 1st Lt. in the Fort Knox Kentucky Armored Division following his service he became a football coach. Coach Barton began his coaching career in Sherman as an Assistant Coach and from there went on to be a head coach in El Paso, Corpus Christi, Atlanta, and Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler. During Coach Barton's last year at Robert E. Lee he became the Vice President of Texas High School Coaches Association. He then became the athletic director of Tyler Independent School District in 1973 and retired in 1988. Don R. Barton is survived by his loving family including his wife of 52 years, Marjorie Anne Barton; his daughter, Leslie Vick and husband Gary of Trophy Club; daughter, Kelli Rapini and husband Vince of California; five grandchildren, Brad and wife Kristen, Natalie and Kyle Vick, Jake and Garrett Rapini; and two great-grandchildren Hailey and Ashlyn Vick; a sister, Patsy Thompson and husband

Pat of Grand Prairie; as well as several nieces and nephews. Pallbearers will be Cecil Roach, Larry Wilson, Tom Bates, Ned Duncan, Joe Eakin, and Jack Neil. Honorary Pallbearers will be any of Coach Barton's former players. The family will receive friends from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. Wednesday, at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., Tyler, Texas 75703. Memorials in honor of Don R. Barton may be made to Children's Village or a Charity of your choice. CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, Echo Hills, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 For more information or to express condolences, visit [www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com](http://www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

SJ

“ Dear Leslie, I was saddened to read about your father and wanted you to know that I have been thinking about you and your family. Your Dad was so well thought of and had such an impact on many young people throughout his long career with TISD athletics. My husband, John Jacobi, was a football coach at REL for a brief time and he knew your Dad as well. I have so many fond memories from junior high and high school that include your family. Your Dad and Mom always opened their home to your friends and we always had so much fun! I hope that you are comforted in knowing how many people care about you at this time and always. All of my best to you and your family. Love, Sarah Donaldson Jacobi

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**Sarah Donaldson Jacobi** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ So sorry to hear about Don. Bill and I will pray that the Lord keep His loving arms around all the family at this difficult time. I have fond memories of Don--he was a good friend to me and my 1st husband, Billy Patterson. I know he will be missed.  
(We are in Palm Springs, CA. for a month or I would have attended the service.)  
Love and prayers, Clara

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**Clara Hurst Payne** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ To Kelli and the rest of the family, although inadequate words at this time, my deepest sympathy to each of you. I am very thankful for all of the time that I spent at your house growing up. Don's presence in that home was awesome and I still think of him to this day. I've used many of the things he used to tell us as young athletes when I have encouraged my daughter in her athletic pursuits. God bless each of you and comfort you during this difficult time. Lots and lots of love.

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**Becky Shaw Sampson** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Dear Mrs. Barton:

*I am so sorry for the loss of your sweet, sweet husband. He often spoke of you when we would all talk to him at school and we all knew and could tell what a "neat" marriage the two of you shared. He demanded respect and he got it! He demanded our best and he got that, too! I truly worshipped the ground he walked on and thought he really never did any wrong! My senior year, 1971, I was cheerleader and I had the honor of playing him in our senior skit! With a straw hanging out of the corner of my mouth, hands on my hips, and shouting I got to imitate the coach I adored! Wow!*

*I pray for you and your family and I know he is looking down from Heaven making sure we all do the right thing! He was a very important person to many, many people and he will be dearly missed and remembered.*

*May God be with you always,*

*Debbie Cheek Stanley*

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**Debbie Cheek Stanley** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ *Don Barton...what a nice man. Always a smile and a big hello, lots of conversation and a great sense of humor. He would just light up the room when he told one of his stories or an account of the day. He was admired by his peers and respected by those he coached and later by those of us who knew him from his days as Athletic Director for TISD. I first met him through the baseball program at Robert E Lee and the pursuit we had at the time to improve the playing fields. He was "approachable" and as an administrator, that was an important quality. I am so thankful I knew Don and was able to call him a friend. He was kind hearted, gracious and had such a love for life. I remember that most about him. I know he will be missed by all of us whose lives he touched. God Bless you Don and your family.*

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**Susan Norvell** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ *Marjorie Ann, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Don was such a unique person, a one of a kind. I visited with him a few days ago at Brookshire's, and I told Iris when I got home, that it was the highlight of my day to see Don. We are still in shock as I know all of you are, and we trust the Lord will comfort you, Leslie, Kelly and the entire family at this time. Vernis Stanaland*

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**Vernis & Iris Stanaland** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BI

“ Don, I will miss our phone conversations every Spring, when many of your old friends and teammates gathered at some golf course in Austin to play a little golf, eat too much barbeque, and tell the same old stories over and over. There were so many versions of the same stories that I didn't always know what the truth was, and I was there when most of those stories were born. We enjoyed you when you came, and we missed you when you couldn't. You were an important part of my life, a good friend, lots of fun, and I wish we could have spent more time together. I regret that I didn't see you the past few years and wish I had made the effort to make it happen. I remember clearly how I admonished you last Spring when I couldn't persuade you to come to Austin for that little golf outing. During our visit I remember telling you that I thought you were going to win the "whole tournament" -- the last one standing. You seemed so healthy and so full of energy and life, I'm still shocked. I'm grateful to have had your friendship and will always carry fond memories of the fun we had. I am also grateful that you didn't suffer -- none of us want that. God Bless you, good friend, and God Bless your family. They will carry on for you and your legacy will continue through them. I'll catch up with you someday.

Love,

Hub

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Beverly and Hub Ingraham - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

VW

“ Mrs. Barton and Family, Tona and I want to express our deepest sympathy to each of you. We are praying that God's comforting power will surround you'll at this time. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with Coach and discussing schools and activities he participated in.

Sincerely,  
Van & Tona Wilson

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**Van & Tona Wilson** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ May the Lord be with the Barton Family at this great tome of need.

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**LeaAnn Johnson** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Don Barton touched many lives. Often, we didn't like the touch, however, it was for our own good and helped shape us into better men.

I always thought I'd have time to tell Don this but regreably, time ran out...

Every young man needs someone to whom they can look up, to direct him, to lead him back on the straight and narrow, and to offer a word of encouragement at just the right time.

My father never saw me play a game of any kind in high school. Don did. I really looked up to him as a father figure and do to this day. He really meant so much to me.

Thanks Coach.  
Johnny

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**Johnny Ament** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Thanks for the memories coach. We will miss you

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**Charles Flint** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

OF

“ *Saddened to hear of Don's death. I knew him for 70 of our years, and he was best man at my wedding. My prayers are with his family at this time.*

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**Orric Freeman** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *Don was an integral part of Coach Maco Stewart's Longview LOBO team that went to semi-finals in the state in 1947.*

*The team's greatest asset was its ability to play hard nosed, rock hard defense, and Don was a superior defensive back.*

*I never knew him personally, but I was in awe of his prowess as a football player.*

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**Lenora Stevenson** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *Margie Ann:*

*Our deepest sympathies to you and your family.*

*Sincerely,  
Bob & Betty*

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**Bob & Betty Taylor** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Leslie:  
Know you are in our thoughts and prayers.  
J Mitchell  
Kilgore*

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**J Mitchell** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ He was my beautiful "Uncle Don" and I feel so blessed to have had him in my life. I have such sweet memories of our families sharing the lives of a football coach. Win or lose, Uncle Don was always quick with a big smile for us kids. As we grew up, I know how very proud he was of Leslie and Kelly and I know how devoted he was to Margorie Ann. Theirs was a marriage I will always admire. Uncle Don, you will be sorely missed but I know Mom and Dad are happy to have you in heaven with them. God bless.

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**Stacey Prewit Day** - July 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM