



Raymond Birchfield

February 6, 1928 - December 24, 2015

Raymond Birchfield, 87, of Huntsville, Texas, passed away December 24, 2015.

Raymond was born February 6, 1928, in Columbia County, Arkansas, to Coy and Ola (Miller) Burchfield. He was the oldest of nine children. He married Bobbie Grace Jones on December 20, 1952, in Magnolia, Arkansas.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree at South Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas and his M.Ed. from East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army from 1952 through 1954 during the Korean Conflict era.

Raymond was an educator and served as a teacher and coach at Navasota ISD, Rockdale ISD, and Littlefield ISD. He also served as an assistant principal and principal at Huntsville ISD and as a principal at Huntington ISD. His students, players, and teachers were very special to him and were an important part of his life. As head football coach and athletic director he led the Rockdale Tigers to the 1962 Class 2A state championship game and to an undefeated regular season record in the 1963 season. He was inducted into the Rockdale Sports Hall of Honor in 2008; and, at the time of his induction, the 1963 team was still the only Tiger football team with a perfect regular season record.

He enjoyed hunting, woodworking, golf, and RVing, especially with family. He always enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was very family-oriented and took pleasure in attending his children and grandchildren's various activities. In his later years, Raymond especially enjoyed the visits he had with his brothers, sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews who would meet in Arkansas from all over the United States.

He was a member of Rotary International and was honored to be named a Paul Harris Fellow. Raymond served as a deacon at First Baptist Church in Huntsville for many years as well as Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Rockdale. He also served as a Sunday School teacher and as Sunday School director. He always enjoyed being involved with his church and church family wherever he lived and his strong Christian faith was evident in his everyday life. He leaves a legacy of a well-lived Christian life for his family to remember.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Bobbie Jones Birchfield, and daughters, Carla Woodington and husband, Tim, of Spearman; Kay Laube and husband, Steve, of Huntsville; and Ann Kepley and husband, James, of Amarillo. He is also survived by his grandchildren Sydney Woodington Coddling and husband, Don, of Washington D.C.; Kara Laube Cross and husband, Brian, of The Woodlands; and Ryan Laube and wife, Jessica, of Huntsville, along with great-grandchildren Julian Coddling and Nolan Cross and was lovingly known as PawPaw. Raymond is survived by his sisters Garnell Tiegen, Laverne Atkinson, Shirley Shaver, Linda Wolfe, and sisters-in-law Elvaretta Burchfield and Brenda Burchfield. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Carl, Thomas, Joe, and an infant brother.

Visitation with family and friends will be Monday, December 28, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville. Services will be

held Tuesday, December 29, at 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 1229 Avenue J, Huntsville, Texas, with interment following service at Brooke Cemetery, Huntsville, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Raymond Birchfield Family Scholarship at First Baptist Church Huntsville or to a charity of your choice.

Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Brooke Cemetery

672 FM 980
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

DEC **29**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Huntsville
1229 Ave J
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Raymond Birchfield*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - December 29, 2015 at 07:50 AM



“ *Raymond Birchfield*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *i just heard about Raymond's passing and want to send my love and very deepest sympathy to all the family. They are a dear family, his sister, Garnell, has been mu closest friend since third grade, . Condolences to Bobbie and to his sisters, Sincerely and with much love, Sylvia Sullivan Skinner*

Sylvia Sullivan Skinner - January 18, 2016 at 09:24 PM



“ *Martha Hall Vance lit a candle in memory of Raymond Birchfield*



Martha Hall Vance - January 03, 2016 at 10:49 AM

MV

Please accept my family's deepest felt sympathy for the loss of Coach Burchfield. My family knew Coach and Bobby when he was in Rockdale. Many years have passed and many have lost touch with people in their lives from the past but even still, we could never forget the Burchfield family. How close I am to you just up the Interstate in Madisonville, is where I make my home now....my name is Martha Hall Vance, daughter of Bill and Joella Hall, sibling to Billy Joe Hall, Linda Hall Crane and Hal Hall. Lots of great times spent with this loving family and we loved each of you dearly. May God bless and keep you as He covers you with his feathers. His smiling picture says it all.....man of great character and an absolute wonderful teacher and friend. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Martha Hall Vance - January 03, 2016 at 10:57 AM

CP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Birchfield family as they, like all of us, will miss Coach greatly. However, I celebrate his birth into everlasting life. As a follower of Jesus, I know his soul is with Him now and that we will see Coach again standing with Jesus in God's glory. May God's Peace comfort all of the Birchfield family. Copie Perry RHS 1965

Copie Perry - December 30, 2015 at 03:17 PM

DM

“ David McKee lit a candle in memory of Raymond Birchfield



David McKee - December 29, 2015 at 08:44 AM

LW

“ We send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the Birchfield family. We were co-educators with them in HISD in the 70s and 80s, and it was my honor(Leroy) to teach under Raymond in the 6th grade. He left a lasting impression on all who came in contact with him. Lyndol and Leroy Wilkinson

Lyndol and Leroy Wilkinson - December 28, 2015 at 08:13 PM

DS

“ To the family of Coach Raymond Birchfield, Coach Birchfield was a one of a kind coach and man. He worked his players hard, but he cared for each one of them like a son. He taught us about life and how to work hard to be successful. It is always a great loss when we lose someone in life. I know that Coach is in heaven standing beside God looking down on us. He is a man we will never forget because of the great memories that he left with us.

Coach Birchfield was a great man, but a better servant of God. He was a great example for all to follow. May God bless his family and may you know that he was loved by many.

Dick and Gail Summers

Dick Summers - December 28, 2015 at 05:06 PM

CA

“ Words cannot express adequately our fond feelings about Ray Birchfield. Needless to say he taught us much about being good stewards in our adult life as well as the classroom subjects. He was one of several who helped mold us into the adults that we are today. Bonnie and I have often spoken of him over our 53 years of marriage. She coming from Navasota where Ray Birchfield coached before coming to Rockdale.

Court Armstrong RHS '57

Bonnie Fultz Armstrong NHS '58

Court Armstrong - December 28, 2015 at 01:06 PM

L'

“ My thoughts are with the family during a difficult time. Coach Birchfield was a great person, always being fair with everyone. I will always cherish the memories he brought about in Rockdale in leading us to success when we were not expected to do much. He had a kind way of getting you to produce the talent you had. Coach, we will all miss you.

L.B. Kubiak RHS '64

L.B. Kubiak RHS '64 - December 28, 2015 at 09:47 AM

JK

“ I had the privilege of co-captioning Coach's 1963 Rockdale Tigers State Finalist Football Team. Of course there was an enormous amount of respect for him as our coach and leader. (And, given the circumstances, maybe just a little bit of healthy fear too. Smile!) But it wasn't until 2003, 40 years later, at my 40th High School Reunion, when I had the opportunity of several hours of interaction with Coach as one adult to another, that I fully appreciated what a rare privilege it had been to have been lead, coached, and mentored by such an extraordinary and solid human being. He was a great story teller with an excellent memory; he had a fabulous sense of humor, and an easy laugh that left me completely at ease; and he was even able to give a me a positive way of remembering the drubbing we took during the State Championship game -- something that had haunted me for 40 years (but no longer does). Our team was a complete Cinderella story. We won the district championship with the help of a lot of luck. Then, wonder of all wonders, we won bi-district, regional, the quarter finals, and the semi-finals, 4 playoff games in a row, underdogs each time, before finally falling to another truly great high school football team. There are a lot of explanations for our unexpected success, but, looking back, by far the most important was Coach's unique ability to elevate self-confidence -- which is a state of mind I've been able to hold on to and call upon liberally whenever life has demanded an extra gear. No doubt I'm not the only benefactor of Coach's many blessings. I say again, it was a rare privilege. Coach will never be forgotten! My thoughts and prayers are with Coach's wife, Bobbie, his entire family, and all his friends. I know he will be missed. Jim Killen

Jim Killen - December 28, 2015 at 02:52 AM

J'

“ Jim & David Killen, Rockdale, TX, Class of '63 & '65 purchased the Majestic Heart for the family of Raymond Birchfield.



Jim & David Killen, Rockdale, TX, Class of '63 & '65 -
December 28, 2015 at 02:15 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Birchfield.



December 27, 2015 at 09:53 PM



Melinda
Mayes
Wiedemann

“ Mr Burchfield was my principal at Huntington. He was an awesome mentor and will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Melinda Mayes Wiedemann

Melinda Mayes Wiedemann - December 27, 2015 at 09:32 PM

BY

“ Coach Birchfield was a great coach and even a better man. We will miss him.

Bobby Yoakum
Rockdale Class of '65

Bobby Yoakum - December 27, 2015 at 04:26 PM

KM

“ Our thoughts are with the Birchfield family in their time of loss.

Ruth Whitmire and Karen Whitmire Matous

karen whitmire Matous - December 27, 2015 at 04:22 PM

BH

“ Coach Birchfield was a great coach and friend during my time in Rockdale. I worked as athletic manager under Coach Birchfield and other coaches until we moved to Austin in 1957. I always enjoyed seeing him at Rockdale reunions. He will be greatly missed.

Bobby Hanks (and my little brother, Billy Hanks)

Bobby Hanks - December 27, 2015 at 11:44 AM

BY

“ I was fortunate to have Mr. Birchfield as my principal in Huntington, TX. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Bill Young

Bill Young - December 27, 2015 at 09:35 AM

MB

Mr. Birchfield was a fine man. I have many memories of him both from Rockdale and later from Huntsville. He was also one of my dad's oldest and dearest friends. When hunting season comes around I miss the times I spent with Mr. Birchfield, my dad and Uncle Oscar.

Mark Barnett - December 27, 2015 at 07:32 PM

DM

It was later in life that I realized the influence Coach Birchfield had on my life. He coached hard but taught the final score was not as important as the preparation, putting forth your best effort, respecting your opponent, honor and fair play. These values he engrained on the athletic field came to realization later upon entering life's market place. We will miss him but he got his victory.

David McKinnon - December 30, 2015 at 11:56 AM