



## Jimmy "Jim" Frank Plyler

August 21, 1924 - June 9, 2016

A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 10:30 AM at First Presbyterian Church for Jimmy (Jim) Plyler, with Dr. Stuart Baskin officiating. Jim passed away on Thursday, June 9, 2016.

He was born on August 21, 1924 in Corsicana, Texas to the late W.C. and Evelyn Plyler. While attending Corsicana High School, he earned four letters in football, three in basketball, and made the all-district football team in 1941. While attending Lamar Junior College on an athletic scholarship, he was selected for the All-Texas Junior College Conference Team in 1942. After knee problems prevented him from serving in the armed services, he enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin on an athletic scholarship. He earned three letters in football and one reserve letter in baseball. He played in the Southwest Conference Championship games in the Cotton Bowl in 1943 and in 1945 as Captain of the team.

He earned his B.S. at U.T. Austin, his M.A. at Stephen F. Austin, and completed post-graduate work at Texas Eastern and Columbia University. He began teaching and coaching at Schreiner Institute in Kerrville, moved to Lufkin High School, and settled in at Tyler High School in 1951 as a teacher and coach. He was named Assistant Principal at Robert E Lee High School in 1958, Principal at Moore Junior High in 1961, and Director of Personnel in 1964.

He served as Superintendent of Schools in Tyler ISD from 1969-1979. During these years, Tyler schools were integrated, and the landmark Supreme Court Ruling was issued which guaranteed a free public education for all immigrant children in the U.S.

He was a member of and contributed to many professional organizations including Texas State Teachers' Association, National Education Association, Childhood Education Association, Intergovernmental Relations, American Association of School Administrators, Piney Woods Counseling Group, and Phi Delta Kappa.

As an active member of First Presbyterian Church since 1951, he served as Sunday school teacher, Deacon, Elder, Trustee, choir member, and Sunday School Superintendent. He coordinated the church food drives each Christmas in order to donate food to the Salvation Army.

Jim served in many civic organizations including YMCA, Child Welfare Board, Smith County Tuberculosis Clinic, United Fund, and the Mental Health Association. He taught AARP Driver Safety Programs and worked in tax preparation for AARP.

He served on committees of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Salvation Army, Tyler Public Library, Jarvis Christian College, Smith County Heart Association, Smith County Retired Teachers and School Personnel Association, and the East Texas Fair. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Knights of Templar, Sharon Temple Shrine, and Tyler Area Ostomy Association.

In 1981, Jim was elected Chief Appraiser for Smith County Appraisal District to organize the office and records for appraisal of all property in the taxing

agencies of Smith County. He also worked for Tyler Bank and Trust and the Ramey Law Firm.

He was the recipient of many awards during his educational career in Tyler. The Jim Plyler Instructional Complex was named in honor of his contributions to Tyler ISD. He was recognized many times for volunteer service to the community of Tyler for the last 30 years.

Jim is survived by his wife of 70 years, Betty Brown Plyler, daughter Dr. Ann Plyler Poore and husband Thomas Poore of Garland, son John Plyler and wife Suzanne of Austin, grandchildren James Plyler, Anthony Plyler, and Liliana Plyler of Austin and several nieces and nephews. His parents and his sister, Norma Plyler Crawford and husband Robert, preceded him in death.

The family would like to thank Dr. Steven Hillis, Dr. William Smyth, Dr. David Sloan, Dr. Britt Ruby and Dr. Thomas Bochow for medical care and Home Instead, Abell Companions, and Legacy Hospice for outstanding caregiving services.

Private burial will be under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Visitation is scheduled at Stewart Family Funeral Home from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Monday, June 13, 2016.

Memorials in honor of Jim Plyler may be made to the TISD Foundation, 807 Glenwood Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701, First Presbyterian Church, 807 W. Rusk St., Tyler, TX 75701 or the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook  
Tyler, TX 75702

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Service

JUN 14. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
230 Rusk St.  
Tyler, TX 75701

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ Jim was a special person, chosen to carry out God' mission on earth. His very essence was caring, happiness, dedication and kindness. His voice exuded those qualities. An example was some years ago when he had major surgery with ongoing carryover. He did not sink into despair, but forged ahead with life and became a friend and counselor to countless other patients through the years who had the same surgery. We were close friends in Lufkin and later when we lived for a time in Tyler. We lived in separate cities for decades after that, but there was always a special bond between us. What a positive example he was for everyone he touched. Well done, thy good and faithful servant.  
Jane and Tyson Payne, Austin, Texas

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**Jane and Tyson Payne** - June 14, 2016 at 06:56 AM

SN

“ Mr. Jim Plyler was my principal and later my superintendent. I feel privileged to have known him. He was a true caregiver to the students of Tyler and a real leader for TISD. God Bless him and thank you. Prayers for the family and friends of this very special man.

*Susan Norvell*

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**Susan Norvell** - June 13, 2016 at 04:36 PM

GW

“ *What a great man that will be missed by all into whose lives he came. He will always be Coach Plyler in my mind-tough, but fair. My condolences to his family and close friends of whom he had many.*

Glenn Ab Walters - June 13, 2016 at 01:14 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jimmy "Jim" Frank Plyler.*



June 13, 2016 at 12:04 PM

FF

“ *Mr. Plyler was my teacher and coach at Tyler H.S., my principal and superintendent when I taught in Tyler, but most of all my friend... I always looked forward to class reunions - there was Mr. Plyler still looking out for his kids... Prayers and condolences to Betty, Ann, John and other family members...He was one of those special persons that you are privileged to have in your life friendships. His special friendship brings a smile to my heart...*

Fred Fifer - June 13, 2016 at 10:53 AM

MF

“ *Marsha Musgrove and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jimmy "Jim" Frank Plyler.*



Marsha Musgrove and Family - June 13, 2016 at 09:09 AM

LG

“ *A hero. A mentor. A pioneer. A loving husband and father. A community icon. A giant.*

*I will also try to live my life as he well-lived his. Writing an article about him and Mrs. Plyler a few years ago, was one of the highlights of my life.*

*Rest, Jim, Rest.*

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**Larry Pittman Goddard** - June 12, 2016 at 08:18 PM

JJ

“ *We need more Jim Plyler's in the teaching profession.*

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**Jeff Jones** - June 12, 2016 at 08:06 PM

TG

“ *Jim Plyler, simply stated, was one of the finest men God created. He was at Moore Junior High when it opened and I was in the first 9th grade class; he was at Robert E. Lee when it opened as Assistant Principal in the fall of 1958 and later was Superintendent of Tyler ISD when I returned to teach at Lee. Jim Plyler seemed to always be just where he was needed and, indeed, he was often needed by many in our community. May his soul rest in peace and may his wonderful family find comfort in knowing how much he enriched the lives around him. My prayers are with his family*  
*Tom Gregory*

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**Tom Gregory** - June 11, 2016 at 06:16 PM

CL

“ Carol and Joe Long purchased the Strength & So lace Spray for the family of Jimmy "Jim" Frank Plyler.



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Carol and Joe Long - June 11, 2016 at 01:36 PM

CR

“ This wonderful man demonstrated remarkable good judgment when it came to when to enforce the rules versus adapting the rules to serve students best. I surprised myself with the sense of loss I felt when I learned of his death.

Charles Rorie

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Charles Rorie - June 11, 2016 at 12:33 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jimmy "Jim" Frank Plyler.



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June 10, 2016 at 04:28 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Jimmy "Jim" Frank Plyler.



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June 10, 2016 at 03:45 PM

SD

“ *Pylyer Family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with each of you  
during this difficult gime!! May all your  
wonderful memories and your strong faith get  
you though days ahead!*



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**sandy davenport** - June 10, 2016 at 03:25 PM