



## Joseph Clay Hardin

December 12, 1929 - July 29, 2020

Joseph Clay Hardin of Pulaski TN passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at the age of 90. He was born in Sevierville, TN on December 12, 1929. Coach Hardin, as many knew him, was a retired teacher, principal, and coach. He graduated from Carson Newman with a Bachelor's degree and received a Master's +45 from Peabody at Vanderbilt University. After he served in the Air Force, he began his teaching career at George Wythe HS in Wytheville, VA. Upon moving to Pulaski, he served as football/basketball coach and principal of GCHS, athletic director and basketball coach at Martin Methodist College and men's basketball coach at Athens State College. Coach Hardin was inducted into the Sevierville High School Athletic Hall of Fame, Martin Methodist College Athletic Hall of Fame, and TSSAA Hall of fame. Coach Hardin will always be remembered for his service to the community and the students he impacted.

The family suggest memorial donations be made to the charity of your choice.

Proceeded in death by his parents, Sanders Hardin and Edith McConkey Hardin and his wives, Martha Judd McMahan Woods Hardin and Mary Dolores Cathcart Townsend Hardin, brother Jack Hardin, and Sisters Nita Bowling and Margaretta Clayton. Survived by, son Scott (Susan) Hardin of Brentwood, son, Steve (Anissa) Woods of Houston, TX, son, Bobby Townsend of Pulaski, daughter, Cathy (Barry) Laxson of Pulaski and 12 grandchildren,

Tatum Hardin, Fate Hardin, Sanders Hardin, Jack Woods, Allie Woods, Megan Smith, Jackson (Cara Paige) Townsend, Parker Townsend, Morgan Townsend, Whitt Laxson, Meredith Garvin, Courtney Fay and 4 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation at Bennett-May & Peirce Funeral Home Saturday August 1, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Respectfully we ask people to maintain movement in the visitation line and refrain from physical contact.

A graveside service with full military honors will be held at 3:30pm at Maplewood Cemetery.

Bennett-May & Pierce Funeral Home and Crematory in charge of arrangements for Joseph Clay Hardin.

# Tribute Wall

CP

“ My heart goes out to the family of Coach and to all who knew him. I arrived at Martin Methodist in the fall of 1990, Coach Hardin and Coach Hughes and Coach Jones were the first people I met. He took this "Unionville Dink" and taught me so much that went far beyond any book or lecture. He taught me how to deal with adversity and maintain your class and dignity as well! Coach you will be missed!!

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**Charlie Pope** - August 06, 2020 at 11:19 AM

JH

“ To The Family Very Sorry For Your Loss I Officiated Basketball And Coach Hardin Was A Very Good Coach And Good Man. R.I.P Coach From: Retired Basketball Ref. James Harlan Franklin tenn

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**James Harlan** - August 03, 2020 at 03:10 PM

EP

“ I am so saddened to hear about the death of our dear Coach Hardin. He had such an impact on so many of us. He was always tough but fair, demanding but kind. His appearance was at times was so scary. He could stare a hole right through you as he would stand in the hall way and watch the students walk by. He really cared about all of us. He really gave us a hard time especially as a basketball player. He said to me once, he said, "Parsons when I stop correcting you, pushing you, even yelling at you then that will be the day when I don't care (love) you anymore." I think he loved me a lot. In my career as an athletic trainer, I must have torn athletic tape hundreds of thousand of times, but who taught me to tear tape. He saw me cutting tape with scissors one afternoon on the football field at Sam Davis Park. He came over and showed me. That has been over 50 years ago, but I remember it as if it was yesterday. I know he will be missed by so many, especially his family. I am looking so forward to seeing him again when he is resurrected to a beautiful paradise earth. John 5:28,29.

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**Edward Parsons** - August 02, 2020 at 06:51 PM

BM

“ How to express our sorry in the loss of a dear friend like Coach Hardin is hard to put into words...at this time we are so limited in expressing our deep and sincere respect of cherished friend...please know how sorry we are for his loss...he will forever be in our hearts...he always called Billy (Legs) and Billy always called him (Rupp)...love to the family, Billy and Judy Mayfield

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**Billy and Judy Mayfield** - August 01, 2020 at 09:24 PM

BP

“ At least a couple of my foundational building blocks were laid by Coach Hardin. I am grateful for his influence.

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**Bo Pierce** - August 01, 2020 at 07:55 PM

CS

“ *Joseph Clay Hardin*

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**Caroline ok Scoggin** - August 01, 2020 at 05:30 PM

AS

“ *Absolutely the best school principal and Coach that I ever medt and in 57 years of being in business I have meet a few*

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**Al Sansom** - August 01, 2020 at 10:36 AM

RS

“ *I'm so deeply sadness for the lost of coach Hardin.He was such a great man. This comes from his former student at GCHS.Ruth Francis Stewart*

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**Ruth Stewart** - July 31, 2020 at 11:04 PM

SK

“ *Uncle Joe. My heart is hurting without you. Joe took me and my family, and dogs, into his home after Hurricane Katrina. We lived in the basement for a year. He made sure that we were comfortable and fed us the best food. He introduced us to the community and enrolled my daughter In the elementary school. Uncle Joe loved and supported our family. He will be deeply missed.*

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**Sandra Koederitz** - July 31, 2020 at 06:31 PM

CM

“ *Coach Hardin was my basketball coach in high school, and my brother's football coach. We thought highly of him. He will be missed and was loved by so many.*

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**Connie Mitchell** - July 31, 2020 at 09:04 AM

DT

“ Coach Hardin was so good to the two of us during our eight years in Pulaski. Our first home was in the basement of his home on Aymett Ridge Road. He made it an apartment for us, a young married couple. Coach Hardin literally touched thousands and thousands of young lives. His legacy will live on in the lives he touched and certainly in us. Dan and Debbie Trotter

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**D Trotter** - July 30, 2020 at 09:29 PM

KM

“ Had him for principal good friends grew up with his son Scott a wonderful neighbor the folks on aymett ridge road will miss you prayers for the family the Dobbins family

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**Karen Dobbins Morrison** - July 30, 2020 at 09:01 PM

PP

“ Sorry to hear about Coach Hardin! Praying for you all!

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**Pamela Pryor** - July 30, 2020 at 07:09 PM

AL

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Coach Hardin. He was a very sweet guy . God bless the family during this time.

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**Amy Gooch Lawrence** - July 30, 2020 at 05:24 PM