



Jamon "Coach" Kirby

May 17, 1932 - August 12, 2022

Memorial services for Jamon "Coach" Kirby, 90, of Tyler will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at West Erwin Church of Christ with Bill Allen and Larry Fuller officiating. Visitation will follow the service, and a private family graveside at Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery will be held under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Kirby passed away Friday, August 12, 2022, in Tyler. He was born May 17, 1932, in Raiford, Oklahoma to Walter Kirby and Ethel Dover Kirby. He cherished his childhood in Oklahoma, spending many happy times with his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. His family later moved to Gladewater, Texas, where he graduated from Union Grove High School in 1950 and then received his machinist certification from Kilgore College. He was drafted into the Army during the Korean War and was stationed with an anti-aircraft unit in California.

When he returned to Texas, he ran into a beautiful girl he had known at church named Clayre Gray. He asked her out and she said yes. They married at that same church in 1956. She remained the love of his life from that day forward, and to honor that love, he never once removed his wedding ring. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Stephen F. Austin State University, and became an elementary school PE coach and bus driver in Tyler. He truly loved teaching and spent most of his career at Andy Woods Elementary School. In 1981, he joined the physical education faculty at Tyler Junior College. His door was always open to any student who

needed help or a kind word. After he retired in 1996, he delighted in encountering his former students and counted himself fortunate to have been their teacher.

In addition to teaching, he loved traveling, spending time at his vacation home in Oklahoma and being a wonderful granddad to his only grandson. He was also devoted to his church, serving as a deacon, an elder, a teacher and a volunteer for singles and youth activities. He was a charismatic, big-hearted Christian man with a warm smile and wonderful sense of humor, and he will be deeply missed.

He was preceded in death by his precious wife, his parents, his sister and brother-in-law, Jewell Dean and Bill Rumsey, and their sons, Paul Rumsey and Rocky Rumsey. Left to cherish his memory is his loving family including his daughter and son-in-law Suzanne and Stan Perkins; beloved grandson, Grant Perkins; nieces Anita Ashworth, Diane Parker, Debbie Graham and Karla Miller and husband Ralph; and nephews, Clyde Hampton, Larry Fuller and wife Nancy, Roddy Fuller and wife Nancy, and Robert Rumsey and wife Sherry.

The family would like to thank the staff at Prestige Estates and the nursing staff of Paloma Hospice for their kind, attentive care during the past year.

Cemetery Details

Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery

7825 South Broadway Avenue
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

West Erwin Church of Christ
420 W. Erwin St
Tyler, TX 75703

Visitation Following Service

AUG 20 (CT)

West Erwin Church of Christ
420 W. Erwin St
Tyler, TX 75703

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jamon "Coach" Kirby



Stewart Family Funeral Home - August 17, 2022 at 05:26 PM

SS

“ I have nothing but happy memories of my days at Andy Woods and running out to the play ground and seeing Coach Kirby with his big smile - he'd often catch me as I'd try to run past him, swing me in the air and set me down as I giggled/laughed. Suzanne - whenever I came to your house to hang out - that same smile would always greet me. Your dad was a very loving man, father and husband. May he Rest In Peace.

Sandi (Kolb) Snyder - August 27, 2022 at 05:24 PM

RF

“ Roddy and Nancy Fuller purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Jamon "Coach" Kirby.



Roddy and Nancy Fuller - August 19, 2022 at 01:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jamon "Coach" Kirby.*



August 19, 2022 at 01:45 PM



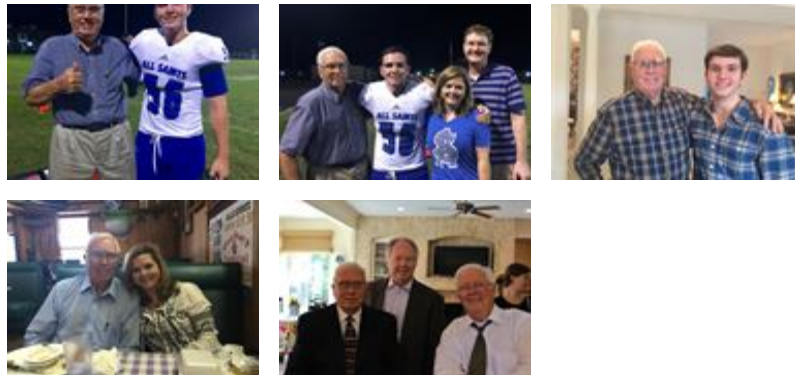
“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Jamon "Coach" Kirby.*



August 17, 2022 at 06:55 PM



“ *131 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - August 17, 2022 at 02:10 PM

BR

“ I only knew Coach Kirby through the Hamptons when his wife was there the same time as my mom. He was one of the sweetest men I have ever met in my life. I know he's happy now with her.

Brenda - August 17, 2022 at 11:48 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jamon "Coach" Kirby.



August 16, 2022 at 01:55 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Jamon "Coach" Kirby.



August 16, 2022 at 01:49 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jamon "Coach" Kirby.



August 15, 2022 at 10:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jamon "Coach" Kirby.*



August 13, 2022 at 09:47 PM



“ *It's impossible reminisce on my elementary school years without thinking of Coach Kirby. Somewhere in my garage is the sign he made for me by using a magnifying glass and the sun to burn my name, "Andy Woods Elementary", and the year onto scrap wood. He always treated us kids like people, not the annoying kids that we often were. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. P.S. Thanks for all the times you tied my shoes, Coach. Rest in peace.*

Heather Oswald - August 13, 2022 at 06:06 PM



“ *Coach Kirby was a fantastic coach and a better person. He coached me in elementary school back in the day. I am saddened by his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. He was a great friend as well we got connected later in my day. He was awesome. Love Doug Dotson*

doug dotson - August 12, 2022 at 10:28 PM

BK

Coach Kirby left his footprints on a lot of us when we were very young. Mine were from elementary school! He loved and mentored so many children in his life. I am sure the heavens greeted him with open arms and all those whose lives he touched will forever be grateful for him! I know I am! God bless all those left behind with comfort and peace knowing he has traveled to his eternal home! Thanks Coach for all the love you shared with so many! RIP until we meet again! Love and prayers, Belinda 'Kelley' Kromer

Belinda Kelley Kromer - August 13, 2022 at 10:49 AM



I was stunned to see an obituary for "Coach Kirby" in the newspaper a few days ago. I started first grade at Dixie Elementary School in 1963. Riding the bus alone was a bit daunting but he had me sit right behind him in the first row so I wouldn't be afraid. Most days my boyfriend would sit next to me and they would argue about whose girlfriend I was. He was also my PE coach. I have thought about him SO many times over the years. He had a huge impact on my life as I ventured out into the world at 6 years old. I am not absolutely certain this is the same person but the pictures certainly look like my memories of him. A very kind man.

Janet Elbert

Janet Elbert - August 26, 2022 at 11:43 AM