



James William Estes

September 26, 1926 - September 25, 2015

Coach James W. Estes passed away peacefully on Friday, September 25, 2015. Coach Estes was born on September 26, 1926 in Walker County, Alabama. He was one of fourteen children born to Cranford and Pearl Estes. J.W. graduated from Curry High School, having been voted the Most Athletic and Biggest Flirt of his Senior Class. He then joined the Army, where he served honorably in the Occupation of Japan; landing two days after the atomic bomb hit Nagasaki. Following his discharge, James returned to Alabama where he finished technical training. However, as fate would have it, J. W. was asked to teach and coach in a local high school. In 1953 James married young Peggy Clark. He then attended Jacksonville State Teachers' College where he received a degree in Physical Education. James and Peggy took their newborn son to Decatur, Georgia in 1955, when Coach began his Georgia teaching career at Southwest DeKalb High School. Mr. Estes subsequently completed his Master's Degree at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in 1958. Coach Estes worked in the DeKalb County School System for thirty years, before retiring in 1985. He was beloved by students at SWD from 1955-66; at Walker High School from 1967-1973; and then returning to SWD from 1974-85. Coach Estes touched thousands of lives during his long career and remained in contact with many hundreds of those students through the social media, reunions and other functions. He was a man of humor and wit. It is difficult to think of the Coach and not have a smile on your face. He will be missed by his legions of admirers, but most of all by

his family. Mr. Estes is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mrs. Peggy Clark Estes; three sons and their wives, Keith & Renee, Chad & Paula, and Jamey & Andrea. Pops was adored by his grandchildren, Lyndsey Goff (Lee), Kara Long (Tom), Kristin Mitchell (Dustin), Jared Estes, Kyle Estes, Andrew Estes, Sarah Estes, Samuel Estes and Hannah Estes; as well as his great-grandchildren, Riley Mitchell, Macy Goff and Maddox Goff. Surely no man ever loved his grandkids as much as Pops did. Mr. Estes was preceded in death by his parents and siblings; Benjamin, George, Adell Estes Lay, Richard, Homer and Bobby Estes. Surviving siblings include Mary Miller, Dorothy Atkins, Maxine Gammon, Jack Estes, Emmalee Brown, Sarah Umphrey and Buddy Estes. James also leaves behind a multitude of friends who he had known for 50+ years. Mr. Estes was a deacon at Rockdale Baptist Church and the Chairman of the Board of Directors at Beasley Drug Store. Visitation will be at Scot Ward Funeral Services in Conyers, GA on Sunday, September 27th from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm. Funeral services will be held at Rockdale Baptist Church on Monday, September 28th at 11 am. Coach will lie in state from 9:30 am until service time. Burial will take place on Tuesday, September 29th at 10 am (CST) in Blooming Grove Cemetery, Curry, AL. Condolences may be submitted on-line at www.scotward.com. Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

Cemetery Details

Blooming Grove Cemetery

Blooming Grove Cemetery, AL

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 27. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens
699 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012

Visitation

SEP 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens
699 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012

Visitation

SEP 28. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Rockdale Baptist Church
1295 Smyrna Rd.
Conyers, GA 30094

Service

SEP **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Rockdale Baptist Church
1295 Smyrna Rd.
Conyers, GA 30094

Tribute Wall

MA

“ *" The angels are always near to those who are grieving, to whisper to them that their loved ones are safe in the hand of God." - Eileen E. Freeman -*

Our heartfelt condolences,

Maritza Ajo-Kelly and Maria Kelly

Maritza Ajo-Kelly - October 03, 2015 at 12:23 PM

R6

“ *It is with sadness that I read of the passing of Coach James Estes. He was my Track and Offensive Line coach at Southwest DeKalb High School. I remember well a conversation I had with him my Senior Year. I wanted to continue playing football and Coach Estes suggested a college. Most importantly he encouraged me to always be a " participant ". I always thought he meant this to be not just sports but life. This had a very profound effect on my life. At 67 years of age I'm still participating. You were a great coach and still a great teacher. I was lucky to have known you and you will always be in my heart. Rocky Brown Southwest DeKalb 66*

Rocky Brown SWD 66 - September 29, 2015 at 12:57 PM

JD

“ Coach Estes was my position (tight end & receivers) coach at SWD my senior year. He was a player's coach all the way. He treated the others and myself like we were his family. It would be hot during those summer two-a-day practices...he would often tell us funny stories that made us laugh. He made me a better person and I am blessed to have known him.

Jody Douglas

J Douglas - September 29, 2015 at 12:18 PM



“ So many of my early childhood memories are tied to the Estes family. I was telling my boys that Jamey and I played together probably 5 days a week from age 5 to 10. We played guns, tackle the man with the ball, Star Wars, go through the woods to the creek and fall in. I was always welcome in the Estes home. I remember being a little afraid of Mr. Estes at first, but he was such a jokester that he put me at ease quickly. Many days I'd come over say, "Can Jamey come out and play?" and while I'd wait he would always ask me, "How you been doin' peckerwood?" Pretty strong compliment coming from Mr. Estes.

Lewis Grace - September 28, 2015 at 12:39 PM

MB

“ My prayers and thoughts go out to the Estes family! I had the privilege to play football for coach Estes. He taught us about the game of life and football and how to try to do our best at both! He will be deeply missed!

Mickey Beck - SWD - class of 77

Mickey Beck - September 28, 2015 at 12:21 PM

DS

“ I attend church with this wonderful family. The wonderful thing though is that I ran into Peggy and Coach at Wendy's one afternoon. Of course, I thought they looked familiar, so we started up a conversation that lasted an hour, since I was from Avondale Coach knew lost of people, he was so interesting. It was a wonderful afternoon, then we always looked for each other at church. Just a reminder don't keep your Christianity in the church building! Love you Peggy.



Dianne Sullens - September 28, 2015 at 11:16 AM

BN

“ Our deepest sympathies & condolences to the family of Coach. My wife & I were blessed to have been students at SWD and he will always remain my favorite coach. Whenever our paths crossed through the years, it was a special delight to share old memories. He will always be a part of a special time in our life. With God's blessings, Butch and Florence Norris.

Butch Norris - September 28, 2015 at 09:08 AM

KW

“ Deepest sympathies to all who loved Coach.
God bless

Jack & Kim Wade



Kim Wade - September 27, 2015 at 11:07 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers and love are with you all. Coach, you have left a great legacy.....you are loved by so many and will be missed.... See you again one day!! We love you! "Odie" & DeLisa Brown*



DeLisa Brown - September 27, 2015 at 08:04 PM

RE

“ I was told this past Friday of Uncle J.W.'s passing and I was very, very, saddened, shocked and heart broken by his passing. I remember uncle J.W. as a very smart, intelligent, honorable man with billions of smiles and a huge heart. myself, my wife Gina and our son Lorenzo are so saddened and hurt to know and hear that one of the worlds greatest teachers in the world has passed away. Our love, sympathy's, condolences and thoughts and prayers go out to aunt Peggy and all of her family and friends and those of uncle J.W. Estes. Uncle J.W. was a man of many talents, skill, intelligence, smiles, laughter, love and care. He loved all of his family and friends more than you could ever imagine and it is so very hard to accept the reality of it that he has passed away. But, our father in heaven above has called him home to watch over us all at once from the heavenly skies above.

Uncle J.W. we will always love and miss you and will always keep you in our hearts, prayers,. thoughts and memories. And from this day on, when ever we smile, we'll think of your smile and happiness and laughter and joy that you are and have brought us all through the years.

*Love Always and Forever,
Rodney, Gina and Lorenzo.
The England's*

Rodney, Gina and Lorenzo England - September 27, 2015 at 07:02 PM

RE

With our deepest, heartfelt, sympathy and condolences, Love Always and Forever, Rodney, Gina and Lorenzo England

Rodney, Gina and Lorenzo England - September 27, 2015 at 07:05 PM

DO

“ *Donna lit a candle in memory of James William Estes*



Donna - September 27, 2015 at 06:43 PM

CC

“ *SWD Royalty. I'm glad I knew him. God Bless!*

Clayton Coggins - September 27, 2015 at 04:58 PM

TC

“ *The Retired Football Coaches purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James William Estes.*



The Retired Football Coaches - September 27, 2015 at 03:13 PM

BR

“ I played basketball at SWD class of 1960 and always wished I could have had Coach Estes. We would have won some games if we had had him. He was the sweetest, most friendly teacher at SWD and we all loved him for that. He kept up with all of us and came to all our parties after graduation. The last time he came for me was three years ago I had all the football players from the 60 class and he came to be with them all. He was a very kind hearted wonderful Christian friend. We will miss him, but God is happy to have him with Him so He can reward him for all he did for others. Sincerely,
Bonnie McKenzie Reeser.

Bonnie McKenzie Reeser - September 27, 2015 at 02:37 PM

KR

“ Coach Estes was my first PE coach and was funny and encouraging. He will always be part of the SWD game fabric. My prayers to the family. SWD c/o 87

katt rudd - September 27, 2015 at 12:56 PM

DH

“ Coach Estes inspired even wall flowers to try. My sincere condolences for his earthy body will be missed. But in celebration he will welcome us into heaven in our own time.
Debi (Williams) Hall
Class of 1975
SouthWest Dekalb HS

debi hall - September 27, 2015 at 12:22 PM

SS

“ *My fondest memories of SWD always include Coach Estes.*

*Steve Skeen
SWD Class of '67*

Steve Skeen - September 27, 2015 at 09:32 AM

SP

“ *He was a great coach and teacher a great person*

Susan Burton Purkey - September 27, 2015 at 08:00 AM



“ *Distinguished Service Casket Spray was purchased for the family of James William Estes.*



September 26, 2015 at 11:39 PM

ML

“ *Mark Lusnia lit a candle in memory of James William Estes*



Mark Lusnia - September 26, 2015 at 08:11 PM

MH

“ Mike Hayes lit a candle in memory of James William Estes



Mike Hayes - September 26, 2015 at 07:18 PM

ED

“ Our sincere sympathy to all of the Estes family in the death of the well known and loved, James Estes. We appreciated his support when I was Superintendent of the Rockdale County School System. James brought a good laugh whenever I was around him. Ellis and Carol Dunbar

Ellis Dunbar - September 26, 2015 at 07:15 PM

CT

“ So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all the family and friends during this difficult time.



Carey Tancer - September 26, 2015 at 07:04 PM

CG

“ Cindy Guy lit a candle in memory of James William Estes



cindy guy - September 26, 2015 at 06:36 PM

PD

“ A kind and gentle man, and a great role model for his students. I am honored to have known Coach Estes. He was loved by so many of us SWD "kids". Rest, in Peace, Coach, you will be missed by many.



Patsy Horton Dodd - September 26, 2015 at 06:05 PM

EH

“ Coach Estes was a well loved coach who set a good example for all, he will be missed, Elaine Still Hubbard...

Elaine Hubbard - September 26, 2015 at 05:25 PM

BD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. Coach Estes was a valued friend to the students at SWD, whether we played football or not. We all loved him, and he will be truly missed. He had a deep faith and love for the Lord, and he expressed it wherever he went. Thank you, Coach Estes, for the wonderful memories. God, please hold Coach Estes and this family in your loving arms always..

Barbara Davis and James Bartlett

Barbara Davis - September 26, 2015 at 05:20 PM

 John Beynon

“ When I found out Coach Estes was hanging out at Beasleys drugstore with friends I decided to visit him as I had not seen him in nearly fifty years. I left a note with an employee stating that I was going to see him and I described myself as the worst athlete he had ever coached. He had no problem remembering who I was even after all of those years.

John Beynon - September 26, 2015 at 03:37 PM

LK

“ Chad, Paula and the rest of the Estes family our thoughts and prayers are with you.

David, Lori, Jake and Tyler Keyes

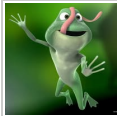
Lori Keyes - September 26, 2015 at 03:29 PM



“ Mary Shaffer lit a candle in memory of James William Estes



Mary Shaffer - September 26, 2015 at 03:04 PM



Prayers going out to Estes Family and Friends of Coach .

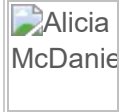
Mary Shaffer - September 26, 2015 at 03:15 PM

Alicia
McDaniel

“ Alicia McDaniel lit a candle in memory of James William Estes



Alicia McDaniel - September 26, 2015 at 02:46 PM



Alicia
McDaniel

Although I never knew Coach personally, the stories I have had the joy of experiencing and the memories relived through my husband who was blessed by having been coached by him have blessed me abundantly. I was a classmate with Chad, and truly hope that we all could leave behind the type of legacy that Coach has. God Bless you all.

Alicia McDaniel - September 26, 2015 at 02:49 PM

LG

“*Lou Anne Genadry lit a candle in memory of James William Estes*



Lou Anne Genadry - September 26, 2015 at 01:41 PM

LG

There will never be another soul on earth like the Coach. He was the very definition of "a real character". His stories, jokes, & unconditional love will be with me forever. And now he will have a forever 50 yard line seat to his beloved Crimson Tide's football games. Roll Tide, Coach! Roll Tide! I love you.

Lou Anne Genadry - September 26, 2015 at 02:14 PM

LL

“*Lesla Lancaster lit a candle in memory of James William Estes*



Lesla Lancaster - September 26, 2015 at 01:00 PM



Thanks Coach for the life lessons!! Your legacy will continue as you celebrate a heavenly birthday!! May your entire family find comfort in knowing that our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Lesa Lancaster - September 26, 2015 at 01:03 PM



Prayers for the family. It was an honor for us to know Coach not only in school, but as a friend and co-worker. He will be missed, but what a legacy he has left. I know Heaven is glad to have him.

Chris and Wayne Mize - September 26, 2015 at 01:30 PM



Thoughts and prayers to the Estes family, great coach and great family friend, thanks for the memories.Jimmy Van Tone

Jimmy Van Tone - September 26, 2015 at 05:16 PM



*Our prayers are with the family. Coach was great man and a good friend and inspiration to all who knew him. Our loss is Heavens gain. He will be missed.
Jack and Phyllis Wilson*

Jack Wilson - September 26, 2015 at 10:11 PM



Coach you will always be in my heart! You were not just a teacher or coach you were mentor. Daphne Compton

Daphne Compton - September 27, 2015 at 07:42 PM



Condolences to the Estes Family. I will always remember you as a quiet, funny, caring and humble man. Your sense of humor drew us near and as part of the SWD family, our bonds cemented. Rest with God, Coach. And happy birthday!

Teresa Thurmond - September 28, 2015 at 04:32 AM