



Homer Ray Taft

November 28, 1933 - May 13, 2024

Homer Ray Taft was born on the 28th of November in 1933 to parents Mr. and Mrs. WB Taft. The youngest of five, Mr. Taft is preceded in death by his brothers James, Calvin and Thomas Taft and sister, Ola Mae Puckett.

Mr. Taft graduated from Ardmore High School in 1951. He received his bachelor's in education from MTSU in 1954 where he continued his love for basketball with the MTSU Lightning. Furthering continuing his education, he later received a Masters in Educational Leadership from Athens State University. He taught for 30 years in Madison County Schools including Monrovia School, Farmer's Capital (Lynn Fanning), and Madison Middle School where he continued to coach and nurture young people.

In 1972, he married Imogene Brown Taft and became stepfather to her two sons, Dwight and Derrell Brown. He is also preceded in death by his wife, Imogene and son, Dwight. He leaves behind son, Derrell Brown and wife Eva Brown, daughter in law Mary Brown (Dwight), and four grandchildren Kristi Brown Combs, Ethan Brown, Amber Brown Anderson and Jeffery Brown, grandnephew Shaun Puckett, and six great grandchildren.

Mr. Taft loved MTSU basketball, Alabama football and the New York Yankees. He was always very proud of his family and his students often bragging about all their accomplishments to whomever would listen.

Mr. Taft was a member of Cash Point Baptist Church for over sixty years and was a servant of God all his life. He was also a longtime member of the Gatlin Cemetery Board, serving for over 35 years. In the past 24 years of service for Gatlin, Mr. Taft has buried over 2400 people. Mr. Taft was a fixture of the Ardmore Community known for his giving nature and servitude. He will be greatly missed.

A Visitation will be held at Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home on May 15th, 2024, from 6pm until 8pm. A Chapel Service is scheduled for the following day, Thursday, May 16th, 2024, beginning at 12:00 noon. Burial will follow at Gatlin Cemetery.

Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home is assisting the family with services.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to Gatlin Cemetery in Ray Taft's name.

Cemetery Details

Gatlin Cemetery

Stateline Road
Ardmore, AL 35739

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home
27186 E. Main St.
Ardmore, AL 35739
(256) 423-4100
<https://www.ardmorechapel.com/>

Chapel Service

MAY 16. 12:00 PM (CT)

Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home
27186 E. Main St.
Ardmore, AL 35739
(256) 423-4100
<https://www.ardmorechapel.com/>

Tribute Wall

DP

“ My name is Dick Palmer. I just read about the passing of Coach Taft. God Bless Him!!
I played basketball for Coach Taft at Monrovia Junior High School. He was the best coach I ever had! I ended up playing football at Kentucky!
The basketball coach there was Adolf Rupp had seen me play basketball in High School and told me to play football.
I was disappointed, but tried out there and played football 4 years at Kentucky and then 5 years in the NFL. I couldn't have done that if Coach Taft hadn't taught me how to NOT Quit and Expect to WIN!!
Coach Taft was a true Leader and taught me how to win in sports and more importantly, LIFE!
I will always be thankful to Coach Taft. I've tried to coach my kids like he coached me.
God Bless Coach Ray Taft!
Dick Palmer

Dick Palmer - July 08, 2024 at 09:07 PM

CE

“ The family of the late Horace Elliott and for his wife, Claire, send condolences during this time of loss. Ray was a dear friend to us both. I always looked forward to our "talks" and laughter. I just found out about Ray's passing and I am heartbroken. I will miss him so much.
Claire Elliott

Claire Elliott - May 30, 2024 at 09:49 AM

PF

“ Ray Taft was well respected in the Monrovia community and valued by my parents, C.W. and Mildred Fanning, my sister Ann Fanning-Vaughn, her family, and me. His devotion to his roles as an educator and coach were only surpassed by his focus on his family and community. His contributions were many but he did not stand still very long to listen to the deserved accolades that rightfully came his way. Rest in Peace Coach Taft!

Paul Fanning - May 15, 2024 at 05:27 PM

JW

“ As an underclassman at Madison Middle School in 1982, I remember being terrified of going into the 7th grade because of Coach Taft. But after having him as a teacher, coach and mentor, I genuinely came to love the man. He taught me so many things, and I can still hear his voice. I miss his sense of humor and his half-smile and wink to let you know he was messing with you. He was the best.

Jim Walker - May 15, 2024 at 12:58 PM

HG

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Praying for family and friends at this time.

Harriette (Marshall) Glover - May 15, 2024 at 12:21 PM

JF

“ J.W. Martin and family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Homer Ray Taft.



J.W. Martin and family - May 15, 2024 at 11:16 AM

AM

“ Coach was a wonderful family friend. He taught with my daddy and taught my sister and me. For years, We visited Coach and Imogene at Christmas and it was always a treat to talk to him. After our daddy passed, he called mama to check on her and sent her Christmas cards every year. I pray his family feels God's comfort as they mourn him. Coach, will see you over yonder.

Allyson K. Mainor - May 15, 2024 at 11:06 AM

AP

“ Coach Taft and my dad, Coach Bill Kitchens, were great friends when they taught together at Madison School. Coach came to my wedding and sent a Christmas card to my mom every year. He continued that with me after she passed.
I'm sure the stories are flying thick and fast in Heaven between him and Daddy.
Prayers for his family.

Amy P - May 15, 2024 at 01:51 AM

DA

“ Coach Taft taught my mother at Monrovia. He taught my brother and me at Madison Middle. He came to my dad's funeral and we are all very touched that he came to pay his respects. Coach Taft would ask me everyday at school who my mother was, just to aggravate me. When he came to the funeral home that night, he came up behind me and asked " what's your mommas name?" I smiled and said Puddin' Tane. He laughed and asked if I was still mad at him. His memory was sharp. He was a good man and I am glad he and I had that memory together. I will never forget you Coach. You were one of kind. RIP Dede Henry Asherbranner

Dede Asherbranner - May 14, 2024 at 09:29 PM

PL

“ Peggy Taft Turney, June Taft Lang planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Homer Ray Taft.

Peggy Taft Turney, June Taft Lang - May 14, 2024 at 08:47 PM

PL

“ Peggy Taft Turney, June Taft Lang purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Homer Ray Taft.

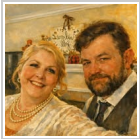


Peggy Taft Turney, June Taft Lang - May 14, 2024 at 08:47 PM

MG

“ Mr. Taft was my teacher at Monrovia school and he was good to us mean boy's.

Milton A Gravitt - May 14, 2024 at 08:16 PM



“ Coach Taft taught me in the 7th grade at Madison Middle from 1984-1985. He also coached P.E. with Ms. Stamps. He was a firm teacher with integrity who taught us and encouraged us to think for ourselves. RIP Coach.

Jackie Morgan - May 14, 2024 at 07:44 PM

MT

“ Mr. Taft was both mine and my husbands teacher at Monrovia. He was tough but one of the fairest teacher ever. He never forgot a name of one of his students, and always supported them in life and death. He had my utmost respect as a teacher and as a Christian. God speed coach. You'll never be forgotten.

Martha Bagsby Thomas - May 14, 2024 at 07:39 PM



“ Coach was my Madison middle school teacher and umpire and referee for a lot of my baseball and basketball games and was my baseball coach in 7th and 8th grade. And I am happy to say I was one of the few that he never got paddle. In 1997 when my father passed he came to pay his respects and I will always love and remember him just for that. God's speed Coach. You will be loved and missed every single day..

Billy Williams - May 14, 2024 at 05:48 PM



“ Coach Taft was a great man. I played basketball for him at Madison Middle School. He could also swing a paddle with the best of them. I think he learned his swing from watching the Yankees play. RIP Coach!

John Salisbury - May 14, 2024 at 04:28 PM

EM

“ Emily May lit a candle in memory of Homer Ray Taft



Emily May - May 14, 2024 at 04:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Homer Ray Taft.



May 14, 2024 at 02:58 PM



“ Cheryl Ables Geske sent a virtual gift in memory of Homer Ray Taft



Cheryl Ables Geske - May 14, 2024 at 02:28 PM



Coach Taft was a very kind man and it was an honor to know him. I will always remember the phone calls between him and Lynn with them both hollering "What did you say and I can't hear you" and their talks about the Alabama football games. Lynn Loved him so much and always enjoyed their trips to Tuscaloosa. Coach Taft would nap the whole way on most trips. Rest on Coach Taft. Prayers and Sympathy to Coach Brown and his entire family. Love Lynn and Quo Vadis Crutcher 🙏🙏

Lynn and Quo Vadis Crutcher - May 15, 2024 at 07:55 PM