



## Michael "Mike" G. Owens

September 12, 1951 - December 9, 2024

Michael "Mike" Grady Owens, 73, of Tyler, passed away on Monday, December 9, 2024. Services will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home, with Rev. Scott Wiley officiating. A visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. prior to the service, followed by a private family burial.

Born on September 12, 1951, in Port Arthur, Texas, Mike was the son of Grady Cleburn Owens and Jolene Gentry Owens. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1970 and went on to earn a football scholarship to Tulane University, where he graduated in 1974. As co-captain of the Tulane football team, he played in the 1973 Bluebonnet Bowl. He later earned his Master's degree from Lamar University in 1984.

Mike's coaching career spanned over three decades, with notable positions as Head Football Coach and Campus Coordinator. He began at Thomas Jefferson High School in Port Arthur, where he served from 1982 to 1995, leading the Yellow Jackets to five playoff appearances. He then took the helm at Tyler Lee High School (now Tyler Legacy), where from 1996 to 2010, he became the winningest coach in school history with a record of 111-69. Under his leadership, the Red Raiders won five district championships, earned 13 playoff berths, and captured the 2004 Class 5A Division 1 state championship with a 12-3 record.

After retiring for six years, Mike returned for one final coaching season at Frankston High School. His impact extended beyond his teams, as he mentored numerous players who went on to play at the collegiate and professional levels, including the NFL.

Mike was honored throughout his career, being inducted into the Tyler ISD Hall of Fame in 2019 and the Tulane Football Hall of Fame in 2023, as part of the 1973 team. Mike was also inducted into the East Texas Coaches Hall of Honor in 2014. In August 2024, the field house at Tyler Legacy High School was named in his honor as the Mike Owens Field House.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Kathy McLaughlin Owens; his children, Jordan Owens and wife Emily, Tyler Owens and wife Jordan, and Ashlyn Owens Roberts and husband Dustin; and grandchildren Evan, James, and Grady Owens. He is also survived by his sister Deborah Owens Callais and husband Roy, nieces Alyssa Ducote and husband Darrin, and Winter Weldon.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

## Service

DEC 16. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ Sorry fa the loss of my coach from 81/84 I was QB fa 84football team at Port Arthur Jefferson,coach pushed us to be the best we can be and how to be good men in our community.💔🌹 Ron Ara Ford,rip coach,I don't know if he ever nee we called him Big O👑we respected him to much to say it out loud.

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**Ron Ford** - December 18, 2024 at 03:56 PM

BB

“ So sorry for your loss. Coach Owens was a great Coach and Mentor to me. I played for Coach from 1986 to 1989 at Thomas Jefferson High School in Port Arthur Texas. He gave me the nickname "Scoot". Coach you will always be missed. "SSC" (Swarm, Sting, Celebrate). Yellow Jacket for life.

*B.J. Bernard  
Port Arthur Thomas Jefferson High School C/O 1990*

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**Byron Bernard** - December 17, 2024 at 08:50 AM

BB

“ Brad B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

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**Brad B.** - December 16, 2024 at 11:37 PM

NR

“ Nic R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

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**Nic R.** - December 16, 2024 at 08:42 PM

LG

“ Linda & Glinda purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



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Linda & Glinda - December 16, 2024 at 09:03 AM

LG

“ Linda & Glinda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

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Linda & Glinda - December 16, 2024 at 09:03 AM

LS

“ Dr Owens, I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of your father. Prayers for you and your family. Lorri Loggins Smith

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Lorri Loggins Smith - December 15, 2024 at 10:44 PM

MF

“ Matt Flynn & Family purchased the Red Poinsetti a for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



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Matt Flynn & Family - December 15, 2024 at 12:53 PM

MF

“ Matt Flynn & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

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Matt Flynn & Family - December 15, 2024 at 12:53 PM

AS

“ *Abbie and Jon Sivertson purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.*



Abbie and Jon Sivertson - December 14, 2024 at 01:15 PM

MG

“ *Mike Koesling, the "other guard". purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.*



Mike Koesling, the "other guard". - December 14, 2024 at 12:00 PM

FG

“ *From Jose & Bertha Guerra purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.*



From Jose & Bertha Guerra - December 14, 2024 at 09:06 AM

CM

“ *I believe I was a sophomore when Coach Owens assumed the role of head coach at Thomas Jefferson. I was one of the trainers in the athletic department and held a great deal of respect for him. Much love and heartfelt sympathy to his family. Sincerely, Chadwick M. Mills, MD*

Chadwick Mills - December 13, 2024 at 09:40 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



December 13, 2024 at 05:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

December 13, 2024 at 05:17 PM



“ Janis Howard, Dow (IV) & Makena, and John & Amy Wynn planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

Janis Howard, Dow (IV) & Makena, and John & Amy Wynn - December 13, 2024 at 04:36 PM



“ I was at Thomas Jefferson with Mike in the 70s. Such a kind person and a great athlete. Condolences to his family.  
Vicki Lafitte Gay

vicki Lafitte Gay - December 13, 2024 at 09:47 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



December 13, 2024 at 08:07 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

December 13, 2024 at 08:07 AM



“ Coach Owens was the best coach. He was such a humble, kind and great man. He coached my son Keondra Smith at Tyler Lee High School and we Loved Him Dearly!!! Continued prayers for the Owen's Family.



**Karen Smith Spigner** - December 12, 2024 at 10:23 PM



“ Love, Darlene, Bron, Dee, and Kirk purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



**Love, Darlene, Bron, Dee, and Kirk** - December 12, 2024 at 08:33 PM

PP

“ Peyton & Anna Price purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



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**Peyton & Anna Price** - December 12, 2024 at 03:55 PM

MF

“ McGee Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



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**McGee Family** - December 12, 2024 at 11:22 AM

MF

“ McGee Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

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**McGee Family** - December 12, 2024 at 11:22 AM

KM

“ The Thomas Jefferson High School Class of 1976 sends prayers for strength, comfort and peace to Owens and McLaughlin families. Coach Owens had a great impact on the players he coached and students he taught at TJ. He will be greatly missed and so very fondly remembered. May the Spirit of 76 be with him and his family during this extremely difficult time.

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**Kat Weber McBeath** - December 12, 2024 at 12:37 AM

KU

“ Kelley Uzzell lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mike" G. Owens



Kelley Uzzell - December 11, 2024 at 10:52 PM

JA

“ John and Laura Ainsworth purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



John and Laura Ainsworth - December 11, 2024 at 08:41 PM

JA

“ John and Laura Ainsworth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

John and Laura Ainsworth - December 11, 2024 at 08:41 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



December 11, 2024 at 03:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

December 11, 2024 at 03:51 PM



“ We will never forget the times we shared, the hard work and dedicated times and tough times we went through. rest in peace coach, yours truly david green port arthur jefferson

**david green** - December 11, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



December 11, 2024 at 01:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

December 11, 2024 at 01:53 PM



“ FROM RANDY WOMBLE purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.



**FROM RANDY WOMBLE** - December 11, 2024 at 01:20 PM

FW

“ FROM RANDY WOMBLE planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" G. Owens.

FROM RANDY WOMBLE - December 11, 2024 at 01:20 PM

BM

“ Coach Owens has and will forever hold a special place in my heart as he coached me and my remarkable teammates in the 1997 and 1998 seasons at Robert E. Lee High School. He forged young boys into young men with a stern hand and yet a gentle heart. He shaped many fantastic memories full of sweat, tears and the most ultimate one liners. He will be missed! Thank you Coach Owens!

Brandon McKinley  
Class of 1999

Brandon McKinley - December 10, 2024 at 10:43 PM

GC

“ A great teammate and one of the toughest guys I've known. Rest in peace.

Gerry Chidester - December 10, 2024 at 07:38 PM

PT

I had the pleasure of covering Coach Owens when I was at the Beaumont Enterprise, and it was a blessing right off the bat. I always enjoyed talking to him and watching his teams. He was a straight shooter to say the least and I loved it. Could always count on honesty and great quotes from Coach Owens. Definitely, one of my favorites. I actually moved to Tyler a few months before he became head coach at Lee. That was a great surprise, and I knew he was going to do something special there. Well, he did. Not only did Coach Owens create magic, but he touched lives as well. Thanks for the memories. Coach. Prayers and comfort to the Owens family. God Bless.

Pat Turner - December 12, 2024 at 07:31 PM