



Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins

December 28, 1929 - June 9, 2017

Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins, 87, of Alpharetta, GA died June 9, 2017. A Celebration of his life will be held on Monday, June 12, at 2:00 PM at the First Baptist Church of Alpharetta. Interment with full military honors will be at Green Lawn Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Betty Bottoms Hawkins; daughters, Judy Hawkins and Amy Hawkins; son, Jeff (Gail) Hawkins; grandson, Jay Hawkins; sisters, Martha Day and Janice Van Meter. Family will receive friends on Sunday, June 11 from 2-5 PM at Northside Chapel Funeral Directors, 12050 Crabapple Rd., Roswell, GA (770-645-1414).

Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins certainly had a long life in which he impacted many people and will be remembered as a great man in his community. As an eighth grader, Hawkins made a huge decision in his life to become a teacher. After graduating from Canton High School, Gordon Military Junior College, and North Georgia College, he served his country for two years in the United States Army. As a young soldier, he was promoted to Company Commander and awarded the Bronze Star during his stint in the Korean War. Later, Hawkins began his teaching and coaching career in Cherokee County. After five years, he moved his young family to Alpharetta in 1959, where he began teaching at Milton High School. While at Milton, Hawkins taught multiple classes, coached junior varsity football, and girls' basketball. In 1967, Hawkins became the Head of the Science Department at Roswell High School in Roswell, Ga. He taught physics and physical science for ten years.

During his time of teaching school, he earned his Masters of Physical Education at the University of Georgia as well as a Masters and Six-Year Degree in Science, and a Masters and Six-Year Degree in Counseling. Hawkins came back home to Milton High School in 1977 and served as a counselor, which he held until he retired. During this time, he coached basketball for some Milton boys, who did not make the Milton basketball team. Clayton Hawkins began announcing Milton High School football games in 1980. Numerous plaques were presented to the "Voice of the Eagles" including ones from the Booster Club, football team, band, and cheerleaders. Upon his retirement in 1992, the Milton High Senior Class played a part in surprising Hawkins with the honor of naming the football stadium after him (Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins Stadium.) In addition, the Mayor of Alpharetta declared April 3, 1992 as Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins Day. Milton High School's principal expressed a desire for Hawkins to continue announcing, which he did until the age of 70 for a total of 25 years.

Due to his strong voice, Hawkins had been involved with Milton High School events as he was called to announce names at multiple graduating ceremonies and served as MC of the Miss MHS Pageants. Hawkins was highly honored to be asked to return to Milton as the Master of Ceremonies for the 2005 Closing Ceremony of the old Milton High School. In October of 2016, he was inducted into the first class of the Milton High School Hall of Fame. As a community leader, Hawkins was a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Alpharetta, where he held the honorary title of Deacon Emeritus. He was active in his church, while serving on various committees and taught a number of Sunday School classes through the years. He wrote and published a book on the lives of each pastor of the church from 1905 to the present. Hawkins was also a member of the Optimist Club of Alpharetta. While a member there, he was presented an award for his contributions to the community.

Through the life path that Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins chose, his greatest desire was to make a difference in the lives of others. He certainly has done that and impacted thousands of lives. His footprint will be felt for many years to come.

Cemetery Details

Green Lawn Cemetery

10993 Alpharetta Hwy
Roswell, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 11. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Memorial Service

JUN 12. 2:00 PM (ET)

Alpharetta First Baptist Church
44 Academy Street
Alpharetta, GA 30009

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Sonny is my sister-in-law's brother (Janice). I have known him for over 60 years and admired him as a father, husband, brother and son. This world is a better for Sonny Hawkins having lived in it. He will be greatly missed. Judy Van Meter Parris*

Judy Van Meter Parris - June 20, 2017 at 08:51 AM



“ *Mr. Hawkins was my basketball coach and science teacher at Milton during during the sixties. It was always obvious that he cared deeply for his players and students and guided us to be the very best always. He was a role model for all of us in every aspect of life. Coach Hawkins will be remembered as one of the best. My heart felt sympathy to his wonderful family..*

Katherine Worley Coleman

Katherine Worley Coleman - June 12, 2017 at 10:32 PM

BW

“ So many memories! From 1960, when the Greenes moved to Alpharetta, our lives were enriched by our association with Coach Hawkins. He was teacher, friend, coach, fellow graduate student driving the roads from Alpharetta to Athens with Mother, and a wonderful role model for our teenage years. He always had a smile for us, and laughed at our outrageous antics during high school. Coach Hawkins taught us much more than science and basketball and we will always remember him with love.

--Babbie Greene Wolf and Debbie Greene

Lucy Greene Holloway, Allen Greene, Douglas Greene, Mark Greene, John Wolf

Babbie Wolf - June 12, 2017 at 02:10 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins.



June 11, 2017 at 09:59 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins.



June 11, 2017 at 07:58 AM

MN

“ My family and I have know the Hawkins family since the early 1960's. Amy and I attended school, church and jr. college together. My dad and Mr. Hawkins were Deacons together and Mr. Hawkins served as Pallbearer at my father's funeral. My family and I loved Mr. Hawkins and offer our sincere sympathy, love and prayers to the family. Mildred Williams Nalley

Mildred Williams Nalley - June 11, 2017 at 06:51 AM

DL

“ Simply the best Uncle anyone could ever wish for..."devoted" describes Uncle Sonny in a nutshell...devoted Husband, Father, Grandfather, Uncle, Brother, Friend, Christian, Citizen, Teacher, Coach, Play- by - Play Announcer, Guidance Counselor, Neighbor, Bulldog Fan. A truly great man who was loved by many and will be sorely missed!!

Dlanne Lanier - June 10, 2017 at 10:37 PM

GC

“ Gary and Chris Crovatt purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins.



Gary and Chris Crovatt - June 10, 2017 at 09:45 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins.



June 10, 2017 at 06:10 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins.*



June 10, 2017 at 05:29 PM



“ *Charlie Worley and Frank Worley families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins.*



Charlie Worley and Frank Worley families - June 10, 2017 at 05:16 PM



“ *The Mary Betty Yancey Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins*



The Mary Betty Yancey Family - June 10, 2017 at 02:50 PM



“ *From MHS Class of '64 purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins.*



From MHS Class of '64 - June 10, 2017 at 12:18 PM

AS

“ *Arlene Jackson Standridge lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins*



Arlene Jackson Standridge - June 10, 2017 at 06:11 AM

AS

I went to First Baptist Church and graduated with Amy. I was Arlene Jackson.

Arlene Jackson Standridge - June 10, 2017 at 06:34 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins.*



June 09, 2017 at 08:43 PM

WW

“ *Wanda Westbrook lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Hawkins*



Wanda Westbrook - June 09, 2017 at 07:39 PM

WW

So sorry to hear about Clayton. Haven't seen the family in a long time, but remember all. He was a very special person. He always was ready to help. I remember the ball games that he helped with when Jeff and Shane played. Shane always said, that Mr. Hawkins was the best.

Wanda Westbrook - June 09, 2017 at 07:45 PM

AH

“ There's so much to say about this awesome man. He was my teacher, my coach, my fellow church member, and most of all, my friend. He always had a big smile, and a kind word. So many times, we reminisced about our days at Milton High. We talked many times about the good times we had on the bus traveling to basketball games when he was the coach of the varsity girls team that I played on. We didn't win a lot, but the years we had with Mr. Hawkins as our coach ended up making us all winners. I can't think of anyone that I've been associated with in my years of growing up here that I've respected more and that I consider to have had more influence on my life that he did. He will most certainly be missed by many. Love, peace, prayers of comfort to this wonderful family. Alice (Mauldin) Hackney

Alice Hackney - June 09, 2017 at 03:50 PM

RJ

The Hawkins were my neighbors and I went to elementary school with Judy. My prayers go out to Judy and her family. You will be held in the Light.

Ramon Parrish Jr. - June 09, 2017 at 05:01 PM

KR

I have many fond memories of Mr. Hawkins and the whole family.

Karen Williams Rice - June 10, 2017 at 08:58 AM