



Mr. John Duke, Jr. Obituary

October 27, 1927 - October 16, 2011

Mr. John Henderson Duke, Jr. 83, of Albany died, Sunday, October 16, 2011 at his residence.

Mr. Duke requested his body be donated for science therefore it has been sent to the Medical College of Georgia.

A memorial will be held 10 AM Wednesday at Kimbrell-Stern with the Rev. Bobby Harrell officiating. The family will receive friends following the service.

Mr. Duke was born in Savannah, GA on October 27, 1927 and moved to Albany at an early age. He attended Albany schools, graduating from Albany High. His interests in school were sports and he lettered in baseball, football, basketball and track at Albany High. His senior year, 1947, he was chosen All-State end and All Southern end by the State's coaches and sports writers.

After graduation he was offered try-out by the St. Louis Cardinals, but opted to play between the hedges on a football scholarship to the University of Georgia. He lettered for three years at Georgia, went to three bowl games with the Dogs. The 1948 Gator Bowl, 1949 Orange Bowl (UGA was Southeastern Conference champ that year) and the 1950 Presidential Cup Bowl. (the only one)

Mr. Duke was selected as an initial inductee into the Albany Sports Hall of Fame in 1987.

After college John entered the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to Langley Air Force Base, VA as an investigator with the (OSI) Office of Special Investigation. He also served in Tokyo, Okinawa and Eglin AFB, FL. At Eglin

he played and coached the base football team.

After serving for six years John decided to get out of service and took a coaching job with Thomasville High School where he worked for four years. He moved to Albany High for one year and then crossed the river to become Head coach of the Trojans of Dougherty High. After five years as coach and having received his Master's Degree from University of Alabama he became Principal of Dougherty. He retired in 1983.

Mr. Duke became a member of Flint River Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadron, a safe boating educational organization. He took and taught safe boating classes for several years and held the Commander's position on three occasions. The Duke family spent many hours together boating through-out the years.

Mr. Duke was also a member of the American Legion Post 30 and VFW Post 2785. He was a former member of the Dougherty County Kiwanis Club, and a former volunteer at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital until poor health forced him to stop.

Mr. Duke was a member of the Byne Memorial Baptist church.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Marlene Eskeli Duke, two daughters, Tamie Hunt (Randy) Newton, GA, Kathy Boyd (Mike) Canton, GA, four sons Chip Duke, Mike Duke (Belinda) Albany, Greg Duke (Jan) Leesburg, GA and Kurt Duke (Chrysanne) Powder Springs, GA. Thirteen grand children, Misti Hunt Hendrickson (David), Newton, GA, Dr. Ricky Hunt (Dr. Mary) Donalsonville, GA, Megan Duke, Brittany Duke, Logan Duke, Albany, GA, Dylan Duke, St. Louis, MO, Kyle Tanner (Amber), Landon Duke, Leesburg, GA, Adair Duke, Canton, GA, Colby Duke, Athens, GA, Jacob and Regan Duke, Powder Springs, GA. Five Great Grandchildren Tyler and Emma Hendrickson, Newton, GA. Sophie and Owen Hunt, Donalsonville, GA. Kylee Rose Tanner, Leesburg, GA. and a sister Janice Duke Garvey (Mike), two nieces and a nephew.

Mr. Duke was preceded in death by his parents John H. Duke, Sr., Dell Pitts Duke Leverette, stepmother Odell Stewart Duke, stepfather Alton Leverette

and a grandson Guy (Gumby) Tanner.

The family will receive friends following the memorial service. For those desiring, memorials may be made to St. Claire's, 2005 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Albany, GA 31701, Albany Humane Society, 1705 Oakridge Dr., Albany, GA 31707, Albany Community Hospice, 320 Foundation Lane, Albany, GA 31707.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **19**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
1503 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John Duke, Jr. Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM

KA

John duke was a child abuser. Who left bruises on my arm. Because my teacher was retaliating because my mom got this other teacher in junior high 8! Trouble for falsely giving me a bad grade. Then my male teacher kicked me out of his class room. That was when John duke grabbed me by the arm. I was forced to get my GED. Then before I had my first baby he tried to wreck me because his rude wife, tried to bother me in a grocery store. John duke was a creep.

kathy - August 25, 2024 at 08:03 PM

KA

He backed out when I started to back out. They thought they were such prestigious people. They could treat me badly. I was forced to stop and let him leave before me. I hated high school. They were two black teachers who harassed and abused me. My mom made a complain about my junior high teacher for giving me a bad grade. Even though I did the work. But this male black teacher kicked me out of his class room. But it didn't give John duke the ride to hurt me or grab my arm. Then say bad things about me to his wife I left Albany ga and I will never return.

kathy - August 25, 2024 at 08:08 PM

PG

“ *Our prayers are with you and your family.*

Pat and Charlie Warren - Demorest, GA - October 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Coach Duke,

I thank you for being the best coach I could have ever had both on the Foot Ball field and in Life. I can still hear that whistle pushing us on to greater efforts and I know you have it with you in Heaven.

I'll see you in the End Zone

David Jackson

David Jackson - Albany, GA - Player on his teams - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Our prayers and our thoughts are with you, Marlene and with your children and grandchildren. Together, you and John have been a blessing to so many. The wonderful love you shared touched so many of us. We pray that you know the consolation of God's promise that John is still a part of you all and caring for you all in a very special way.*

Michael and Sylvia Szpak - Albany, GA - Friend - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ *Kathy, Kurt and Chip,
So sorry to hear of your dads passing. You and your families are in my prayers*

Former Student DHS Class of 82

Susan Cole Greene - Albany, GA - former student and classmate of - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ I am sorry to hear about Coach Dukes passing. My thoughts and prayers are with all the family.

*Trina
DHS class of 1976*

Trina griffin - October 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ HE TAUGHT US WHAT IT TAKES TO BE MEN.
NEVER JOHN, NEVER MR. DUKE , ALWAYS COACH.
THANKFUL HE WAS A PART OF OUR LIVES.

BUCH DOLLAR #51

BUTCH DOLLAR - NACOGDOCHES, TX - friend - October 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Coach John Dukes was the first Head Coach at DHS and he taught his first team not only how to play the game, but how to become young men. Most of us still use the same character building methods that he used on us. A friend suggested that the team sign in here and leave our numbers on our football jersey. My first year I wore number 18 and changed to 81 my Senior year. He attended out last reunion in 2010 and we all had a chance to share some old memories. He gave all of us nicknames when we started out and he called me Cowboy Bob and it has always stuck. Thanks Coach John Dukes for being part of our lives of which we are very greatfull. You have been a blessed man!

Bob Hamilton - LaGrange, GA - Student - October 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ It was with regret that I learned of the death of John Duke. He made his mark in so many ways.His influence will be felt for many years.I extend my sympathy to his family.

Robert A. Clay - DeSoto , GA - Friend - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you

Trudy Birchfield - Albany, GA - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ My Prayers are with the family during this time of loss. He was a special person and now he is one of God's angels.

Martha Brazeale - Moultrie, GA - Friend - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with ya'lls family at this time. What an accomplished man! I know that ya'lls family will miss him dearly.

Jimmy and Kara Dunn (Bryce and Brad)

The Dunn Family - Warner Robins, GA - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Dwain & Janet Weaver - Albany, GA - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Dear Family, Mr. Duke will be missed, but you have the memories and how wonderful they are. He is and angel in heaven watching over you now. I am thinking of you and praying for you all, I love you and always will.....you have been good to me letting ,2 more in your family for a year.....already had 6 kids then "8" we made it.....May God Bless youLove you all, Kaye Brazeale Tyson

Kaye Brazeale Tyson - Norwood, NC - Friend,and family member, - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Dear Tamie & Chip & Family..I am sorry to hear of the passing of Coach Duke..The days a DHS was some of the best days. We all had lots of fun and have so many memories..You are in my prayers..May God be with you during this time...Love MaryAnne Meek Pelham-DHS -1976

MaryAnne Meek Pelham - Sylvester, GA - Former student of DHS.. - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ We are all so very sorry at AlbanyARC Board and Staff to all they family.

Lou Johnson Lee - albany, GA - friend - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ Mr. Duke was a great guy. He used to take the cheerleaders to the ball games in the green station wagon when he was principal at DHS. I am sure you will all miss him very much. It is my desire that the memories you hold will see you through the days ahead. May God offer you the Peach and Comfort that can only come from Him.

Vickie Southwell Lewis - Albany, GA - Former Student - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ If it were not for Coach Duke, I would probably not be alive today and most certainly not successful. He was a great football and life coach. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Barry Coleman, DHS 1968

Barry Coleman - Vidalia, GA - Former player - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Mrs.Marlene,your family is in our thoughts and prayers.Coach Duke was the only man I know that could handle Fred Bowles,Luther Welsh and Pat Field in the same school.What a great team that turned Dougherty High School into a winner in academics and athletics,I will never forget the Falcon game we went to in the Bus/RV.it was so cold that day,but when we got in the bus it felt like home so warm and fuzzy.Caoch Duke will be missed.God Bless !!!!

Jeffrey Field - Albany, GA - Friend of family - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ I am saddened to hear of Coach Duke's passing. He was a wonderful leader and role model at Dougherty High School during the years I was there (1968-71). He was a true American hero! My condolences to all of his family and close friends.

Carol Miller - Jacksonville, FL - Former student at DHS - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ OUR PRAYERS & THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU IN THE LOSS OF JOHN--HE WILL BE MISSED.

J.D.&JUDY CLARK - MOULTRIE, GA - FRIEND - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Mrs. Duke and Family, I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Duke. When I was working at the bank I always enjoyed seeing Mr. Duke come in every morning for coffee. He was a true gentleman and always had a smile. I know you will miss him. I pray that our Lord will see you thru these days and weeks ahead. Mrs. Duke you have a large family and I pray that yall will wrap your arms around each other and stay close to each other.

Carolyn Cox - Albany, GA - friend - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ My sympathy to his family and friends. Coach touched so many lives in a positive way and will live on forever in our hearts and minds!

Phyllis Godwin - Tallahassee, FL - former student - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

M1

“ Coach John Duke was a guiding force for all at Dougherty High School. He always provided leadership and set an example for many young adults. May you rest in peace Coach Duke. Prayers to uplift the family in this time of need.

*Milton F. Willis
DHS - 72*

Milton Willis - Pelham, GA - Dougherty High School 1969-1972 - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ It was always a comfort to see Coach Duke in the halls of Dougherty High School because you just knew that everything was okay. He was a wonderful man, Coach and Principal. Prayers are with the family. May God grant all of you the peace and comfort you need at this time.

Connie Richter - Albany, GA - Dougherty High School Graduate - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ I have always admired Coach Duke. I was a student at Dougherty High from 1967-1969. Please accept my condolences for your loss. May his reward in Paradise be great.

Glynn Boydston - Crandall, GA - former student - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Thank you for my years at DHS class of 1971!!!! Prayers out to the Duke family.

Judy "Reschner" Enzmann - GA - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

P1

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Penny Newell Miller - Sylvester, GA - Student Class of 1980 - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ *Kathy & Family,*

May knowing that you are in our thoughts and prayers give you peace and comfort in this time of loss. Heaven is rejoicing tonight as it welcomes one of God's own. You are loved.

Nan & Mickey

Nan & Mickey Teasley - Elberton, GA - Friend of Kathy Boyd - October 16, 2011
at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *May the angels be with you. You were a wonderful man and coach!*
You will be missed.

Cheryl Berry Pilcher - Albany, GA - Former student - October 16, 2011 at 12:00
AM