



Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements

July 14, 1936 - May 4, 2015

Obituary

Joseph Stuart "Joe" Clements

1936-2015

Joe Clements, son of O.J. "Jubilo" Clements and Hazel Peil Clements, was called home by his Lord and Savior on May 4, 2015.

Born July 14, 1936 in Nacogdoches, Texas, Joe Clements spent the majority of his youth in Houston before moving to Huntsville, Texas in junior high where he went on to become a multi-sport star at Huntsville High School and led the Hornets to victory in the 2A state football championship as quarterback in 1953.

Joe Clements later spent two years as the starting quarterback at The University of Texas where he led the Southwest Conference in Passing Completions and Completion Percentage as well as finishing 7th in the nation in those categories in 1956. He also held the Texas Longhorn record for most passes completed in a game for 25 years.

Upon graduation and in storybook fashion, the quarterback married Jill Adrian McMurry, daughter of John William McMurry, Jr. (Swede) and Amy Adrian McMurry on August 8, 1959, the first female head cheerleader in the history of

The University of Texas, and began 55 years of life together. He began his professional career in education as history teacher and coach in Houston Independent School District.

Joe Clements' head coaching career spanned 27 years beginning at Robert E. Lee High School in Houston in 1967 where his team won what was known as the city championship in 1971. After three years at King High School in Kingsville, where he was Head Football Coach and Athletic Director, his alma mater called, and he returned to Huntsville in 1975 to begin a highly successful career in his hometown.

Coach Clements compiled a 222-76-6 record, including a 170-44-3 record at Huntsville. His Huntsville years included 51 straight district victories, a 4A record that stood for 16 years. His teams maintained a consistent level of excellence. During those 27 years as a head coach, his teams made the playoffs 18 times. During most of his years as a coach, only one team per district was eligible for playoffs until 1986 when Huntsville was moved up to 5A for the last eight seasons of his career. Despite the move up in classification, Coach Clements' teams made the playoffs in 14 of his 19 years there and never had a losing record.

Throughout those years, his loving wife Jill was the rock of his family, helping to shepherd their children to the highest of their individual potentials even in the face of the demands on a Texas high school football coach and his wife while also introducing thousands of children to the joys of music in Huntsville schools. A fixture on the front row of Hornet football games, Jill Clements was a tireless leader and supporter of school and community spirit during his time as coach there.

Coach Clements' coaching tenure at Huntsville was highlighted by his guidance of the 1980 Hornets to the 4A state championship becoming the first

person to lead the same high school team as a quarterback and later head coach to state championships in Texas football history.

Coach Clements' honors have included being selected as one of six coaches by the Houston Chronicle as Coach of the Decade for the 1980's, chosen as 4A Coach of the Year by the Texas Sports Writers Association with the approval of the Texas High School Coaches Association in 1981, and honored as a charter member in the initial class of inductees to the Greater Houston Area Coaches Association Hall of Honor in 1992.

Coach Clements' contributions to the Texas High School Coaches Association and the coaching profession include various lectures around the state of Texas about the Huntsville passing game, (He is often cited along with Sonny Detmer as one of the coaches to bring the modern passing game to Texas in the 80's, and his various lectures helped to change offensive philosophy at many schools during that era), coaching the South All-Stars to a 16-14 victory in the North-South game at the 1983 Texas High School Coaches Association Convention and Coaching School, and helping to bring the Texas version of American football to an international audience after his retirement by taking Texas All-Star teams to Australia for the annual Down Under Bowl which he won each time.

Though Coach Clements has coached many players who went on to have successful college and professional careers in football, it was his impact as a leader and teacher of young men that the Huntsville Independent School District had in mind when they named the Huntsville High School Fieldhouse after him on Joe Clements Day on August 29, 2004. Recognized by the Rotary Foundation as a Paul Harris Fellow, he also received the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce Mance Park Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008, and was an initial inductee into the Huntsville High School Hall

of Honor in 2009.

Coach Clements was inducted into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame in Waco, Texas in 2010.

In retirement, Joe Clements' life was dominated by the bond with his daughter "Little" Jill and his careful attention to her particular needs. It was said that you never saw Coach Clements in the community without her, and his obvious love for her invited an entire city's caring and support. Huntsville rallied around her the way they had rallied around his teams. Joe Clements always had a way of bringing the community together, no matter the size of the stage.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jill Clements; daughter, Jill Adrian Clements, and sons Joseph Stuart Clements Jr. (Jay) and wife Ann Prewitt Clements; John Steven Clements (Steve) and wife Emily Taylor Stephens Clements and their children, Adelyn Taylor, Nina Elizabeth, Ethan John, and Zackary Joseph; Chad Scott Clements (Chuck) and wife Sally Needham Clements and their daughter, Charley Elizabeth.

He is survived by his sister, Jane Clements Monday and her husband Dr. Charles W. Monday Jr., and their children Dr. Kimberly Elizabeth Monday and Dr. Lauren Marangell and their twins, Elizabeth Marangell and Jonathan Marangell Monday; Julie Monday Ballard and husband Buddie C. Ballard and their children Sarah Cloys, Benjamin Charles and Samuel Clements Ballard; Jennifer Monday Goldman and husband Adam Goldman and their children Anne Elizabeth, Caroline Jane, and Charles Jacob Goldman.

He is also survived by his brother-in-law, John William McMurry III (Jack), his wife, Irmalea and their children.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Huntsville High School's Paul Bohan

Hornet Gymnasium. The family will receive visitors from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville.

In lieu of flowers and other customary remembrances, the family requests donations be made to the Joe Clements Memorial Fund established at the First National Bank of Huntsville, 1300 11th Street, Huntsville, Texas 77340.

Memorial condolences may be made to the family at www.shmfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfh.com

Service

MAY 9. 3:00 PM (CT)

Huntsville High School's Paul Bohan Gymnasium
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM

“ I'm a 67 yr old retired attorney in Houston. Joe was my position coach at Lee HS from 1964-66. He was the ultimate strong, silent type. He(vs Gil Bartosh & all other coaches and teachers) was very, very responsible for shaping and saving my life during those tender 16-18 ages. Joe also made me earn my play by making me and a few other goof-offs run wind-sprints until we vomited. Then he would counsel us gently on one knee about being serious, etc.

I had many early childhood accidents and illnesses that adversely impacted my brain. I was a starting running back and corner-back in my Jr/Sr years. Joe coached my in 10th grade baseball too, until Bartosh and Pate made me quit BB to run track and be an alternate on our 64/65 nat'l 440 yd relay & broad-jump. I ran back kick-offs and punts--never came off field in my Jr yr but gave up defense my Sr yr due to issues of tackling with head. In my Jr Lamar game, I misjudged a punt defender's distance in the rain/wind and as I caught it, the Lamar tight-end hit me head high running full speed. I lost my memory that night but not consciousness. It continued to happen thereafter.

Back then, you were a pussy, per coach Pate, if you drank water during practice or "let a little head knock keep you down". Joe was the only coach who supported my parents decision to make me have EEG's after every game the rest of my HS career. If they were irregular, he and Bartosh wouldn't let me play. That didn't happen but once and I had leg injury anyway.

Our Sr season, recruiters came a-running. Though I hated practice(no work ethic they call it) but loved to play games, was gonna marry my gal-friend already at UT a yr ahead, study to be a doctor, was a bit injury prone, etc, as I was fast(4.4) and big enough(205-210), I attracted dozens of Div I recruiters. Back then, they too didn't seem to care about a few hard head-knocks--:'d grow out of them", they said to my parents. Gil and Joe knew I didn't want play for the practical reasons above said, but Joe said I "COULD NOT PLAY" further due to the concussion issues. He then

took charge, esp as my dad was traveling a lot, in talking-down all interested recruiters(except Okla guys who hounded me at my house and mom handled them), so I didn't have to confront them and get talked into accepting an offer. HE SAVED ME!!

Later, at a HS FB reunion I attended during the post-HS years, the only one I ever saw Joe at, during a toasting/roasting period, he awarded me his "Lazyman Award" for the most Div I offers of any players he had ever coached but never played a down. He also mentioned that I was lucky to have not played due to head injury issues. When I run into other Houston ex-HS players to this day, they ask me about Joe's toast/roast. I did go on to play supposedly non-contact(3-4 more memory losses) flag FB and baseball at the highest levels(ex-college-pros), winning many city, state, and nat'l championships between 1973 and 1998('98- we won over-40 world championship hardball champs in Puerto Rico.

I'm truly sorry I just heard about Joe's passing and know he is missed immensely. Joe taught me, a somewhat unknown amongst the many players incl sons(who I saw at UH) who he coached to greatness, a lot in my 3 growing-up HS yrs and saved my life by being honest about the hard knocks of college FB, esp at UT and other Div I college level and the probability of losing my memory forever or even my life from one more blow to the head. I now get brain MRIs every 2 yrs and have occasional dizzy or fainting spells. Otherwise, my life has been normal, successful & have been married(not to HS sweetheart though) 45 yrs to my UT Silver Spur Sweetheart and have 4 grown kids and 7 GKs to date. I attribute Joe, along with a few other significant relations in my life, with making me what I have been and will be and will hopefully get inside the Pearly Gates someday to join him in peace and painless calm someday. Go Generals, Horns and Huntsville!!!!

Bill Nance, Lee '66.

bill nance - May 12, 2015 at 12:16 AM

SG

“ I have great memories of working for Coach Clements. He was truly a good person.

Sandra Gray - May 10, 2015 at 06:57 PM

MT

“ I was on Coach Clements 1st R.E. Lee High School Team. I always remembered him because he was a true motivator. Coach was quick to praise and congratulate a player and he never used punishment or intimidation. He simply knew how to bring out the best in all of us. May he R.I.P. He was a great man.

Mike Thompson

R.E. Lee class of 1968

Mike Thompson - May 10, 2015 at 10:33 AM



“ Desiree Fails lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements



Desiree Fails - May 09, 2015 at 12:29 PM

DM

“ David McKee lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements



David McKee - May 09, 2015 at 08:16 AM

BT

“ Your family is in our prayers. Great Coach and a great man. Had a big impact on me during my high school years at Lee.
Bob Tresch

Bob Tresch - May 09, 2015 at 08:06 AM



“ so sorry for Jill (his daughter) as well as the rest of the family for there loss.....He was a great man, a great coach and a great mentor and will be greatly missed by the class of '90 to 93 but other classes as well.....He had a heart of Gold and did not mind working with children with disabilities like in my case I was born with CP and went too School with his Daughter Jill and he had our backs and took care of us when we was on the campus or always made sure we had fun just like the others even tho we was disabled.....and he always had a smile on his face.....He will never be forgotten.....May he rest in piece and in this time of need my preys go too all his family and friends.....May God Bless You All Amen (Class of 1994) He was my Coach for my Freshman, Softmore, and Jr year and will always be in my Heart His Student Desiree Fails

Desiree Fails - May 08, 2015 at 10:19 PM

N8

“ Nancy Gajan (Gray) Class Of 85 lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements



Nancy Gajan (Gray) Class of 85 - May 08, 2015 at 12:09 PM

SK

As a player for Joe Clements at Houston's Robert E. Lee High School, we honor his life and remember his 1971 Generals football team, The City Champs. Some of his Ex Players are QB Paul M. Smith of Nacadoches, TX, Steve "Genghis" Kahn, Ken "Golden Toe" Ballard, Mike Sample, Mike Cole, Howard Henderson, Bill Christie, Bill Boatman, Charles "Mad Puppy" Turner, Tommy Davidson, Tommy Cooksey, Mark Revels, Yogi Reese, Rodney Davis, Rick Miley, Lawrence Burton, Coach Bill McMillan, Coach Tommy Yates, Coach Charles Green, and many others

Steve Kahn - May 09, 2015 at 06:59 AM

JL

“ *I have so many fond memories of Joe through the years going back to our time with the Longhorns and then playing golf with. He was always an inspiration to me and to all who met him. He will be greatly missed. Judy and I send prayers to Jill and the family.*
Bobby Lackey

Judy Lackey - May 08, 2015 at 10:53 AM

AJ

“ *Wow, what a legend to have known and been a neighbor to. Our boys Josh & Andy loved to mow his yard and chat with Coach. He was truly loved by all youth. May the Lord fill your emptiness with His love. Donnie, Anita, Josh, & Andy Jones*

Anita Jones - May 07, 2015 at 07:25 PM

SB

“ On one of the hottest summers on record , you coached a group of average athletes to a state 4-A football championship. The lessons learned will always be instilled in us and have made us who we are Coach. In 1980 you taught us commitment, discipline and to have that winning mentality in everything we do. There was a chemistry that happened that year with a team of young coachable players, and assist. coaches that only comes along ever so often. Your leadership and commitment will always be remembered by all of us. Thank you Coach Clements for not only teaching us to win on the football field but giving us the tools needed to win in the game life. My prayers are with the Clements family. Shawn Blair

Shawn Blair - May 07, 2015 at 05:51 PM

HW

“ Clements Family - Coach Clements was a class act and I will never forget the good times we had on and off the golf course.

Howard and Kathy White



Howard White - May 07, 2015 at 02:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements.



May 07, 2015 at 10:32 AM

CD

“ *Connie Dickey lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*



Connie Dickey - May 07, 2015 at 08:00 AM

S1

“ *Senta Crawford/Class Of 1988 lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*



Senta Crawford/Class of 1988 - May 06, 2015 at 11:40 PM

S1

Condolence to the entire Family of Coach Clements and the entire Hornet Nation. "Class of 88"

Senta Crawford/Class of 1988 - May 06, 2015 at 11:42 PM

DD

“ *So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I have so many great memories of our "football days". Thoughts and prayers are with you all. Donald Driscoll and family.*

Donald Driscoll - May 06, 2015 at 06:57 PM

BN

“ *My sympathies go out to the Clements family.*

I was a student trainer on the 1980 State Championship Football Team.

I always appreciated Coach keeping me around even after I got hurt and could no longer play for the Hornets. Coach Clements is a big part of the reason I went to college and became an Athletic Trainer.

I have worked in Texas public schools for the past 30 years and owe a lot of that to Coach Clements. He made everyone on the team feel important and expected nothing but your best everyday. I can still remember him saying he wanted things done "immediately if not sooner"

and "take care of # 1". He taught us to be good men in our communities, with our families and to strive for success in everything we do.

He taught us football and more importantly about life and how to be a winner with class and also how to deal with the dissapointment of a loss every now and then.

I am forever grateful and will miss you Coach.

Billy Newsom

Class of 1981

Football State Champions 1980

Billy Newsom - May 06, 2015 at 05:50 PM

LB

“ Joe and I go back many years ago we were class mates. Joe and I were team mates together on the 1954 Championship football team. All I remember now is that I am very glad Joe never got hurt during that year.

I remember our last on the baseball team which I believe we did win the conference that year which was the first one for HHS. Joe was a great pitcher and I had the honor to catch every pitch Joe made that year.

May the good Lord take a liken to you Joe and to your family

Larry Brock
Class of 1954

larry brock - May 06, 2015 at 05:15 PM

CW

“ Sending prayers of comfort and peace to the Clements Family...
Cathy Hayman Warren - HHS Class of 1977



Cathy Warren - May 06, 2015 at 03:59 PM

SS

“ A Huntsville legend that will live on forever. Thanks for the memories Coach. God Bless.
Huntsville Hornet Class of '91

Susan Small-Cook - May 06, 2015 at 01:23 PM

BK

“ *When I think of a champion, I think of coach Clements. Steve and Chuck, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.*

Brian Kyle - May 06, 2015 at 01:13 PM

N'

“ *May the Lord keep Coach Clements' family close while giving them strength and peace during this time. God Bless You and Yours All of Your Days.*



Nicole Venette Class of '89 - May 06, 2015 at 12:01 PM

CS

“ *This will be one person that will be truly missed that came through 'HHS' of being the person that he was..which everyone loved and love been around.so Coach you RIP..and you will never be forgotten.of being my brother'Chris Craft, and some of the others such as my cousin, Royce Craft..(and these were the good ole days..)*

Cherolyn Stubblefield.

" HHS' class of 1981

cherolyn stubblefield - May 06, 2015 at 10:15 AM

RC

“ *Ruby Wolverton Cowan lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*



Ruby Wolverton Cowan - May 06, 2015 at 09:20 AM

MC

“ *What a ride you gave us, Joe!!!!!!*

Mark Chalker - May 06, 2015 at 09:03 AM

SS

“ *Sue And Danny Slater lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*



Sue and Danny Slater - May 05, 2015 at 09:52 PM

LG

“ *Larry & Martha Grisham lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*



Larry & Martha Grisham - May 05, 2015 at 09:08 PM

RK

“ I had many great days playing golf with Joe every Tuesday morning at Conroe Country Club. We had a group there for many years. He was a great friend to me a great man. I am so sorry for your loss Bob Keeland

Robert Keeland - May 05, 2015 at 09:20 AM

SK

“ Suzette M Kohers lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements



Suzette M Kohers - May 05, 2015 at 09:04 AM

NH

“ I send my heart felt condolences to all of you. Joe was such a wonderful man. He gave so much of himself to all the knew. We are the lucky ones, to have known him and to have him in our lives. Joe was a teacher of life, not just football.

Nancy Hopper - May 05, 2015 at 05:31 AM

MW

“ Prayers for Joe Clement's family. Coach Clements will be missed but never forgotten.

Mellicent Wiley - May 05, 2015 at 12:54 AM

JP

“ Jackie Brock Prewitt lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements



Jackie Brock Prewitt - May 04, 2015 at 10:53 PM

RR

“ Ramona Ready lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements



Ramona Ready - May 04, 2015 at 10:21 PM

LC

“ What a blessing to us all that Coach Clements was a part of our lives at HHS! It seems such a small thing to say that I am so sorry for your loss, and too big a thing to express how much he meant to his students. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Linda Terral Caldwell - May 04, 2015 at 09:37 PM

HA

“ Harriett lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements



Harriett - May 04, 2015 at 09:16 PM

HA

Keeping you all in my prayers....May God bless family, friends of Coach Clements

Harriett - May 04, 2015 at 09:19 PM

EP

Joe was a great guy and coach. He lived football 24/7. His results were indicative of that passion. My prayers for the family.

Gene Poldrack

Eugene M. Poldrack - May 04, 2015 at 10:43 PM

FM

A true Huntsville hero that touched many lives and made many lives much better. God Bless and Prayers for the family. Fred Martin

Fred Martin - May 05, 2015 at 06:07 AM

SM

Thank you Lord that you have given us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Prayers of peace for the Clement family. Thank you for being such an example of God's love. I feel honored that your family was a part of our lives.

Sandy Murphy - May 05, 2015 at 07:42 AM

SC

A true person in general.' Coach Clements' as we all knew him always had the time (or made time) to chat a bit. It made you feel like a million dollars. Asking about each of our family. I have missed the hugs and chat time with Jill. Such a joy these brought into the lives of all of those he met. What a great man to call Coach, Dad, Uncle, Brother, and friend. It was our honor to know you.

Sherry and Earl Carter - May 05, 2015 at 08:01 AM

MD

My sincere sympathy to the family. I knew him only as "little" Jill's dad, but know he was loved by many. He raised a wonderful daughter, who was always supportive and caring at times like this in others' lives. My heart goes out to her and "big" Jill.

Mary Gail Doddridge - May 05, 2015 at 08:38 AM

DB

Coach Clements gave me the opportunity to be a part of Hornet Football in 1989. I was blessed with working with colleagues that influenced me in very positive ways. I had an instant respect for Coach Clements, and I was able to tell him years ago how his hiring me began my life on the successful career that I continue to enjoy now. My most sincere sympathy to this special family that means so much to so many. To Coach Clements - a legend and a friend.

Darrell Brown

Darrell Brown - May 05, 2015 at 09:00 AM

RP

“What a great family...and a great man. From Jube and Hazel, and Jane and Charles, Joe and Jill, three men and Jill, Joe was a friend, a saint, a neighbor,sn employee, and a brilliant coach., who worked miracles.May God bless you all. I know Joe blessed us. Rev Carroll Pickett and Family, (Kerrville, Texas) And Jane and her girls.

Rev. Carroll Pickett - May 04, 2015 at 09:03 PM

PK

“Ms. Jill, Jay, Steve, Chuck and Little Jill and all the Clements family, it was an honor to have known "Coach" over the years. What a wonderful legacy he leaves for Huntsville and for all the students who played with him and for him when he played and coached. Keeping you all in our prayers.

Bob & Phyllis Kennedy

phyllis kennedy - May 04, 2015 at 08:52 PM


Jennifer
Fryman

“Jennifer Fryman lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements



Jennifer Fryman - May 04, 2015 at 07:48 PM

SW

“ *RIP Mr. Clements Class of 1980.*
Sally Warren



Sally Warren - May 04, 2015 at 07:25 PM

BC

“ *Bridgette Neeley Clay lit a candle in memory
of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*



Bridgette Neeley Clay - May 04, 2015 at 06:28 PM

CG

“ *Cindy Saldana Gutierrez lit a candle in
memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*



Cindy Saldana Gutierrez - May 04, 2015 at 05:41 PM

DP

“ *Donna Robinson Paschall lit a candle in
memory of Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*



Donna Robinson Paschall - May 04, 2015 at 05:14 PM



Charlotte
Efird

“ *Charlotte Efird lit a candle in memory of
Joseph "Joe" Stuart Clements*



Charlotte Efird - May 04, 2015 at 04:44 PM