



James Tom Bates

May 30, 1935 - August 15, 2014

Services for James Tom “Donut” Bates, 79, of Tyler, will be held on Friday, August 22, 2014 at 10:00 AM at Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel with President William Alba officiating.

Burial will follow at Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Bates passed away Friday, August 15, 2014 in Tyler.

Mr. Bates was born in Sherman on May 30, 1935 to the late Homer and Elsie Bates.

Tom attended schools in Sherman and attended high school from 1949 to 1953, participating in football and baseball. Donut attended Paris Junior College on a football scholarship and graduated in 1956. He then attended Austin College and played football there for two years. Upon graduating, he was drafted in the U. S. Army. Tom spent one year at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas playing football there. In 1959 he was assigned to duty in Korea. Where there, he played division level football and was selected for the Far East All-Star Team. The All-Stars defeated the Marines and the Air Force All-Stars to claim the Far East Championship. Donut was discharged in June of 1960. He was selected to be the head football and track coach at Queen City. Tom spent five years there and his track teams won five district titles. He then move to Gainesville and was the defensive coordinator and head track coach. From Commerce he then moved to John Tyler High School and was the offensive line coach and head track coach. Tom moved across town to Robert E. Lee

High School as offensive line and head baseball coach. In 1980 he took the job as Visiting Teacher (truant officer). Tom was elected President of the State Visiting Teacher Association. Donut stayed as a Visiting Teacher until his retirement in 2004. In retirement Tom enjoyed attending local sporting events and playing golf at the Cascades.

In addition to his parents, Tom was preceded in death by his older sister, Bettie Jean Cottrell.

He is survived by his brother, Jerry Ray Bates of Irving; nieces and nephews, Cathy Williams and husband John of Clearfield, Utah, Becky Elmer and husband Bob of Tyler, Denise Harris and husband Michael of Irving and Brad Bates of Irving; great-nieces and nephews, Kirk Redford and wife Brittany of South Ogden, Utah, Melissa Baetz and husband Chris of Billings, Montana, Adam Redford and wife Ashley of Forney, Katie Alba and husband William of Tyler and Andrea Williams of Clearfield, Utah and great-great-nieces and nephews that were the love of his life, Blake, Destiney, Mason, Lexie, Jared, Dakota, Camilla, Colton, Alexander and Jace.

Pallbearers will be Adam Redford, Jack Neil, John Wills, Don Malone, Larry Wilson and Burley Lamb.

Honorary pallbearers will be Jerry Bates, Kirk Redford, Chris Baetz, Bill Ray Dickie, Jerry Craig, Michael Harris and Roger Martin.

Visitation is scheduled from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

If desired, memorials may be made to The Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd, Tyler 75701.

Cemetery Details

Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery

7825 South Broadway Avenue
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Service

AUG **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

HH

“ We are so very sorry about the loss of your dear loved one. Tom will be missed by all who knew and loved him. He always had a quick smile and enjoyed being with others. As a teacher and coach, he was a great influence on the lives of many students who remember him with fondness. He will be greatly missed.

Hedwig and John Hardie

Hedwig and John Hardie - August 28, 2014 at 03:16 PM

PF

“ Paula Fears sent a virtual gift in memory of James Tom Bates



Paula Fears - August 23, 2014 at 12:46 AM

SB

“ Coach Bates was one of my favorite teachers at John Tyler back in 1970. I dearly loved his sense of humor and how he made all of us in his classes feel special. A great coach, I remember jokingly calling him a traitor when he left JT to go coach at REL. He just grinned, and said, "Yeah, I know." Truly a sweet man. Prayers and deepest sympathies to Coach's family.

Susan Morphis Brizendine - August 22, 2014 at 06:29 PM

BG

“ Remember his smile and giggle.

barbara gotcher - August 22, 2014 at 10:17 AM

SH

“ He is the only teacher that ever have me licks with his paddle. But I still thought he was an awesome Coach and educator.

sandra niebeling hale - August 22, 2014 at 09:53 AM

LK

“ Tom was a true and loyal friend. He will surely be missed. He is with God now and all his friends celebrate his life. Tom was a true Bearcat and I cherish his memory.
Larry Kemp

Larry Kemp - August 21, 2014 at 01:02 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Tom Bates.



August 21, 2014 at 09:50 AM

JH

“ Thomas, seems like last week we was at Arlington State Junior College...We said no way ---caught a train to Dallas and partied all over and hitched hike home to Sherman, and several other times.
YOU THE MAN MY FRIEND, YOU THE MAN.

Jerry Hunt

Jerry Hunt - August 20, 2014 at 09:35 PM

FC

“ Memories brought back to mind with our coach & teacher from QCHS's passing are; biology, spit wads, praying mantis reports, bubble blowing contest, PE, laps around the football field and last but not least, the words he spoke in 2012 at our 50th class reunion. He was a really a nice man and a good teacher. He will be missed!
Frankie (Buzbee) Crooks

Frankie Crooks - August 20, 2014 at 07:25 PM

RH

“ ;MY FAVORITE COACH AT QUEEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL, SO MANY GOOD MEMORIES OF HIM. ROSE (HILEMAN) HOLDER

ROSE HOLDER - August 20, 2014 at 06:03 PM

MW

I am so sorry about Coach Bates. If Queen City or Atlanta was playing in a playoff game in Tyler, he always came. I will miss seeing him. Mary Hileman Welch

Mary Welch - August 20, 2014 at 06:11 PM

RA

“ My friend Tom leaves me with so many special memories. Together we saw movies at Texas Theatre, danced at Municipal Ballroom and wore funny socks to dances at The Huddle. He was a very special person and I treasured our friendship that lasted for what seems like a lifetime.
Thank you, Tom, for being a blessing to all who knew you,
Rita Carolyn

Rita Stewart Arrington - August 19, 2014 at 02:10 PM