



Jack Blackburn

February 14, 1942 - April 26, 2021

Jack Jay Blackburn of Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away on Monday, April 26 from complications from pneumonia at Saint Francis Hospital. He was born February 14, 1942 to Jay and Thelma Wolfe Blackburn in Muskogee, Oklahoma. His childhood was spent in Checotah, Oklahoma, where he was involved in the First United Methodist Church and graduated from Checotah High School in 1960. His dad owned the Western Auto and his mom was a nurse for McIntosh County. During high school, he excelled in football. He was awarded all conference twice and was an All-State player. He played center and linebacker, and went on to play for the University of Arkansas. He completed his teaching degree in history at Oklahoma State University after marrying Betty L. Martin. Several years later, he completed his master's degree in business from Northeastern State University.

His tenacity for football led him to coaching along with teaching history. He coached football and taught at Konawa, Broken Arrow, Tulsa Memorial, and Tulsa Hale. He was honored to be a part of the Tulsa Memorial state championship team in 1980. Before retiring, he served as Tulsa Hale's athletic director. After retirement, he drove for John Christner Trucking for several years. Following his driving career, he and his wife, Mary M. Hibscher Blackburn, owned and operated Village South Liquors in Tulsa until 2014. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jay and Thelma Blackburn, and his first wife, Betty L. Martin.

Jack is survived by his wife, Mary, his children, Krista McKnight (Steve) and Derek Blackburn (Dana), six grandchildren, Grace Ludrick (Jon), David McKnight (Lindsey), Meredith Sheets (Eric), Mackenzie Jay (Colten), Macy and Madyson Blackburn, five great-grandchildren, Charlie, E.J., Asa, Austyn, Nora, his stepchildren, Trey Barnes, Tammy Been, Tim Barnes, T.J. Barnes and their families, his sister, Jill Schumacher, of Independence, MO, an aunt, Ruth Hopkins, of San Diego, California, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Cactus Jack will be remembered by friends and family on Friday, May 14, at 10:00 am at Floral Haven Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Oklahoma Coaches Assistance Plan, 8080 Crystal Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73139. Online tributes may be left at Floral Haven's website.

**Services will be live streamed starting at 9:45 AM on Friday, May 14, 2021. To view the service live, please click on the following link:

<https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/53457/hash:F395E4DA5157BC21>

Events

MAY **Celebration of Life Memorial Service** 10:00AM

14

Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel

6500 S 129th E Ave., Broken Arrow, OK, US, 74012

Comments



“ Mary, Krista and Derek,

What a lovely service, honoring and celebrating Uncle Jack. Bob and I watched from Naples. Thank you, Krista and Derek, for sharing so many stories (I'd forgotten about the wrestling mats and the Russian Roulette!), it was lovely to hear the coaching stories from the former players and Coach George did a beautiful job leading the proceedings. It was clear they had a close relationship.

The sweet video was especially touching and brought back so many happy memories of Christmas Eves at Grandma Blackburn's (some crazy Christmas gifts!) and the fun annual family reunions in the Ozarks.

I can still see our Dads and Grandpa Jay sitting in Grandma's kitchen sharing jokes and long, funny stories, and hear them howl with laughter after a punch line. Grandpa loved a good story and so did your sweet father. Which made the sharing today particularly dear.

Praying for you three, Steve, Dana and all. Sending you love and very fond memories. With Sympathy, Bob and Holly (Rudkin) Vagley.

PS I forwarded the service's link to my Dad, Rodger. He expressed a sincere desire to attend today, but, sadly, he recently began limiting his driving to short distances.

Holly & Bob Vagley (Rudkin) - May 14 at 03:29 PM



“ Thanks Coach! We have great memories of you in our Charger history and we you were legendary in the classroom and on the football field. Well done good and faithful servant.

Deb
Tulsa Memorial '80



Deb - May 13 at 11:41 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jack Blackburn.



May 12 at 01:18 PM



“ We are thinking of the Blackburn family and regret the loss of Jack. Our sincere sympathies are with you.

Trey & Honey Dunlap, Houston, Texas

tully dunlap - May 09 at 03:32 AM



“ Coach Blackburn was dedicated to helping players reach and achieve the best “It’s just as easy to do it right then wrong”. I did keep up with him for years and spent hours chatting it up in his liquor store.
I can say that the person at the funeral home that missed spelled his name and had his birthday wrong ...Coach would have them running bleachers! lol
Tulsa Memorial Charger 1981 State Champions- Coach Blackburn was a big part of our championship and all the players would agree! RIP COACH
James D. Smith ‘81

James Smith - May 04 at 02:17 PM



“ Condolences to Jack's family & to Mary. May Jack rest in peace in Heaven forever more

Love, Joe & Cheryl Cassody

Cheryl Casssody - April 30 at 02:34 PM