



Richard Wayne Chapman

SEP 1, 1928 - MAY 21, 2020



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FLORAL HAVEN

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Richard Wayne Chapman

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Richard Wayne Chapman was born September 1, 1928, and passed from this life May 21, 2020 at St. Francis Hospital, Tulsa, OK, from complications due to COVID-19. He was born to Byron and Charlotte “Zoe” (Beal) Chapman in Jefferson, OK on the property homesteaded by his maternal grandfather, Oliver Beal, in the land run of 1889. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Merle and wife, Betty Jo; Eugene and wife, Dixie; Dale and wife, Mary; sister, Lois Wood, and husband, Weldon “Woody;” and wife, Louise. He is survived by his daughter, Joan Hatley; grandsons: Dylan Hatley; and Jonathan Hatley, and wife, Ellie; son, David Chapman, and wife Melissa; granddaughter, Crystal Chapman; great-granddaughters: Danica Sims and Sabrina Davis; grandson, Daxon Chapman, and wife Amanda; great-grandson, Reece Chapman; grandson, Timothy Chapman; step-granddaughters: Bronwyn Spain, husband, John, and their son, Jess; and Cecily Tawney; mother of his children, Dr. Marilyn Carver; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Richard grew up in and around Pond Creek, OK, and graduated from Pond Creek High School in 1946. He attended Northern Oklahoma Junior College for one year. Richard and his best friend, Lloyd “Gus” Gates, worked the wheat harvest every June. He was loading hay bales the summer of 1948 when a friend drove up in a pickup, said they were headed to Panhandle A & M to play football on a scholarship, and asked if Richard would like to come and see if he could get in, too. He tried out and was awarded a scholarship for room and board, but he lacked the \$30 necessary for tuition. A banker in Pond Creek loaned him the money and said to pay it back whenever he could, which Richard did.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in History at Panhandle A & M, Richard enlisted in the Navy and served for two years. With an honorable discharge, he found employment teaching history and driver’s ed, and coaching football at Henryetta High School, where he met Marilyn, who was the vocal music teacher at the Jr. High school. They married in 1956 and had two children before



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moving to Tulsa in 1963, where Richard had been hired as head track coach and a history teacher at the year-old Memorial High School.

In 1965, “Coach” as he became known, was hired as head football coach at Edison High School, where, in his second season, he led his team to win the District Championship title. Coach was named Tulsa Tribune Coach of the Year in 1966. He coached and taught at Edison for seven years before returning to Memorial High School as head tennis coach. He retired for a year in 1986, before being hired to coordinate the in-house program at Nathan Hale High School, a position he held for several years before retiring completely. In 1988, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame, and also was inducted into both the Edison High School and Memorial High School Coaches Halls of Fame, as well as the Oklahoma Track Coaches Hall of Fame. He was a member of the Oklahoma Coaches Association, Oklahoma Officials Association, was an All-State Coach in 1963, and helped coach the Memorial Chargers to their State Championship title in 1980.

During his teaching career, Coach Chapman took post-graduate courses at the University of Oklahoma, earned a certificate in Driver’s Education from Oklahoma State University, and earned a Master of Science in Education from Northeastern Oklahoma State University.

Upon arriving in Tulsa in 1963, Richard was hired as a lifeguard at Southwood Country Club, and became pool manager a few years later. For two decades, he took impeccable care of the pool and its grounds, trained many lifeguards, and ran a tight ship. For his last few years at Southwood, he hired daughter, Joan, as assistant pool manager, and thus ensued many hilarious catastrophes while he was away at wheat harvest. Whether it was someone draining the pool or the health department shutting the pool down, Richard could count on being called in off his combine to take a phone call about this year’s disaster! No one could every figure out why those things only happened when he was away, harvesting wheat.

Richard inherited his mother’s talents for cooking and gardening. He took pride in having the most beautiful yard on his block, and shared his bountiful crops of tomatoes, okra, and other vegetables, and canned thousands of jars of vegetables and sauces. He made a mean apple salad, and could always be counted on to bring at least one pie to the family gatherings. At Christmas, each child and grandchild received his or her own bag of peanut butter balls and Chex mix, and the adults were gifted jars of pickles and bags of pecans, which Richard had shelled himself.



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Richard's son and daughter were truly his pride and joy, and he attended numerous games, concerts, recitals, graduations, and class presentations not only of theirs, but of his grandchildren's as well. When arriving at a school for a program, he would head for the cafeteria, hoping for a cup of coffee. He would introduce himself to everyone in the office before heading off for the program. In his room at school, he had an entire bulletin board dedicated to his children where he posted pictures and programs for his students to see. He celebrated all his children's accomplishments, and drove them and his grandchildren to countless music lessons and sports activities. Until his body betrayed him, he could be found on the floor with the kids at any family gathering.

Coach never met a stranger, and in any situation would soon have introduced himself to each person in the room and asked what high school they had attended. He had a servant's heart and was at his happiest when helping others. Most mornings of his retirement, he arose, walked several miles at Woodland Hills mall, baked or cooked something, and took it to one of the many people he knew who were homebound, recovering, or grieving. He mailed thousands of greeting cards to those he knew and loved, including a miniature Bible in most. He and his sister, Lois, would share cards they had received with each other by mail, always with the request to "return this, please!".

Richard Chapman was a unique and precious man who lived his life bringing beauty and kindness to this world. He read his Bible daily and filled it with hand-written comments, prayers, celebrations, and observations. He loved his family and put them first in everything he did. He loved hugging his mother, playing dominos with his father and brothers, dancing with his sister, and every minute he got to spend with his children. He taught his children and grandchildren how to follow Christ's teachings, not with his words, but by his actions. He touched thousands of lives in his teaching and coaching, and many former students kept in touch with him over the decades because of the impact he had on their lives. The world is a much richer place because he was in it, and will be dimmer without him. We rejoice that he will spend eternity with his Savior, and look forward to the time we are reunited with him.

Private service. Visitation: Thursday, May 28, 2020, 2:00-4:00, Floral Haven Funeral Home, 6420 S. 129th E. Ave, Tulsa, OK. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Muscular Dystrophy Association.




Events


Richard Wayne Chapman

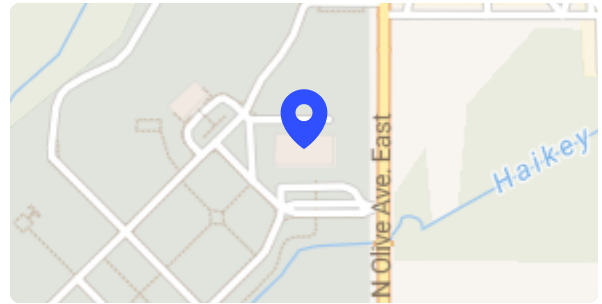
SEP 1, 1928 - MAY 21, 2020

Viewing

 **Thursday**, May 28, 2020

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT

 **Floral Haven Visitation Suites**
6500 S 129th E Ave., Broken Arrow OK 74012





Tribute Wall

Richard Wayne Chapman

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Christopher Turner posted:

I thought the world of Coach Chapman. He was such a fine and kind man. My two years in his history classes prepared me for my life as a journalist. I will never forget his courage in teaching us about the Tulsa Riots of 1921. He was the only... the ONLY teacher, I believe, in our school or maybe even in Tulsa Public Schools, who taught on this subject. This was in 1978. I am so lucky, and so blessed to have known him. --Christopher Turner, Memorial Class of 78

June 18 at 6:29 AM



David Peters posted:

I am so very sorry to hear of Coach Chapman's passing. He was a great coach and mentor for all of us that were fortunate enough to have had him as our coach and teacher. I am proud of the time I got to spend with him at his friend's (Gus Gates) farm in Pond Creek. Coach Chapman knew how to prepare a boy to play a game, as well as how to form a work ethic for life! Gus Gate's farm and football were a part of that plan. Thank you, Coach! You will be greatly missed at our future reunions, but you will NEVER be forgotten! David Peters, Class of '59, Henryetta Hens

May 28 at 12:45 PM



Joan Hatley shared 3 photos to the **Memories Album** album.



May 21 at 11:45 AM



Jennifer Dyer posted:

Dearest Joan and David - You know I had to send the flowers. Let them remind you of your wonderful Dad as long as they last. He was one of a kind. No one could have had a better uncle, always ready for a hug or a laugh. He always reminded me of the Proverb: "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance." Prov. 15:13 Especially in his later years, the light of Jesus Christ was inside of him, radiating outward. May we all grow in such a way. He truly earned his place in the hall of fame as the name he'll be remembered by: "Coach." Love and hugs to you, Missie, and all the kids, Jen

May 27 at 11:20 AM



Tribute Wall

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HS

Hiram E. Sanders posted:

My friend Coach Chapman was a Christian Gentleman. He was always an encourager and a positive influence on so many of us. His desire to develop his students splashed over on his older colleagues as well. Many of us received an encouraging card with a miniature Bible in the mail at just the right time. Sometimes during a Bible study he would open his Bible to focus our attention on words of truth. He shared his garden produce with us or place a prized jar of jam or jelly in our hands. His concern for others was especially demonstrated in his constant prayers for his great grandson Timothy. I was blessed to have a friend like Coach Chapman. Rev. Hiram E. Sanders

May 27 at 11:13 AM

CJ

Cousin Jen sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Chapman family.



May 27 at 11:00 AM

EH

Elden Hoffman posted:

He was a fine gentleman and I respected him greatly. What an example he set for his students and athletes. He was my history teacher at Edison HS. Even though I never played down for him (I wrestled) he always made me feel like I was one of the best athletes he ever saw. I was part of that great Edison class of 1967 that he took to district champions. I was fortunate to see him at other times after graduation at the Southwood pool and he attended some of our class reunions. RIP COACH! Elden Hoffman

May 27 at 8:41 AM

JH

Joan Hatley shared an album called **Memories Album**.



May 26 at 9:36 AM



Tribute Wall

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Joan Hatley shared an album called **Memories Album**.



May 26 at 9:32 AM



Joan Hatley shared an album called **Memories Album**.



May 26 at 9:30 AM



Martha Dyer, Aunt Martha, With Love. sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Chapman family.



May 26 at 9:07 AM



Allen E. Wadsworth posted:

What a GREAT MAN ,he helped me in so many ways and can't tell you all the ways. He was my 7th grade history teacher, also my high school football coach and did such and outstanding job of coaching. I also went to Gus Gates place for three summers thanks to Coach for that live changing event in my life. He will be missed so much by so many players he coached during his many years of coaching. I will really miss such a GREAT MAN. Allen E. Wadsworth Henryetta Class of 1960.

May 26 at 4:48 AM



Jeanne Hunt posted:

I worked in the main office of the school where his daughter taught for many years. Coach would bring her flowers for her birthday and always brought a bouquet for the office as well. The card said they were to thank us "for loving my Joanie and making her happy." She is easy to love, as was he! Rest easy, Coach! We'll take care of her!

May 26 at 4:12 AM



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Nancy Moore posted:

Richard Wayne Chapman was a friend of mine! We were "Mall Walkers", at Woodland Hills Mall. I started to walk in 1987 and some years later "Coach" began walking there too. He soon developed friendships with several men who, after walking their laps, would gather around a table in the food court and talk. I would stop by to say "Hi" and be told stories about Pond Creek, or be shown the two inch long pencil stub that had once been Coach's Dad's. We talked about Coach Doug Dugger, who was the Pawhuska High Basketball Coach, and my biology teacher. Coach Dugger and Coach Chapman had coached together here in Tulsa. Often when he was leaving the mall he had plans to bake or cook something. For no reason at all he brought me a jar of his Bread and Butter Pickles! They were delicious! He would hear of someone who was sick and bring a Get Well Card to circulate for signatures that would brighten their day. I received notes from Coach when Mama died, and later my older brother. They were uplifting and spoke of the love he had for his Savior and the help that is available through Jesus. Everyone loved Coach and he loved everyone. We were blessed to have him in our midst! One day a couple of new mall walkers, recently retired called me over. They asked "who is the tall, white haired man that just passed us?" I said "That's Coach Chapman!" They looked at each other and said, laughing, "He was our High School Coach in Henryetta!" They went right over to talk to him. He was the kind of person who didn't need to tell you he was a Christian. He lived it!

May 25 at 5:01 PM



Janice(Gates) Melton shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Richard was my dad's(Lloyd Gates) best friend. And he became our second dad too. I cannot remember a harvest without a Richard and no matter how stressed our dad got over the many harvest issues, Richard was the calm in the storm. Even when an occasional harvest dinner didn't turn out so well, he made me feel like it was the best he'd ever eaten. Richard was the kindest most caring person I've ever known. He continued to send us cards and letters long after dad died. Richard lived his faith every day and loved his family and friends like no other! I give thanks to God for the honor of having Richard in our lives. I've attached a few pics of Richard at harvest, at Panhandle playing football and with our dad.



May 21 at 11:45 AM



Janet Stewart lit a candle in honor of Richard .



May 24 at 3:56 PM



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Kent Pharaoh posted:

It was with a heavy heart that word came to me of the passing of my friend and former football coach. "Coach", as he was known by his former players, was truly a friend and a Man of God! His life was a testimony to his Christlike Spirit in both word and deed.. His memory will live on as he takes his eternal rest. With sincere condolences to the family, Kent Pharaoh Henryetta

May 24 at 1:53 PM



Mike Doak posted:

A great man and role model for many of his students and others he came in contact with during his life

May 23 at 3:52 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Chapman family.



May 23 at 12:56 PM



Joyce Gilley Steele lit a candle in honor of Richard .



May 23 at 8:38 AM



Anonymous sent a Serene Retreat to the Chapman family.



May 21 at 4:42 PM



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BS

Buck Sheward posted:

A Coach who became a friend and more in life, a testament to his principles, wholesome upbringing, and Christian faith. I shared two months on a wheat harvest with Coach and his best friend, Lloyd Gates, in Pondcreek, OK. It was a life changing experience for which I have always been profoundly grateful. His passing is a sad moment for those on planet earth, yet an embracing journey for Coach as he continues his eternal pilgrimage. He is forever etched in my memory for all time. I wish him well on the rest of his journey. We will meet again.

May 21 at 11:48 AM

JM

Judy Cameron Martin posted:

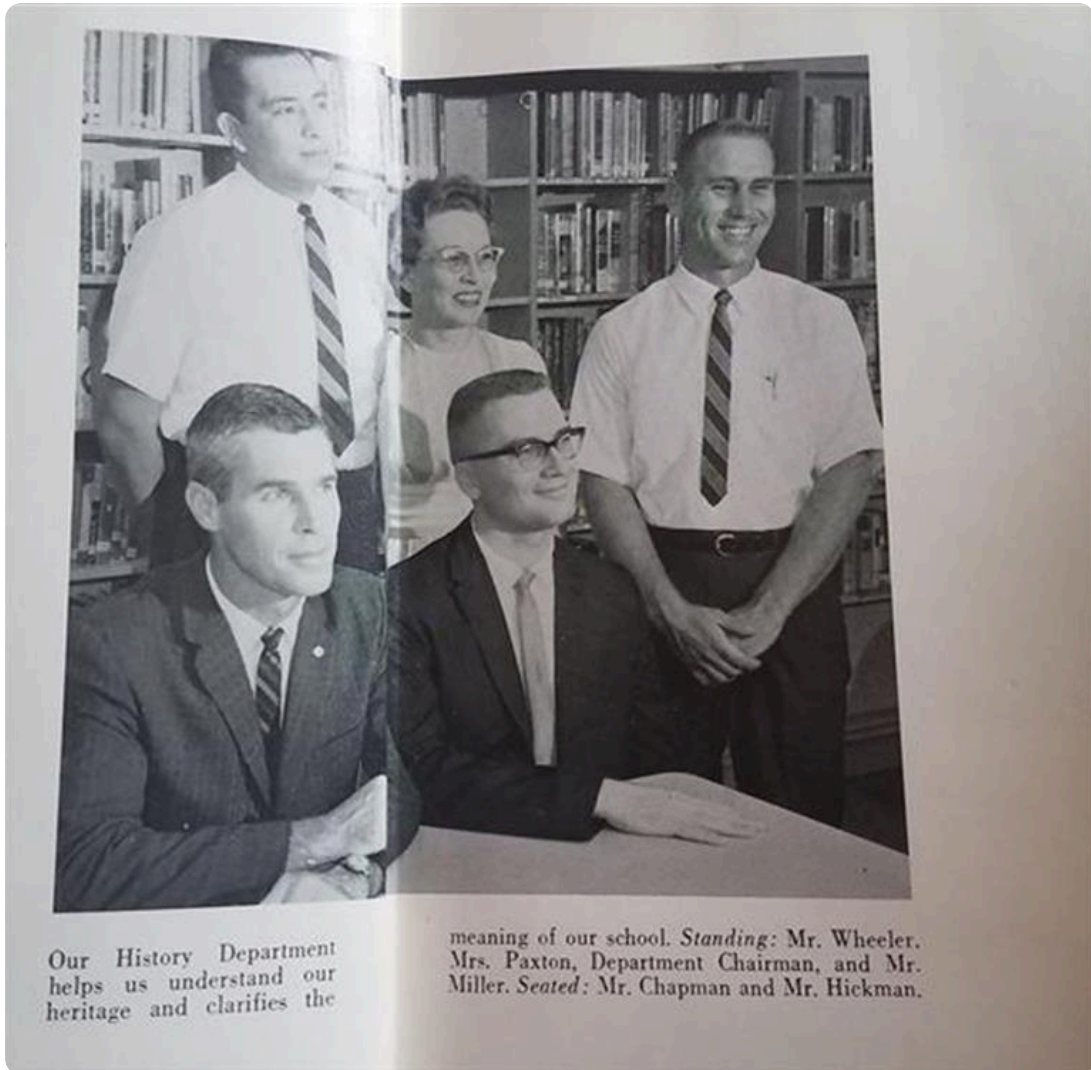
Coach Chapman was the kind of man who received respect and admiration from football players he coached more than 50 years ago. Some of his Henryetta High School football team members still visited him. I had the honor of being invited to go to lunch with Buck and Coach a couple of years ago. I really doubt he remembered me, a cheerleader, but he was so gracious and was such a gentleman. I send my heartfelt sympathy to his family. Judy Cameron Martin, HHS Class of 1963

May 21 at 11:45 AM



Joan Hatley shared 3 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

May 27 at 5:43 PM



1964 Memorial HS yearbook



Media

Richard Wayne Chapman

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Coach's 90th birthday

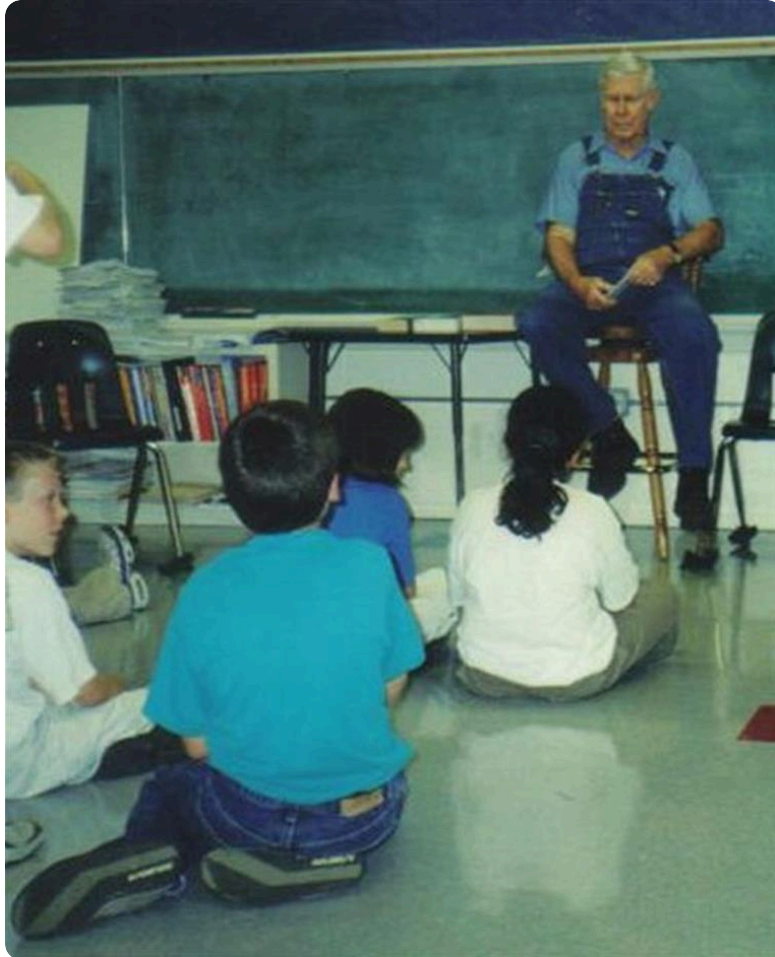


Family Day at Connor's State



Joan Hatley shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

May 26 at 9:36 AM



Teaching a 4th grade class about the dustbowl 2004



Joan Hatley shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

May 26 at 9:32 AM



Pool manager at Southwood



Media

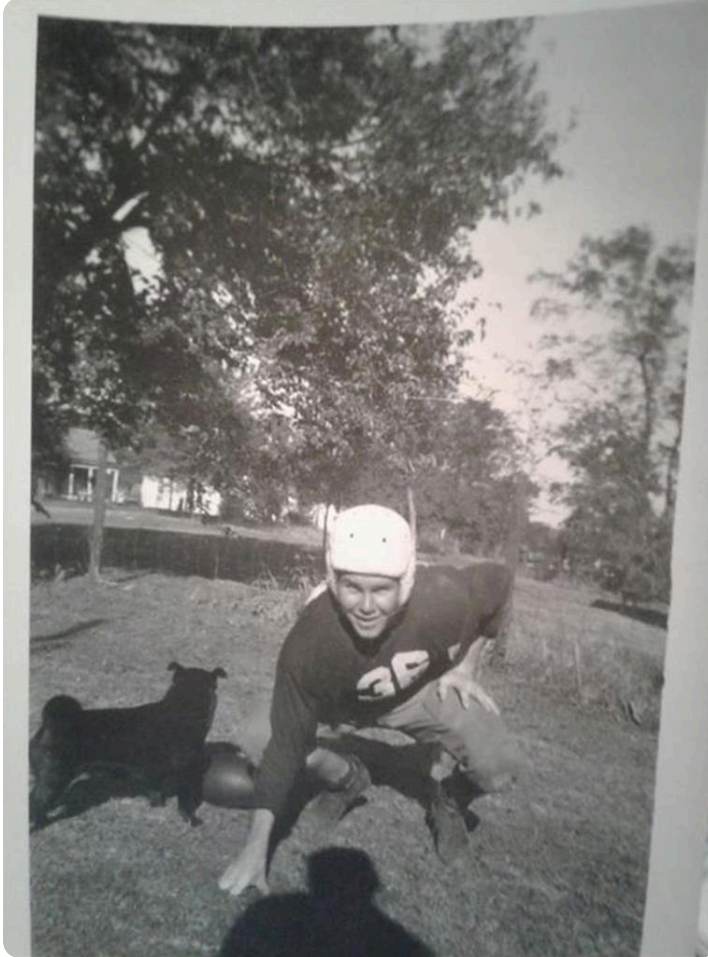
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Joan Hatley shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

May 26 at 9:30 AM



Richard and Dobber Oct. 1944



Media

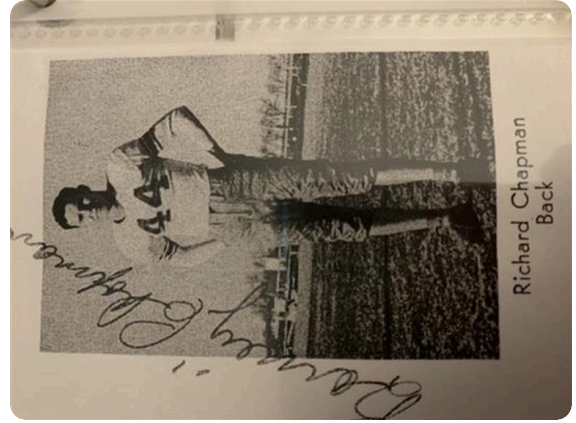
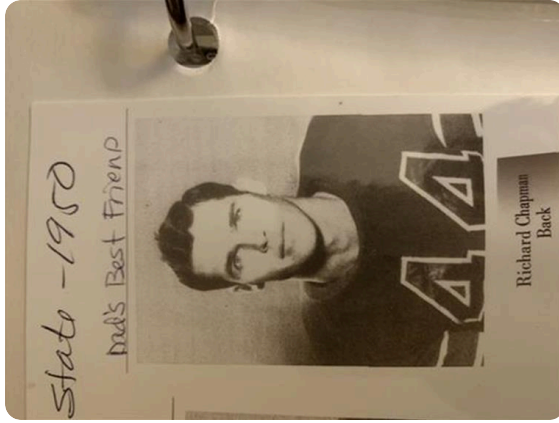
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Janice(Gates) Melton shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 25 at 4:38 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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