



Coach Kenneth Hayes Beard

December 27, 1940 - January 22, 2019

Kenneth Hayes “Coach” Beard, age 78, passed away at his residence on January 22, 2019 with his loving wife and son by his side. He was born in Bessemer, Alabama on December 27, 1940 to Jewell Dabbs Beard and Leonard Elbert Beard. He was preceded in death by his beloved son, Kenneth Gregory (Greg) Beard and his parents. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sue Hutcheson Beard, and his son Timothy Scott Beard of Arab; brothers Don Beard (Evelyn) of Bessemer, AL, Joe Beard(Margaret) of Scottsdale, AZ, Jeff Beard (Sara) of Bessemer, AL, a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews, and his beloved grand-dog Sparky.

A graduate of Hueytown High School, Ken was selected to play on the All-State Football team, and his athletic ability also earned him a football scholarship to the University of Alabama where he played tackle for Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant. He began his teaching and coaching career in 1965 at Jacksonville State University where he met his wife Sue. He went on to hold Head coaching positions at Cleburne County High School in Heflin, Madison County High School in Gurley, and Arab High School. During his coaching tenure, he was named Madison County Coach of The Year and Marshall County Coach of the Year. He retired from teaching in 1994 and worked for The American General Insurance Company for several years. Ken was an active member of The University of Alabama “A” Club, the Alabama Alumni Association, and an honorary “J” Club member at Jacksonville State

University.

Ken and his family moved to Arab in 1976, and he immediately established Arab as his home. In addition to teaching and coaching, he worked in the summer for the Arab Park and Recreation Department as the T-Ball Coordinator. Under his leadership, the program was so successful that the Arab T-Ball Association, former coaches, and parents of former players dedicated a permanent plaque of appreciation which stands at the ball field today. He served on various civic committees including the Beautification Board and the Planning Commission. He also served on the Marshall County CASA Board and assisted in building handicap ramps for both county and Arab residents. He was a member of Habitat for Humanity and worked to help build an area home. Ken was an active member of the Arab First United Methodist Church where he served on numerous committees including Chairman of the Administrative Board. He was a member of the Emmaus community, Walk #308, which allowed him the opportunity to serve twice on the Kairos Prison Ministry team and twice on the Epiphany Ministry Team for incarcerated youth.

Funeral service will be held at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, January 27, 2019 at Arab First United Methodist Church with Bro. Mike Shirley, Bro. Steve West, Bro. Ricky Tolleson & Bro. Steve Gipson, officiating. Burial will be in Arab Memorial Cemetery with Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel, directing.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and one hour prior to the service on Sunday at the church.

Pallbearers will include Thomas Bennett, Jeff Beard II, David Skidmore, Steve Craft, Aaron Bush, and Austin Bush. Honorary pallbearers include Eddie Hutcheson, Bill Hutcheson, Dr. Charles Mann, Courtney McKoy, Bill Privett, former football teammates, players, and coaches at Hueytown, the University

of Alabama, Jacksonville State University, Heflin, Gurley, and Arab.

In lieu of flowers, the family strongly requests that donations be made to the Greg Beard Memorial Scholarship Fund at Arab First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 470, Arab, Alabama 35016.

Cemetery Details

Arab Memorial Cemetery

565 South Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 26. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel
1340 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-4100

Lie-In-State

JAN 27. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Arab First United Methodist Church
1058 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

Service

JAN 27. 3:00 PM (CT)

Arab First United Methodist Church
1058 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Thank you Lord for placing Coach Beard in our lives. He was such a positive mentor to me and so many 🙏

Matt Miles
CCHS 1973

matt miles - January 27, 2019 at 10:50 AM

VO

“ My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family. May God give you the peace that you need to get through this difficult time.

Cecil Baker Jr.
Heflin, AL

Vivian Owen - January 26, 2019 at 05:14 PM

VO

“ Coach Beard was a great influence in my life and meant a lot to me. I am so sorry for Sue and the family.

Mark Robinson, Heflin, AL

Vivian Owen - January 26, 2019 at 05:12 PM

ST

“ Sean Tully lit a candle in memory of Coach Kenneth Hayes Beard



Sean Tully - January 25, 2019 at 08:06 PM



“ 56 files added to the album LifeTributes



Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel - January 25, 2019 at 11:16 AM



“ He lived to serve.....

A life well spent....

He will live on in so very many of us...

All from Arab High who knew him from his first day could only imagine the opus waiting as he arrived in Heaven. And to be with sweet, sweet Greg...oh the joy!!

*In Christ,
The Atchleys (Steve and Sherry Gullion-Atchley)*



Sherry Gullion-Atchley - January 24, 2019 at 02:30 AM



“ I'll never forget his sense of humor. One day in the high school lunch room someone bit into an apple and found a worm. Coach said “ shh, don't say anything because everyone will want one!” I love you coach and you will be missed!!!

Jeff Serrett - January 24, 2019 at 01:30 AM

DJ

“ I have so many...however, as a young child walking up the steps every Sunday morning at First Methodist on 1st Avenue I knew Coach Beard would be there to greet, shake hands with my parents, give me a big hug with a huge smile on his face that was so genuine and loving. He would then reach into his pocket each week and give me a peppermint. He was the first person who said to me "Jesus loves you and so do I". When I think about how church elders can serve, give wisdom, guide children and teenagers I think of Ken Beard! My entire life he still always gave me a bear hug which I looked forward to and he was always genuine in wanting to know how I was and wanted to congratulate me on my newest accomplishment. When I think of a constant in my childhood that exemplifies community and God's love for us I think of Coach Beard! I thank The Lord for putting Coach Beard in my life as one of nber one encouragers.

Dana Bailey Jacobs - January 24, 2019 at 12:15 AM

HJ

“ So sorry he was afine person Great coach and loved by Heflin Tigers

harold jones - January 23, 2019 at 10:23 PM

LB

“ We will never forget how good Ken was to visit Mr. Brannon and bring him brownies. He always had time to sit and talk a while and share a few laughs. My boys remember him not only for his coaching but his playing Santa at Security Bank and Trust many moons ago. We still have the pictures made with him. Ken was a good Christian man and helped many people along his way. He will be missed. May God bless all who loved him, especially Sue and Scott.

Linn Brannon - January 23, 2019 at 10:15 PM



“ I consider Ken and Sue among my dearest and closest friends. Ken was one of the finest men I have ever known. He believed totally in doing the right thing....no exceptions. His life honored God in all that he did. He will be missed.

Joan Drake - January 23, 2019 at 07:16 PM



“ Nalani Clements McNary lit a candle in memory of Coach Kenneth Hayes Beard



Nalani Clements McNary - January 23, 2019 at 04:12 PM



“ Coach Beard was a wonderful Teacher and Person. He had a servant's heart, always involved in anything that helped others. He will be missed by so many but his reward in Heaven will be great! Sue and Scott, we will be praying for comfort for you both. Pam Cooper



Pamela Taylor Cooper - January 23, 2019 at 03:30 PM



“ Ken Beard was a true Southern gentleman! He had a wonderful sense of humor and an ever-present smile!

Judy Roads - January 23, 2019 at 01:18 PM

EW

Yes ma'am he was that .. When he came to Cleburne County High (Heflin) we the football players were scared to death . But Coach Beard was a just rough tough football loving man .. He was the spark we needed. We had been winless for a long time and we got our first victory with him . Sometimes after a game he could scare us to death with what we needed to improve on .. He and Sue are very good people and are respected by many .. This old tried to be football players loved them so . RIP Coach Beard ..

Eddie Whitman - January 23, 2019 at 07:11 PM

GW

Ken Beard was a wonderful friend, I have known him since our high school days playing football for Hueytown High School. My wife and I have enjoyed so many trips, Alabama Football games, and just times together. He was a great man and a great friend.

Glenn Wadsworth - January 26, 2019 at 04:38 PM