



John McTyeire Liston

April 26, 1932 - October 31, 2018

John McTyeire “Terry” Liston died October 31, 2018, in Greenville County. He was 86.

His life was given to public service that continued well into retirement. His personal courage and dedication as an educator inspired generations of South Carolina’s youth.

Liston was struck with polio when he was 12 years old. After months of physical therapy, he was returned to his mother, who was told the boy would never walk again.

And yet, this little boy from rural Colleton County, South Carolina, grew into adulthood to enlist in the U.S. Army, graduate from Wofford College, become a high school coach building two football programs at new schools and directing 4-H Camps through Clemson University. He earned a doctoral degree in education, and was superintendent of three South Carolina school districts.

He spent most of his career as a public school administrator, but those who had known him in his early years continued to call him Coach. Despite a slight limp caused by polio, he could be seen in those years running drills with his teams. He also taught physical education classes and United States Citizenship.

Upon retirement from the public schools, Liston relocated to his wife’s ancestral home in the Mountain View community of Northern Greenville County, where he became an active member and Sunday School teacher at

Mountain View United Methodist Church. He served on the Greenville County Recreation Commission, and was a consultant to the South Carolina Educational Television network. He was on the inaugural advisory board of Greenville Technical College.

His avocations included an active golf schedule and reviving the Chastain farm upon which he lived.

After graduating from Wofford College in 1954, Liston enlisted in the U.S. Army, but his service was cut short because of the lingering effects of polio. He turned immediately to his lifelong career as an educator, accepting teaching and coaching positions at Blue Ridge High School. Meanwhile, he earned a master's degree from Furman University. When the new Berea High School opened, he took the job of coach and guidance counselor.

He became coach and guidance counselor at Wade Hampton High School in Hampton County, S.C., and later was promoted to superintendent of Hampton School District 1.

He served as superintendent of Laurens School District 55, where he served for a decade. He capped his career as superintendent of Spartanburg School District 2.

Liston was the son of the late James Dawkins Liston and Evelyn Hutto Liston, of Smoaks, S.C.

He is survived by his wife, Frieda Anne Chastain Liston; two sons, William Rallie Liston and his wife Joy W. Liston; and John Phillip Liston and his wife Elaine S. Liston; grandchildren Jordan (Melissa), Wesley (Virginia), Joanna (Christan), and Amy (Ronnie); and great-grandchildren Will, Olivia, Henry and Liston.

A funeral service will be held Sunday, November 4, 2018, 3:00 p.m., at Mountain View United Church. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The family will greet friends at the church fellowship hall following the funeral. Memorials for John M. Liston can be made to the American Cancer Society and Mountain View United Methodist Church.

Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Methodist Church Cemetery

6525 Mountain View Road
Taylors, SC 29687

Previous Events

Service

NOV 4. 3:00 PM (ET)

Mountain View Methodist Church
6525 Mountain View Road
Taylors, SC

Visitation

NOV 4. 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

Mountain View Methodist Church
6525 Mountain View Road
Taylors, SC

Tribute Wall

ER

“ *My deepest sympathy for each of you! He was a fine man and will be missed. Elaine Word Rice*

Elaine Word Rice - November 06, 2018 at 01:54 PM

JE

“ *Jeff &rhonda Eldridge lit a candle in memory of John McTyeire Liston*



jeff &rhonda eldridge - November 05, 2018 at 06:55 PM

TN

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Teresa Neves - November 04, 2018 at 10:00 AM

CD

“ *My name is Charlie Driggers, Coach Liston influenced my life in ways that made me a better man today, he encouraged each student and football player to be there best at what they did!*

Charlie Driggers - November 04, 2018 at 07:01 AM

WN

“ William And Nancy lit a candle in memory of John McTyeire Liston



William and Nancy - November 04, 2018 at 02:58 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of John McTyeire Liston.



November 03, 2018 at 09:53 PM

RS

“ Coach Listen was an inspiration to me, not only as a coach, but as counselor. I would like to think as friend too, as much as he could be with all the other 16, 17 and 18 year olds he tried to help. I know he did a lot of work behind the scenes to get "his" athletes any kind of scholarships, grants in aid, etc. to further their education. He cared about us! I wish I had visited him to let him know I turned out alright. Loved him and miss him.

Roy Stansell - November 03, 2018 at 03:44 PM

ED

“ Prayers for the family.....I worked with Dr. Liston for nine years on a daily basis.

I have some good memories.

Edith Davis, Laurens District 55

Edith Davis - November 03, 2018 at 07:58 AM

RV

“ I can still remember the first time I met him standing on the ridge overlooking the new Berea High School Football Field. I was 10 years old and had never met someone quite like him. Outside of Jesus Christ and my dad, nobody has had a more profound impact on my life than Coach. From the time I met him through his entire life, he guided me with wisdom and character always setting the bar of how a gentleman behaves. His guidance and influence have touched thousands of lives in a positive manner and his legacy lives on through all of his family. I am so grateful that I was adopted into the Liston family at a young age.

Randy and Bonnie Vaughn

Randy Vaughn - November 03, 2018 at 07:50 AM

LD

“ Linda Donaldson lit a candle in memory of John McTyeire Liston



Linda Donaldson - November 02, 2018 at 10:26 PM

BF

“ Remembering Coach Liston's time with us in Hampton-- such fond memories of him and his family! Prayers for you all. Betty French

Betty French - November 02, 2018 at 10:24 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of John McTyeire Liston.*



November 02, 2018 at 10:15 PM

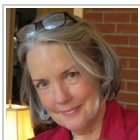


“ *Frieda, Rallie, and Phillip, it has been many years and lots of miles, but I will never forget your family's years in Hampton! Precious memories. Frieda, you were such a dear and cherished friend! I've tried to keep up with y'all, Rallie and Phillip, and I know you have made your parents proud of you! i have lots of good memories of your dad's time here, but my favorite is of his calling me at three o'clock one morning to tell me it was snowing - think maybe I'd bugged him too often about needing a snow day!*

My love and prayers to each of you.

Ann Montgomery Rogers

Ann M. Rogers - November 02, 2018 at 10:09 PM



“ *I will always remember Coach Liston. He was a positive influence in my life, and his door was always open to students. He was also one of my Dad's best friends.*

To All the Liston Family---Love and Deepest Sympathy.

Camille Cunningham Harvey

Camille Harvey - November 02, 2018 at 09:06 PM

CA

“*Mrs. Liston, I was so sorry to hear of Mr. Liston's passing. It was always a pleasure to have the opportunity to talk with him when he came by my shop or I was in your home. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Chuck Atkins*

Chuck Atkins - November 02, 2018 at 07:14 PM

JB

“*Joyce Lindsey Butler lit a candle in memory of John McTyeire Liston*



Joyce Lindsey Butler - November 02, 2018 at 05:21 PM

VW

“*Philip & family, I am so sorry for you loss. I will keep you all in my prayers*
Vickie Styles Wilson

Vickie Wilson - November 02, 2018 at 04:31 PM



“*Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of John McTyeire Liston.*



November 02, 2018 at 03:03 PM

RM

“ *Dr. Liston,
You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. What an awesome life your father lived by touching so many lives through his career of service to others in education and coaching. I pray that the Lord will keep you in his grace and love and that he will provide you with his heavenly comfort.*

*Sincerely,
Russell Mahaffey*

Russell Mahaffey - November 02, 2018 at 02:54 PM

FS

“ *Frieda, Rallie, Phillip and family*

*Camp Long! Camp Long! Camp Long
Oh how we love thee
There's no camp above thee
Camp Long! Camp Long! Camp Long!*

I can still see Frieda at the piano and Terry leading the singing at each morning assembly. And staff were watching two little energetic boys as they were doing things that little boys do! Oh, the memories, how they flood my soul.

We were so sorry to read of Terry's passing. He is one of the good guys! Countless people were touched by his influence all over northern Greenville County and not to mention the rest of the state.

So sorry we can't be there for the service. We are now in Foothills Retirement Community in Easley.

*Our love and sympathy,
Frank and Laura*

Frank Sutherland - November 02, 2018 at 02:09 PM

MV

“ Mark, Cindy, Cody & Amanda Vaughn purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of John McTyeire Liston.



Mark, Cindy, Cody & Amanda Vaughn - November 02, 2018 at 01:54 PM

RS

“ I was a new student at Berea High School in 1964. As an outsider and new to the community I was the target of some of Berea's bullies. After a skirmish one day with one of the more popular boys at the school. I managed to prevail out of fear but Mr. Knight escorted me to the office. There I met Mr. Liston. He waited for the opportunity to sit me down in his office and said, "If you tell anyone I said this you will be in big trouble, but you gave that young man something he has been needing for a long long time." I've never forgotten him. Besides this first encounter he was always the perfect gentlemen, father figure and example to all the young people he counseled.

Ronald Belton Swafford - November 02, 2018 at 01:52 PM

LO

“ My name is Lee Odom class of 1968 at Berea high. I am so sorry for your loss coach was one of the great men on my life, In 1967 my family suffered a great loss of a son and brother by the taking of his on life and his small children. Coach was there when I came make to school put his arms around me and told me he was there for me and my family. what a great man I am proud to call him COACH. God bless

Lee odom - November 02, 2018 at 01:05 PM

RG

“ Terry was A true friend and will surely be missed .We are praying for family. Ralph & Frances Gravley

Ralph Gravlet - November 02, 2018 at 12:46 PM

BM

Everyone loved Coach Liston at Berea. He was a kind and considerate man who made others feel special. What a wonderful life he had, teaching and giving.

~Barbara Malone

Barbara Jane Malone - November 03, 2018 at 12:53 AM

JC

Terry grew up on next farm to my childhood home on SC 61. Went to church together. Rode horseback together many times. Never forget when they came back from church that Sunday to find him lying on the ground at the front gate. Thought that the horse had hit him in head when rearing. Turns out that polio had caused him to fall. Great friend of mine as were his mom and brother "Sonny". Had talked with him last 6 months & we were going to continue these conversations more frequently. My love to all his family. I will miss him dearly in my 'memory' book. Jim Connor jconnor@ucsd.edu 8589225968

james Davis connor - November 03, 2018 at 09:34 PM