



John Ross

October 20, 1924 - February 28, 2008

Heading: John W. Ross (Veteran)

Dateline: Taylors

John W. (Johnny) Ross of Taylors, SC, surrounded by his family, went home to be with the Lord on February 28, 2008 after a brief illness. He was 83. Born and raised in the Pleasant Hill Community of northern Greenville County, he was the son of the late Boyd and Edith (Dill) Ross. He was a graduate of Jordan High School and Clemson University. John's college years were interrupted by WWII when he joined the Navy in 1944 to fight in the Pacific. He finished Clemson in 1949 with a degree in Horticulture and later received his MED from Clemson. While at Clemson, he was a member of the track, baseball and basketball teams. His career as an educator and coach carried him through several schools within Greenville County where he impacted the lives of countless young men and women. His teaching career led him to Belvue Elementary, Jordan, Blue Ridge and Taylors High Schools and most notably to Wade Hampton High where he taught and coached track, golf and basketball from 1960 through 1981 earning State 4A Titles in basketball in '70 and '71. He led his teams to 528 basketball wins over his career.

In 1957 he married the late Barbara Ann Odom who taught with him while at Taylors High. They joined Taylors First Baptist Church and started their family. John's love for the outdoors began at an early age and he enjoyed gardening in the summers and a fishing trip was always a likelihood. He spent his last few years of declining health at Alterra Sterling House Assisted Living Home

in Taylors where he enjoyed fellowship and a relaxed lifestyle.

The common thread that ran through his life whether on the court or off, in the classroom or at home, in the garden or on the lake, was his strong faith in God. It carried him through the years and has led him to the gates of eternal Heaven.

He was predeceased by his older brother, T.F. Ross. John is survived by his children and their families; Cathy Ross Trapp of Kingsport, TN and husband Bill, their children Leslie Trapp Jowers of Mt. Airy, GA and husband, Austin, David Trapp of Greenville; Ann Ross of Tallahassee, FL and son Ben Barnard, Kelly Ross of Taylors and wife Kathleen and their sons Kaleb and Daniel.

Visitation will be held Monday, March 3, 2008 in the gathering space at Taylors First Baptist Church beginning at 1:00 p.m. followed by a funeral service celebrating his life at 2:30p.m. Burial will take place following the service at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Greer. The family will be at the home of Kelly Ross, 27 Bay Point Way, Taylors.

Memorials may be sent to Taylors First Baptist Church, Missions Ministry, 200 West Main Street, Taylors, SC 29687 or Wade Hampton High School, John W. Ross Memorial Fund, 100 Pine Knoll Drive, Greenville, SC 29609.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 3. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Taylor's First Baptist Church
200 West Main Street
Taylors, SC 29687

Service

MAR 3. 2:30 PM (ET)

Taylor's First Baptist Church
200 West Main Street
Taylors, SC 29687

Tribute Wall

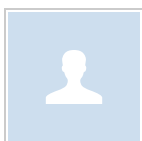


“ My mom mailed Coach Ross's obit to me and I want all three of you to know what sweet memories of you all I have! My favorite Coach Ross memory was when he came home and found Ann and me in the driver's ed car! Remember Ann? It wasn't such a good memory at the time!

Ann, we were the closest of friends at one time. I'd love to hear from you!

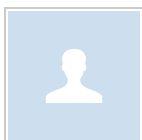
My prayers and love are with you!##imported-begin##Janice Nance Campbell##imported-end##

March 14, 2008 at 07:33 AM



“ I thought I was going to be able and get away and drop by to see you since it is close to my parents but was unable to do so. Just wanted to send a note to say we are thinking and praying for you and your family in the loss of your father. Not knowing him but reading the words from others about him tells me he was a very special person. May God be with you in the coming days.
Phil##imported-begin##Phil Easler##imported-end##

March 03, 2008 at 12:41 PM



“ I have thought about Coach Ross often over the past 24 years and hoped he was well. I'm glad he lived a long and happy life. He deserved it. He was my Driver's Ed teacher at Wade Hampton and he allowed us alot of fun but at the same time keeping us safe. He always had time to say good morning and offer his warm smile.##imported-begin##Claire (Dodson) Orr##imported-end##

March 03, 2008 at 11:31 AM



“ Coach Ross was such a fine man--he was kindness itself when I was in Driver's Ed with Coach Phillips. He never failed to speak to me even though I never had him for a teacher. How I wish my two sons could have had someone like him for a coach and teacher! You are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Barbara Pickens Foster##imported-end##

March 02, 2008 at 08:00 PM



“ Cathy, Ann and Kelly, I just wanted you all to know you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers. Your dad was a wonderful man. I will always remember him the way he was all those summers at Six Flags (especially when he got our ride to go a little longer!). He will be missed!##imported-begin##Elaine Spruell Vest##imported-end##

March 02, 2008 at 05:21 PM



“ I was sorry to learn of the loss of your dad. Mr. Ross was my teacher at Taylors High School (1957). He was a good teacher, but more than that, he was good to his students. We respected him for his kindness. I pray for peace to be with all the family during the days ahead. I know it will not be easy, but God will take care of you, just rely on Him.##imported-begin##Gail Hollingsworth Stovall##imported-end##

March 01, 2008 at 10:58 PM



“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Coach's family. I remember when he taught at Taylors even though I was in the third grade. He seemed to be one of the favorite teachers at the school. My family moved to Charlotte in 1964, but I still have fond memories of Taylors and its people. Even though I wasn't in his class, I'm thankful I had the opportunity to meet Coach Ross. Now that I'm 56 years old, I realize that teachers are the real heroes in our society!###imported-begin##Brant Hart###imported-end##

March 01, 2008 at 07:34 PM



“ To the children. We had the good fortune to be next door neighbors for 37 years. Johnny and Barbara were the best, we looked to them many times for advice. And they had the most beautiful gardens on Tiffany Drive! We had a lot of talks about any and everything while leaning on the fence between our yards. Johnny and Barbara were the kind of people that just made you want to live a better life. We love all of you and pray that God will have his arms around you all during this time. Love from Larry and Jo###imported-begin##Jo and Larry Fowler###imported-end##

March 01, 2008 at 10:07 AM



“ *Cathy, Ann, Kelly and families, please accept our sincere sympathy for the loss of your daddy. Johnny set an example for others in being such a fine christian father and husband to Barbara, teacher/leader. Johnny's faith sustained him through the loss of Barbara and the many good and bad times. You three were blessed to have parents that lived life so well. Our prayers and thoughts are with you as you go through the coming days.*

*In Christ,
Ronnie and Charlene
(I, Charlene am Jo Fowler's sister)###imported-begin###Ronnie and Charlene Black###imported-end##*

March 01, 2008 at 09:31 AM



“ *Kelly and family,
Very saddened to hear of Coach Ross' passing. (He taught me drivers ed @ WHHS.) I will always have fond memories of him. My oldest son is a senior @ WHHS this year and I have enjoyed Coach Ross' gym. May God be with you during this time. I am sure Coach Ross will enjoy the celebration on Monday. You will be in my prayers.###imported-begin###Jamie Livingston (WHHS Class of '79)###imported-end##*

February 29, 2008 at 11:09 PM



“ *To the Ross children*

Very sorry to have heard of John's death.

I have known him for over fifty years and have always known him as a man of integrity.

I have fond memories of him especially from the years that I was the timekeeper for Wade Hampton Basketball.

May God strengthen each of you in times of sadness and know that your Dad was a person of great character.##imported-begin##Jim

Wilson##imported-end##

February 29, 2008 at 12:05 PM