



## Jon Reed Omdahl

January 2, 1946 - February 13, 2025

Services for Jon Reed Omdahl, 79, of Tyler, TX will be held on Wednesday, February 19 with visitation at 1:00 pm and the service to follow at 2:00 pm. Both will be held at Shiloh Road Church of Christ, 1801 Shiloh Road, Tyler, TX 75703 under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home with Burke Brack officiating.

Mr. Omdahl completed his race on Thursday, February 13 in Tyler. He was born on January 2, 1946, in Boston, MA to Russell and Virginia Omdahl. He attended high school in Winston-Salem, NC where he met his future wife, Becky. She sat behind him in their sophomore English class as they sat in alphabetical order. Becky reflected by saying “be careful who you sit near!” They were married in 1966. After spending one year at Michigan State University, he transferred to Abilene Christian College and earned his B.S. in Education in 1968. He later returned and obtained his M. Ed in 1972. In 1968, he began his teaching and coaching career in Winston-Salem, NC. He taught History and coached Boys’ Cross Country. As a beginning teacher, he was selected to be a faculty member of the first integrated high school in Winston-Salem. He and Becky moved to Lubbock, TX in 1976 where he continued his career in the classroom as well as coaching. The majority of his years in Lubbock were spent at Coronado High School where he enjoyed teaching Economics, U.S. Government (both on level and advanced placement), U.S. History and World History. When not in the classroom, he was actively coaching Boys’ Cross Country and Girls’ Track and Field. At one

time, he was the only Texas Cross Country coach to coach Boys' Cross Country at five different schools at one time in Lubbock ISD! Jon retired from the public school setting in 2002.

He and Becky moved to the East Texas area and relocated to Tyler. They became active members of the Shiloh Road Church of Christ. Jon came out of retirement and began teaching high school and coaching at East Texas Christian Academy in 2003. During his years at ETCA, he coached Tennis, Soccer, Cross Country and Track. His students still remember his dry wit and "Omdahlisms." One of his track athletes remembers him as a calm, quiet coach, but could always hear him during her races, even in the chaos of a track meet. Coaching Track and Field was his passion and after the season ended in 2014, Coach Omdahl hung up his stopwatch and passed the baton to the next generation.

His teaching and coaching career spanned a total of 47 years. Many of these coaching years were shared with his dear friend, Melvin Houston. He always looked forward to traveling back to Lubbock in the spring as a long-time high school official to assist with the UIL Regional Championship Track meet. Jon was a member of several organizations throughout his career: Phi Alpha Theta (International History Honor Society), Texas Cross Country/Track and Field Officials Association, South Plains Track and Field Officials Association, Officer - West Texas Running Club, Texas High School Coaches Association, and Texas Retired Teachers Association.

Jon (Grandpa) loved spending time with family (especially his grandkids) as well as collecting stuffed bears, working in the yard, watching hummingbirds, bicycling, and running. He was an avid runner and participated in 18 marathons, such as Dallas White Rock, Ft. Worth Cowtown, Houston, San Antonio and the Austin Motorola! It is worth mentioning that he loved his red Corvette! He also enjoyed volunteering at the East Texas Food Bank with Shiloh Road church members.

Jon was preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Virginia Omdahl. He is survived by his loving family: his wife of 58 years, Becky, and children: Larry

(Tina) Omdahl of Gladewater, TX; Jennifer (Raymond) Rumsey of Forney, TX; grandchildren: Kelsey and Erik Omdahl, Carter (Dana) Rumsey, Kylie Rumsey, and great granddaughter, Ava Rumsey; sisters, Mary Gudikunst of Pennsylvania and Sally Omdahl of California as well as extended family – sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Cherokee Home for Children, PO Box 295, Cherokee, TX 76832; Parkinson's Foundation, 5757 Waterford District Drive, Suite 310, Miami, FL 33126.

The family would like to thank the compassionate caregivers of Silver Lace Memory Care unit at Primrose Retirement Community and Heart to Heart Hospice of Tyler for their wonderful care.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

FEB **19**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Shiloh Road Church of Christ  
1801 Shiloh Rd.  
Tyler, TX 75703

# Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jon Reed Omdahl



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**Stewart Family Funeral Home** - February 17, 2025 at 04:40 PM

MG

“ Jon was such a good brother and person. SO proud of him and all he's done for others in his lifetime. Will miss him so much.

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**Mary Omdahl Gudikunst** - February 18, 2025 at 08:26 PM

SO

“ Sally Omdahl purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Jon Reed Omdahl.



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**Sally Omdahl** - February 18, 2025 at 09:45 AM

BG

“ I have vivid memories of Coach Omdahl while running track at Coronado 1978-79. I didn't really like running, but it was where all the cute boys were in the Spring. I remember him telling us “girls don't sweat they glisten”. He always made me run the mile relay even though I never trained for it during the week...I never understood that! We usually won, but no thanks to me! It was my team mate that would get us a big lead then I'd lose most of it by the time I finished. I can image how many young people were blessed by his love of running! Prayers for peace and comfort for his family! "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" 2 Timothy 4:7

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**BeLinda Gould** - February 17, 2025 at 09:38 PM

AE

“ He was my coach and teacher from 1980-1983. I was a runner and later a manager. He was one of my favorite coaches and it was great that he would run with us out at Mae Simmons. My thoughts are with his family. Hopefully the memories of him will ease your loss and leave you smiling.

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**Andrea Elliot** - February 17, 2025 at 09:16 PM

LT

“ Lisa Thomas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jon Reed Omdahl.

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**Lisa Thomas** - February 17, 2025 at 03:15 PM



“ Lisa Thomas purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Jon Reed Omdahl.



Lisa Thomas - February 17, 2025 at 03:15 PM



“ 218 files added to the album LifeTributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - February 17, 2025 at 02:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jon Reed Omdahl.

February 15, 2025 at 07:33 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jon Reed Omdahl.



February 15, 2025 at 07:33 PM