



Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson

March 7, 1941 - August 14, 2025

Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson, 84, of Bean Station, TN passed away on August 14, 2025. He was born and raised in Sweetwater and graduated from Sweetwater High School. Hugh lived a life dedicated to faith, family and the game of basketball. He loved fishing, hunting and most of all, time with his family. Hugh went on to attend Hiwassee College in Madisonville, TN, received his bachelor's degree from Lee University in Cleveland, TN and then obtained his master's degree from Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tennessee. His love for basketball and mentoring young athletes led him to an extraordinary coaching career. He served as coach with Loudon High School, Hiwassee College, the University of Idaho, North Idaho College and Lincoln Memorial University. He earned multiple Coach of the Year honors and mentored countless players who remained dear to him throughout his life. Hugh was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Hiwassee College and North Idaho College.

Hugh is preceded in death by his parents, P.L. (Babe) and Oldia Watson; sister Mary Millsaps.

Hugh is survived by his beloved wife, Anna Sue Watson; his children, Leigh Ann (Mike) Zeller, Gabriel (Fabiana) Watson and Ty Watson; grandchildren Tyler (Staley) Watson, Shelby Watson, Amberlee and Ashlyn Zeller, Asher Watson; great-grandchildren Peyton Spurgeon, Graisyn Lee Watson; brothers Pryor (Janet) Watson, Robert (Rosemary) Watson; sister Carol (Keith) Sachs. The family will receive friends on Monday August 18, 2025, in the chapel of

Kyker Funeral Home, Sweetwater from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM. Funeral services will immediately follow at 7:00PM with Rev Brian Courtney officiating.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at Cedar Valley Baptist Church Cemetery at 11:00 AM. Pallbearers will be Ray Grant, Bill Marcus, Steve Millsaps, Tyler Watson, Asher Watson and Rusty Henry. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity or cause of your choice. Hugh's legacy will live on in the countless lives he inspired, on and off the court.

Kyker Funeral Home is honored to serve the Watson Family.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kyker Funeral Homes
OUR SWEETWATER CHAPEL
PO Box 309, 113 W. North Street
Sweetwater, TN 37874
(423) 337-5033
julie@kyker.net
<https://www.kykerfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

AUG 18. 7:00 PM (ET)

Kyker Funeral Homes
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PO Box 309, 113 W. North Street
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julie@kyker.net
<https://www.kykerfuneralhomes.com/>

Interment

AUG 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cedar Valley Baptist Church Cemetery
Sweetwater, TN 37874

Tribute Wall



“ *Kyker Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson*



Kyker Funeral Home - August 18, 2025 at 09:50 AM

JR

I worked at Hiwassee College when Hugh coached there. He was an awesome coach and the players loved him. He had the best sense of humor. In the summers he and other coaches had a basketball camp for young boys. That is when he introduced me to the love of my life, Gene Raymer. Thanks Hugh , we have been together 39 wonderful years. We will miss you dear friend. His family are in our prayers.

Jackie Raymer - August 18, 2025 at 01:36 PM

RM

“ *ROGER MYNATT lit a candle in memory of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson*



ROGER MYNATT - August 18, 2025 at 11:46 AM

BG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bruce Giles - August 18, 2025 at 11:20 AM

BG

Coach had a huge influence on the lives of many of the young men in this picture. He was one of a kind.

Bruce Giles - August 18, 2025 at 11:21 AM

BH

“ I'll never forget the encouragement I received from Coach Watson during my Loudon High School days, (Class of '73) playing on the women's freshman basketball team or in Drivers Ed. He was upset with me because I didn't go on and play on the women's basketball team after my freshman year. I had started playing tennis, though and really loved it, and he moved into the Loudon men's basketball coach position that year, anyway.

I started playing USTA tennis and tournaments, continuing for a long time. When I took a basketball teaching methods class at UT as an elective, Coach Pat Head (Summit) was substituting for the instructor at the time and had us playing some basketball at the end of the class periods. She asked me why in the world I hadn't I tried out for her team! Lol! Made me remember what Coach had said to me.

In the meantime, I had the great joy of having Sue as a tennis partner and playing in several tennis tournaments after High School. Met up with Leigh on the courts later on, too. What wonderful memories with the Watson family!

Just always remember your reuniting day in Heaven will be ever so joyous! Love to all!

Beth George Hedley - August 18, 2025 at 10:02 AM



“ 41 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kyker Funeral Home - August 18, 2025 at 09:47 AM

BH

“ *Beth George Hedley purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson.*



Beth George Hedley - August 18, 2025 at 09:31 AM

BR

“ My heart and prayers go out to Sue and the family. During this difficult time but what a blessing Coach is.

I met Coach Watson my freshman year at Loudon Highschool in 1971. In Loudon during my years of playing organized sports. We were blessed to have alot of great Coaches and Coach Watson is one of them. While doing summer workouts he was always ready for a pickup game of basketball in the gym. Everyone took his driver's education class. I still remember my group of 4 in the car. Coach gave us all a good luck Buckeye. It must have worked because a few years later all 4 of us played on the 1974 Undefeated Tennessee State Championship Football Team.

Coach was a trip. I remember when he was handing back to the students the only exam we had in that class. He was telling us to watch our spelling. Especially you Browneye, I guess you meant to write, gear shifter. In his laughing manner.

Thank you Coach for being a part of my life. I know as you were dribbling that basketball up to the Pearly Gates. You saw God smiling as he said Coach you did good, real good. Come on in.



Browneye - August 18, 2025 at 12:30 AM

RM

“ I am honor that coach gave me first college job at hiwassee in baseball and women basketball he was best mentor I ever had except my dad I loved his family our recruiting trip cincy and Atlanta in my red corvette we talk to everyone I He has so many friends I love him like my dad

rusty melvin - August 17, 2025 at 10:24 PM

SW

“ The Monroe County area has lost a real hero to a man that loved life,basketball and his family. Steve Woodruff

steve woodruff - August 17, 2025 at 10:20 PM

JW

“ Joe & Sandy Watson sent a virtual gift in memory of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson



Joe & Sandy Watson - August 17, 2025 at 03:12 PM

FJ

“ Our family Intertwined his g-aunt would marry our uncle(his g-mother and my aunt was 20+ yr between them- not uncommon in large families). Yes you probably had Coach Watson in DriverEd — we only had cattle truck so Hugh knew no way to learn so he took me out Corinth church parking lot there where was several large trees had me go forward and back up between them. Yes it paid off pass my road test! One time he an other teacher switched class that was last time that teacher agreed to do driver ed. He enjoyed tell you about his family when out on road. Sorry to hear of his passing . Our thoughts an prayers are with you.
Gary & Juanita Johnston Cook



Family last Otis & Isma Hughes Johnston - August 17, 2025 at 01:53 PM

JR

I was so sorry to hear of coach Watson's passing. I was privileged to know Hugh and Anna Sue during their years in Harrogate. My prayers for Anna Sue and all the family. Judy Robertson

judy Robertson - August 17, 2025 at 11:34 PM

JB

“ John Beutler purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson.



John Beutler - August 17, 2025 at 12:23 PM

WC

“ Hugh was a great friend and coach at north idaho college, we will miss him. William carter

William Carter - August 17, 2025 at 09:07 AM

CR

“ My prayers and thoughts are with Coach Watson's family. I always thought he was a brave soul to teach Drivers Ed. I was in his class and remember our many drives around the county. He always let us listen to the radio and would sometimes stop to buy a bag of oranges or candy. He would pass the treats to all of us packed in the car and we had such fun. His class was a joy and we all did learn to drive. He was always happy and patient with us; even though some of us were pitiful behind the wheel especially when we crossed that skinny Loudon bridge. Many fond memories remain. Your family remains in my prayers. LHS class of 1973, Carolyn Ritchey

Carolyn Ritchey - August 16, 2025 at 09:17 PM

RE

“ Coach Watson was always good to me in High school (Loudon) He would always talk to me I appreciated that prayers are with his rest in peace Coach Watson



Robert Easter - August 16, 2025 at 08:50 PM

MA

“ Mark(Coach)White purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson.



Mark(Coach)White - August 16, 2025 at 04:06 PM

MA

“ *Mark(Coach)White planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson.*

Mark(Coach)White - August 16, 2025 at 04:06 PM

JZ

“ *Hugh was and is special. Our son Michael bonded with him immediately. Hugh loved so many things and accomplished so many. He will be missed but never forgotten. We have many words for the man but he is looking down and we are looking up. Hugh and Sue were always so gracious to us when we came down to visit Michael and Leigh. We love you Hugh, Patrick and June Zeller*

June & Patrick Zeller - August 16, 2025 at 01:24 PM

RC

“ *So sorry sending prayers for family Mr Watson was a special friend to many always there if you needed a friend or help with work rest in peace you will be missed Robin Sutton and Family*



Robin Sutton Cothran - August 16, 2025 at 01:08 PM

MP

“ *Hugh and I came to Loudon HS in 1968. He was the girls coach and me the boys coach. We had great times together and to many to tell in this tribute. Though one was being freshman football coaches for Coach Ratledge. We had a great time coaching the freshman. He was a great guy and I shall not forget our friendship. Condolences to Sue and the family. RIP Hugh.*

Mac Petty - August 16, 2025 at 10:29 AM

JB

“ Oh the stories Hugh could tell. He had the biggest smile and a bigger heart. Sue, Ty and Leigh Ann and family I know you have many treasured memories to share with each other. He had a well-lived life.

Jo Brewster - August 16, 2025 at 08:26 AM

RC

“ RIP Coach Watson. You was the best Drivers Ed teacher and made sure we drove across the Loudon bridge to test our driving skills on the way to Lenoir City to the dairy cream for icecream. It was a pleasure to know you. Prayers for your family during this time. Class of 1976 Loudon High School. (Reda Chastain)



Reda Chastain - August 16, 2025 at 08:05 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson.



August 15, 2025 at 11:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson.

August 15, 2025 at 11:56 PM

PB

“ Coach Watson was my Driver's Ed teacher.
Class 1972



Pam Brewster - August 15, 2025 at 11:18 PM

JR

“ What a great Coach and person he was. Honored to have been a
part of his legacy and have known him.
Loudon High School Class of 76❤️🏀

Janet Keston Russom - August 15, 2025 at 10:51 PM

RY

“ Good memories of Coach Watson...RIP. 🙏🙏🙏

Randy Young - August 15, 2025 at 10:29 PM

TL

“ Prayers for the Family



Tammy Lawson - August 15, 2025 at 09:29 PM

SS

“ Sheree Harris Smith purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson.



Sheree Harris Smith - August 15, 2025 at 08:24 PM

RH

“ What an amazing person! Coach never met a stranger and could tell of his many adventures for hours! We were fortunate to know him and to share our woods for him to hunt in. We loved him and dear Anna and were blessed by them in many ways. Prayers for the family and may God comfort all of you...he loved as he lived with generosity and humor! Love from Bill and Rita Hillhouse.

Rita Hillhouse - August 15, 2025 at 08:00 PM

RM

Hired me at hiwassee college 1986 what a success he had at hiwassee men overs the years and always had time for me he was a mentor and had a wonderful family I loved coach and the last time we talk he recognize my name we will miss him so much

rusty melvin - August 15, 2025 at 10:08 PM

JD

Wow...what a legacy! We were in grad school together at TTU and shared so many good times. A great coach, but a better person! Our son played for him at Hiwassee on the team that went to the National Tournament. And his battles against cancer was just an indicator of the fighter and competitor that he was. Prayers for Sue, Gabe, and all the family! Another Hiwassee Legend!

Jim Davis - August 15, 2025 at 11:52 PM

SH

“ I have many fond memories of riding the morning bus he drove to LHS and also Coach being my drivers ed teacher. He was a great person.

Susan Hill Harrison - August 15, 2025 at 07:58 PM

SR

“ Sara Galyon Ridge lit a candle in memory of Arthur Hugh "Coach" Watson



Sara Galyon Ridge - August 15, 2025 at 07:18 PM