



Coach Tom Pugh

May 7, 1931 - December 15, 2021

Coach Tom Pugh, 90, of Kingsport, passed away Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at Holston Valley Medical Center.

He was born May 7, 1931, in Morristown, TN as the only child of James and Aznetta Pugh who are now deceased.

He graduated from Morristown High School in 1949. Tom played football there for Coach Petie Siler and was captain of the 1948 team. He played football at Carson-Newman College for Coach Sam (Frosty) Holt and T.J. Stafford. Tom earned letters as a Freshman and Sophomore. He graduated from Carson-Newman in 1954, with a B.A. Degree in Economics.

Following graduation from Carson-Newman he married the love of his life, Charlotte Smith. Tom served in the U.S. Army from September 20, 1954, until July 25, 1956. He served in Germany for eighteen months and obtained the rank of SP3.

Tom began his coaching career at Jefferson High School, Jefferson City, TN in 1956. His 1957, his football team there was undefeated during the regular season. He also coached at Fulton High School, Knoxville, TN, Elizabethton High School, Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett, E.T.S.U., and Sullivan Central. Tom served as an assistant coach when Dobyns-Bennett won the UPI State Championship in 1964, when D-B only yielded 31 points. He also served as Defensive Co-ordinator at Central High School in 1975, when Central won the Big 9 Championship yielding only 32 points in the regular season. In 1969, his football team beat Morristown East 14-13 and eventually East won the first TSSAA State Championship.

Tom was Big 6 "Coach of the Year" in 1978, and Big 10 "Coach of the Year" in 1981. He was inducted into the Morristown Sports Hall of Fame in 2009, and the National Football Hall of Fame in 2017.

Tom received a Master's Degree from the University of Tennessee in Physical Education in 1962, and received 45 hours above the Master's Degree from E.T.S.U. in 1977.

He accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord in June of 1976, at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Conference in Black Mountain, NC. Tom was active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes while coaching at Central High School.

He was a former member of Tri-Cities Baptist Church where he served as an Elder and a member of First Baptist Church in Morristown, TN at the time of his death. Tom was also a member of Gideon's International.

In 2004, he wrote and published a book about his high school coach, Pete Siler. The title of the book was Morristown High School's Legendary Coach, Pete Siler.

In addition to his parents, Tom was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Charlotte Pugh.

Those left to cherish his memory are his children, Steve Pugh and wife, Debbie, Mark Pugh and wife, Jill, John Pugh and wife, Teresa; grandchildren, Jonathan Pugh and wife, Lauren, Jennifer Noe and husband, Scott, Karissa Pressley and husband, Erik, Thomas Pugh, Joseph Pugh, Candice Pugh, Michael Pugh, Ethan Pugh and wife, Margaret, Daniel Pugh and wife, Jesse; great-grandchildren, Braeden, Knox, Layne, Hudson, Charlie, Liam and Elaina; several cousins also survive.

The family will receive friends Saturday, December 18, 2021, from 4:00-5:45 pm in the funeral home chapel.

A Celebration of Life Service will begin at 6:00 pm with Dr. Phil Hoskins officiating.

The family will also receive friends Monday, December 20, 2021, from 11:00 am until 12:00 pm at Maye's Mortuary in Morristown, TN.

Burial will follow at 12:30 pm at Jarnagin Cemetery in Morristown with Dr. Dean Haun officiating.

To share memories and condolences with the family please visit www.oakhillfh.com

The care of Coach Tom Pugh and his family has been entrusted to the staff of Oak Hill Funeral & Cremation Services, Kingsport, TN.

Events

DEC 18 Visitation 04:00PM - 05:45PM

18

Oak Hill Funeral and Cremation Services
800 Truxton Dr., Kin, TN, US, 37660

DEC 18 Celebration of Life Service 06:00PM - 06:30PM

18

Oak Hill Funeral & Cremation Services
800 Truxton Drive, Kingsport, TN, US, 37660

DEC 20 Visitation 11:00AM - 12:00PM

20

Maye's Mortuary
Morristown, TN, US

DEC 20 Graveside Service 12:30PM - 12:45PM

20

Jarnagin Cemetery
Morristown, TN, US

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Oak Hill Funeral and Cremation Services - December 18, 2021 at 09:16 AM



“ My heart is saddened by your loss. Coach Pugh was such a beautiful and kind soul. I have many fond memories of this sweet family and growing up with in the same neighborhood. May God's Grace comfort you in this difficult time.

Marlene Brixey Braddock - December 20, 2021 at 10:35 PM



“ I so enjoyed getting acquainted with Coach Tom Pugh when we helped him with his book about Coach Petie Siler. Tom's attention to detail, strong storytelling skills, and warm affection for Coach Siler and all the athletes and students from the Siler tenure came through so clearly in this excellent book. We were honored to assist, and to enjoy the warmth of Tom's caring personality throughout the project. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Coach Tom Pugh. --Jane Hillhouse

Jane Hillhouse - December 21, 2021 at 01:01 PM



“ I played for Coach Pugh, he was my position Coach at Dobyns-Bennett, 1963, 1964, and 1965. He was demanding and always helped your technique improve. I never knew until his coaching there was such a thing as football technique. He taught us well, with respect, kindness, mental toughness. He never cussed us or was mean in any way. He wanted us to do our best. He taught me about winning and what had to be paid to win. The team of coaches - Coach Tom Brixey, Coach John Whited, and Coach Chuck Lane were great for those days. During those years we only lost one game, Oak Ridge in 1963. We went undefeated in 1964 and 1965. We won the State Championship rating in 1964.

We have had many blessed conversations over the years. I loved my visits to see Coach and Charlotte. We ate hot dogs or I would bring Nick's chicken. They were an ideal couple and raised three great boys - now men!

Blessings and prayers for the Pugh family. I will be missed Coach Pugh!



Victor Dingus - December 20, 2021 at 05:41 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Coach Pugh. My brother and I grew up with the "Pugh boys" and John was a classmate of mine. I fondly remember the times when Coach Pugh and Charlotte would play bridge with my parents (Chuck and Juanita Lane) while us kids would try to stay out of trouble. When my father was sick and in a nursing home, Coach Pugh would often visit and share the gospel with Dad. My condolences to John, Mark, and Steve, and their families.

Lee (Lane) Chase - December 20, 2021 at 04:33 PM



“ I will always remember Tom, his friendship and the search we had looking for a college to attend. We were invited to try out for a football scholarship at Clemson and ended up trying out at Furman also. I write about it in my book called WHAT IF that can be pulled up on the internet with WHAT IF by W. Joe Wall, Jr. LOVE to all and Gods blessings on each one.

w. joe wall. jr. - December 19, 2021 at 08:30 AM



“ Only former players know the coach as family, blood kin is the best part of being family. We got the see the side of Coach Pugh that was the desire to make us a better team and turn boys in to men. The blood and sweat he gave everyday with all he had. Coach Pugh was a good leader on and off the field, he will always live forever in our hearts. The family can rest assured that hundreds of men that was coached by Tom Pugh have your back and support.

K.O. Keller - December 18, 2021 at 10:35 PM



“ Stately Lilies was purchased for the family of Coach Tom Pugh.



December 18, 2021 at 10:33 AM



“ 40 files added to the album LifeTributes



Oak Hill Funeral and Cremation Services - December 18, 2021 at 09:03 AM



“ I along with Tony Williams were Co-Captains of the 81 Central Team. We were part of the South/Central split. I think we ended up with 38 players my senior year. Coach Crawford called us the dirty thirty. Many didn't believe we would be much of a team losing so many brothers to South. Coach would always call Tony and myself aside to asked how the team was doing. I know he really cared about us as players and young men. He prayed for us and wanted us all to know Jesus. I know that from FCA meetings, practices and games. I know he will now meet a lot of young men in heaven that he planted the seed! We ended up 6-4 that year beating some tough teams. I think the highlight to his coaching career was defeating DB that year and earning Big 10 Coach of the Year! I talked to him a few years ago and he remembered more about our team than I remembered. If I can say one thing about Coach Pugh is he cared about the souls of his players!

Brent Helvey

Brent Helvey - December 17, 2021 at 10:04 PM



“ Trina Bowen lit a candle in memory of Coach Tom Pugh



Trina Bowen - December 17, 2021 at 09:22 PM



“ So sorry to hear about my neighbor. I know you Pugh boys from way back and have enjoyed talking with both your parents in the neighborhood through the yrs. He always loved me talking about dating and then marrying a Central girl and being at the big game in 75 or 76 when they beat DB. So sorry, as you know he can now rejoin your Mother!

David Pendleton

David Pendleton - December 17, 2021 at 11:26 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Coach Tom Pugh.



December 17, 2021 at 08:59 AM



“ I will miss Tom we played on the same football team at Morristown in 1948 and have been friends ever since. He lived a great and full life for his children can follow. God bless each and every one.

w. joe wall. jr. - December 17, 2021 at 08:58 AM



“ Deepest sympathy to all the family on the passing of a fine man. I knew him from Dobyys Bennett football and Colonial Heights Baptist Church. Peace to his family.
Charles Sproles

Charles Sproles - December 17, 2021 at 08:53 AM



“ What an honor to give tribute to Coach Pugh. I shared the joy with him when we won the DB 1964 state championship. He was a leader of so many high schoolers, and his impact continues today. I was able to have conversations with him in the last few years, and he always was an encourager, a mentor, a friend and a brother in Christ. He will be greatly missed; but I rejoice that he is in the presence of his Savior Jesus Christ.

Rev. Andy White

J. Andrew White - December 17, 2021 at 08:51 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Coach Pugh's death. He was a fine, fine man as we all know. Though he lived a very full life, death at any age is hard for those remaining, and my condolences to his family. With much Christian love, Richard Easley, Waco, Texas

Richard Easley - December 17, 2021 at 12:50 AM



“ I played for Coach Pugh at Central. I had the honor of receiving his coach's award my senior year. A great Christian man who genuinely cared for the spiritual well being of his players.

John Williams - December 16, 2021 at 10:31 PM



“ Herman & Jean Spence lit a candle in memory of Coach Tom Pugh



Herman & Jean Spence - December 16, 2021 at 09:04 PM



“ Coach Tom Pugh was my friend, mentor, Christian witness, counselor, and role model. What can I say except I looked up to him as much as anyone I knew through high school, college, military, and adult life. I wish I could have played football with him or for him.

RIP TOM PUGH †

I LOVE YOU MAN



John Brooks - December 16, 2021 at 08:27 PM



“ Coach Pugh was a fine man. My story of him and coach Whited began on a winters day at the old John Sevier Jr. High. I an 8th grader and a classmate , would leave early for lunch. On a snowy day , two, (I thought), old gentlemen were walking up the sidewalk. Unknown to us, it was Coach Pugh and Coach Whited. When we got back,from lunch a call to office. My punishment was to run errands for Coach Pugh and Coach Brixey. It was more of pleasure than a punishment. R.I.P. Coach.

Jessee Edwards - December 16, 2021 at 08:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Coach Tom Pugh.



December 16, 2021 at 07:59 PM



“ I am a 1965 graduate of Dobyys-Bennet where Coach Pugh was an assistant football coach. He was great friends with my baseball Coach John Whited. Coach Pugh and Coach Whited were always cutting up with each other. I was impressed at how "down to earth" Coach Pugh was. He was highly respected by his players as well as the student body as a whole. I saw Coach Pugh from time to time after I graduated and he always put a smile on my face. He will be missed. .

Tim Thayer - December 16, 2021 at 07:48 PM



“ Coach Pugh was my friend. We spent many hours talking football. He also was a member of my Sunday school class(Wallen-Purkey Class). I will miss him very much but I know where he is.

Steve Joyce

Steve Joyce - December 16, 2021 at 06:35 PM



“ I played for coach Pugh at Central and I cannot remember a kinder man...I would see him at etsu handing out New Testaments to the students...I still have mine 30 years later...he was a fine Christian man...prayers for coach's family...



Chris Holt - December 16, 2021 at 05:33 PM



“ Coach was a great man and mentor to me in my coaching career. Gave a young coach a chance to start a career. I am terribly sorry for the loss of Tom and Charlotte.
Randy Brewer

Randy Brewer - December 16, 2021 at 04:11 PM



“ We knew coach Pugh from DB high School and Tri Cities Baptist church. He was such a great person. Prayers for the family. John & Wanda Green

John Green - December 16, 2021 at 10:45 AM



“ Phil & Brenda Hoskins lit a candle in memory of Coach Tom Pugh



Phil & Brenda Hoskins - December 15, 2021 at 03:15 PM



“ Staff Of Oak Hill Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Coach Tom Pugh



Staff of Oak Hill Funeral Home - December 15, 2021 at 03:14 PM