



Emmett Eugene Thurman

June 6, 1937 - June 6, 2009

Emmett Eugene Thurman, 72, passed away Saturday, June 6, 2009 at Parkwest Hospital, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Born July 22, 1936, in Crossville, he was a 1954 graduate of Cumberland County High School, and went on to earn undergraduate and two graduate degrees from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville.

He dedicated most of his career to education, serving as a teacher, guidance counselor, principal, supervisor of instruction and superintendent of schools for the Harriman City School System. Known affectionately as “Mean Gene” by students, Thurman served as principal of Harriman High School from 1971 to 1985.

His legacy will forever be the positive impact he had on countless students during his 35 years as an educator. Alumni and friends of the Harriman City School system established the “Mean Gene” Emergency Grant Fund in his honor in 1995. At the time, Thurman was quoted as saying “my most lasting memories will be my association with the students... Seeing these ‘kids’ achieve has been all the recognition I need. It has been a trip – lots of tears and lots of laughter – I wouldn’t take anything back.”

Following his service to the Harriman City School System, Thurman joined architectural firm Kaatz, Binkley Jones & Morris as director of marketing. He served in this capacity for the remainder of his career. He was grateful for the support and generosity the firm provided during his final months.

Active in the community his entire life, Thurman was presented the

Outstanding Young Educator award by the Harriman Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1964, served as president of the Harriman Teachers Association, chaired the Education Committee for the Roane County United Way, participated in Leadership Roane County and received the Distinguished Service Award from the State of Tennessee Department of Education in 1995 upon his retirement from Harriman City Schools. A long time member of Riverside Baptist Church in Harriman, Thurman taught Sunday School and served on numerous church committees during his forty-one years as a member.

An avid Tennessee football fan, Thurman attended nearly every game – both home and away – for nearly forty years. His presence and enthusiasm at tailgates and games will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Lynda Collins Thurman; son and daughter-in-law, Trent and Francie Thurman of Austin, Texas, son and daughter-in-law, Todd and Parri Thurman of Knoxville; grandchildren, Ben, Sam, Camilla and Kareenna; mother-in-law, Marie Collins of Harriman; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Gary and Donna Collins of Kingston; nephew Robert Crabtree of Clyde, Texas; aunts, Eula Bomar of Livingston and Martha Bozanich of Hendersonville; nephews, Bryant Collins and wife, Stephanie, of Kingston, and Brady Collins of Kingston.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. I.N. (Buck and Camilla) Thurman; and stepfather, Olin C. Julian. Receiving of friends will be held Monday, June 8, 2009 from 3:00 to 8:00 PM with funeral services to immediately follow. Graveside services will be held Tuesday June 9, 2009 at 11:00 AM at Roane Memorial Gardens in Rockwood.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the “Mean Gene” Emergency Grant Fund to provide the means for Harriman City School students, who due to circumstances, might not be able to purchase those “extras” that are so important, such as yearbooks and class rings. Donations to the fund made payable to Harriman City Schools Alumni (HCSA) can be mailed to William A. Newcomb, president of the alumni association, P.O. Box

823, Harriman, TN 37748.

Tribute Wall

PS

“ *To Gene's family:*

I was so sorry to learn of Gene's passing. He and I attended night class together at TTU while we were both working on our Masters. We took turns driving and solved all the world's problems on the way to Cookeville and back. I could count on Gene for giving me sound advice when I was principal and superintendent in Morgan County. He was a person I respected and loved. When Vera and I were out and about in town we not only compared notes about our jobs but about our children as well since we both have sons named Todd. Even though he leaves behind a rich legacy at Harriman High, Gene Thurman will be sorely missed.

*With our deepest sympathy,
Paul and Vera Scarbrough*

Paul Scarbrough - June 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Thurman family. Gene was a kind and caring person. He made a positive impact on many lives in Harriman. He will be missed.*

*Sincerely,
Patsy & Jacky Goss, HHS Class of 67*

Patsy Pierce-Goss - June 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ *The Thurman Family:*

Mr. Thurman will be so missed. He was my 9th grade Civics teacher and I loved his class so much. It was probably the only A I received in 9th grade. I will always remember his "clean" look of those starched and laundered shirts and those shined penny loafers. He made learning fun. My hear goes out to your family.

Kathie Long Parks - June 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ *Thurman Family: We're so sorry for your loss. Gene was a kind & wonderful person. He will be so greatly missed.*

Emily & Kenneth Gonzalez - June 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *To the Thurman Family:
You all are in my thoughts and prayers. I just recently found out that Mr. Thurmans passing. He will be missed. I will always remember when i was in High School, and due to the fact that i was in a wheelchair, to get my PE grade i would have to do laps around the gym floor and Mr. Thurman would come up every chance he could to come up to the gym and walk the laps with me, and then when i graduated in 1993 at Harriman High School, he was the one that handed me my diploma. Those are 2 things that i will NEVER forget.*

Maranda Baker - June 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ *Dear Mrs. Thurman,
Please accept my deepest condolences. I have such wonderful memories of talking to Mr. Thurman around HHS and knowing how much he cared about what students were going through. You seldomly see that type of dedication anymore and he was a great example of a true educator. He will be sorely missed.*

With Sympathy,

Leah Terrill, Nashville, Tennessee, HHS Class of 1993

Leah Terrill - June 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *The bells will be ringing in Heaven to receive this wonderful man with the priceless smile. I am grateful to have known him as a principal.*

May God hold his family close during this time.

Class of 1974

Karen Coy Shelby, NC

Karen Branam Coy - June 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *Gene Thurman was a wonderful inspiration to those of RCHS as well. He will be missed.*

Patsy Blanchard, Kingston

Patsy Blanchard - June 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *To the Thurman family,*
I am at a loss for words. He may have been called "mean Gene" but I never saw him do anything other than good. He was a kind and compassionate principal and he will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jody Inman Gossett - June 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *I am saddened at the loss of Mr. Thurman. I worked in the office with him at HHS in 1984-1985. Before I worked in the office I thought that he was a tough principal, but he was just a really loveable guy. He was a great leader that made a difference in everyone he met. I know he made a difference for me.*

Lisa Kittrell Beets - June 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ A tribute to a person who was respected by the entire community, and also managed to positively impact thousands of students on an individual basis. With great sympathy and respect to the Thurman family, Lana (Heath) Giannella

Lana (Heath) Giannella - June 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MU

“ Trent, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. I am sorry for your loss, but I am grateful that Mr. Thurman made our days at HHS fun and enjoyable...even educational. We could not have asked for a better man to have been in that position of leadership.

Mark Underwood - June 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Lynda, Trent, and Todd, sorry to hear about your loss . Mr. Thurman always had a smile on his face and he will be missed tremendously. My family and I are praying for all of you. Remember you all will get to see him once again, ...weeping only endures in the night , but JOY comes in the morning. Lynda if you need to vent or just talk late at night please fill free to call me... heres my number 882 - 1265. take care.....Arlis, Lona, Breanna, Jenifer, MARRISA, Camden, A.J. and Kim Burkhardt

Kim Burkhardt - June 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I am so sad to learn of Gene's passing. What a wonderful man he was and he leaves behind such a legacy of hard work and compassion for all he met. Never did I ever hear of anyone who didn't love Mr. " Mean Gene " Thurman! So many kids lives were made better by his help at HHS. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Janice Wood Bowman

Janice Wood Bowman - June 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ To the Thurman Family,
I just received the news that Mr Thurman has passed. It has been years since I have seen him, but I will always remember his positive influence in my life. He was an incredible principle in his deep love of others. I will hold your family in my prayers during this time. May you create the time to truly celebrate his life and allow the telling of the many wonderful stories of Gene Thurman.

Blessings

Kathie Welsh Santa Cruz, CA HHS Class of 1975

Kathie Arnold Welsh - June 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ We were so sorry to hear of Mr.Thurmond's passing. He was one of the kindness,gentleness person's we have had the privilege to have known.I am thankful for his hand in guiding our lives and proud and humbled to have known him.Our prayers are with your family during this difficult time.God will have a new Principal roaming the halls of HEAVEN

Sincerely,Dowell&Lisa Isham

Dowell andLisa (Swafford) Isham - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ To the family of Mr. Gene Thurman,

Mr. Thurman, you were such a good man. My heart weeps with sorrow with the news of your passing. I remember when I had thought of giving up school. You took me aside and told me of all the wonderful things life had to offer, how many choices were really out there for me, and you gave me a glimmer of hope. Today I am a writer of novels, and I give my thanks to you for helping me see that not everything is lost in life if you just look a little deeper. Thank you Mr. Thurman for being the Principal of Harriman High School during the most important time in my life.

Mr. Thurman you were a wonderful man that loved us all. We thank you greatly for the opportunity to get to know you, to understand your wisdom, and bathe in your friendliness. You turned our lives around for the better and we will remember you always.

Respectfully,

Jane Elizabeth Hook-Stafford

Jane Hook-Stafford - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Linda, Trent, Todd, and Family,

I was very saddened to hear about Gene's passing, as you all have been such good friends of the family for so many years. Dad lost his best friend, and Gene will never be replaced. I pray that you will be comforted by the good times shared by all and hope that time will ease your pain.

Julie Hodges Blankenship - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ I was so very sad when I learned last night that Mr. Thurman had passed. I worked in the office during high school and was really fond of Mr. Thurman. He was an example we could all follow: ethical, classy, fair, and a lot of fun to be around. I will always hold those memories dear and wish my sympathies to the Thurman family.

Tammy Bullens Graham - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Dear Thurman Family,
I am so sorry the loss of your husband and father. I hope you know what he really meant to so many people in the Roane County area and beyond. The lives that he touched during his years at HHS will never be forgotten.
God Bless you in this time of sorrow.

Robbie McCarroll Mee - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ It's with a heavy heart that I write this note to you. I have the fondest memories of Mr. Thurman. Seeing his face in the hallway of Harriman High and working in the office seem like yesterday. I remember him reading from "Life's Little Instruction Book" at our reunion and that book reminds me of him today. He was all of those great little things that aren't "little" at all. Lynda, Trent and Todd, I am so sorry. My prayers are with you. Gene was/and is a great inspiration to everyone.
All my love,
Annette

Annette Duncan Schroeder - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ We just wanted to let you know that we are praying for your family during this time. Mr. Thurman was a great principal and blessing to so many students. We are thankful for the influence he had over our lives while we were at HHS.

Tim and Charlene Hammond - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Thinking of you and your family Todd.

Brent Hamby - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Mrs. Thurman, Trent, Todd and family;
How fortunate I was to know Mr. Thurman as principal and benefit from both his stalwart oversight of the campus as well as his kind and concerned influence on me. When a bunch of us senior guys wanted to visit the state capitol and learn more about our government, we had no real club or class reason to do so. Mr. Thurman did not offer any administrative red tape about how trips needed faculty sponsors. He just said that if we wanted to go, he would take us. That he did, including driving the mini-van himself. What a great trip. What a great guy.

Mark Littleton - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Lynda, Todd, & Trent,
Mr. Thurman was so special to Charles and I both. He touched our lives in so many ways. We were so sorry to hear of his loss. He will be missed by so many. Our prayers will be with all of you during this sadness. Remember the great times as it will help you through.

Charles & Cheryl Laxton - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Gene Thurman was a remarkable man whose love for his family and community is evidenced by his highly significant contributions in education, community service and varied other social and political accomplishments. He personifies what the American dream is really all about.

As the father of his daughter-in-law Parri it was enormously rewarding for me to get to know and truly appreciate this good man, his wonderful wife Linda and other members of his family

Lewright Sikes - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ My heartfelt condolences to your family. When I was just a kid, Mr. Thurman talked to me like a man. I could feel that he really cared. He pointed me in the right direction and helped make me the man I am today.

Richard Rose - June 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ To the Thurman family,
I am so saddened to hear of Mr. Thurman's passing, The world will be a much better place for the life and accomplishments of him.
Please know that you all are in my thoughts and prayers. Heaven is now greatly blessed with a new angel.

Mary Gamble Rhodes Vero Beach, Florida HHS Class of 1977.

Mary Gamble Rhodes - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Mr. Thurman was a great man and all of us at HHS were fortunate to have him as our leader. May your family find comfort in knowing others care during this time of sorrow.

Lisa Gilliam - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *Ephesians Ch. 4 bears in my thoughts when I think of Gene Thurman. He was a man that I believe lived his calling. Paul wrote "be humble, be gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

Mr. Thurman reminded me so much of my own father by giving his self to God first and then his family. It's not what you do but who you are that's most important in life. Mr. Thurman was was one of the greatest advocates for children in Harriman. His kindness, compassion, friendship, and hard work touch the lives of every young person that crossed his path. He had a sense of humor too! My twin brother Ted, sister Tami, and I are better people for having had Gene Thurman in our lives at HHS. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

Lynda thanks to you also for having worked with my son Derek James through the Gifted Program "Project Challenge". Derek will always remember your kindness toward him. I will forever be grateful to you for your hard work and dedication with the children of Harriman.

My family will continue to pray for you. May God Bless You!

Tina Scarbrough Cochran - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *So sorry for your loss.*

David&Bernice Hennessee - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ *When I opened my e-mail in Houston, Texas from my daughter in Kingston, Tennessee, I was shocked and saddened to read of Gene's passing. He was a great Principal and a very good person for all his life. I went to High School with him in Crossville, Tennessee and met him again later when he was Principal at Harriman where two of my daughters graduated. I am so very sorry for your loss and my thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

Tommye Dorrance - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *I clerked in the office for a few years when Mr. Thurman was principal. I admired him and enjoyed working around him. He was truly a gentleman.*

Becky Taylor Musick - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Mrs. Thurman, Trent and Todd,
I am so very sorry to hear of your loss (I never have really understood why we say "loss" because I was once told by a dear friend that you can't lose something if you know where it is) and we all know that Mr. Thurman is in a much better place with so many of his dear friends and past students. Mr. Thurman will be greatly missed by so many people. He has touched so many lives. I know that he sure touched mine as you have Mrs. Thurman. I will always fondly remember all of the time that I spent with "Mean Gene" as an office worker. He was so good to me and we had so much fun. Some folks may not know what a big cut-up he could be. Your family will be in my every prayer,
Donna Harvey Hall*

Donna Hall - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ It is hard to believe you are gone, God be with your family during this very difficult time.. They will be in my prayers....now that you are in heaven...could ya pull some strings with the big guy and help our Tennessee Vols out this Football season....no..really....Mr. Gene you helped our school system out so much for that we will be forever thankful....I will pray for comfort and peace for your family during this tough time for them.....peace to all of them....I am leaving this poem for them

? WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME ?

WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME
AND I'M NOT THERE TO SEE
IF THE SUN SHOULD RISE AND FIND YOUR EYES
ALL FILLED WITH TEARS FOR ME

I WISH SO MUCH YOU WOULDN'T CRY THE WAY YOU DID
TODAY
WHILE THINKING OF THE MANY THINGS WE DIDN'T GET TO
SAY
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVED ME, AS MUCH AS I LOVED
YOU
AND EACH TIME THAT YOU THINK OF ME I KNOW YOU'LL
MISS ME TOO

BUT WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME PLEASE TRY
TO UNDERSTAND
THAT AN ANGEL CAME AND CALLED MY NAME AND TOOK ME
BY THE HAND
HE SAID MY PLACE WAS READY IN HEAVEN FAR ABOVE
THAT I WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE BEHIND ALL THOSE I DEARLY
LOVE

BUT AS I TURNED TO WALK AWAY A TEAR FELL FROM MY
EYE
FOR ALL MY LIFE I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT, I DIDN'T WANT TO
DIE

I HAD SO MUCH LEFT TO LIVE FOR,SO MUCH,YET TO DO
IT SEEMED ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE THAT I WAS LEAVING YOU.
I THOUGHT OF ALL THE YESTERDAYS,THE GOOD ONES AND
THE BAD
I THOUGHT OF ALL THE LOVE WE SHARED AND ALL THE FUN
WE HAD

IF I COULD RE-LIVE YESTERDAY,EVEN FOR A WHILE
I'D SAY GOODBYE AND KISS YOU AND MAYBE SEE YOU
SMILE
BUT THEN I FINALLY REALIZED THAT COULD NEVER BE
FOR EMPTINESS AND MEMORIES WOULD TAKE THE PLACE
OF ME
AND WHEN I THOUGHT OF WORLDLY THINGS I MIGHT MISS
COME TOMORROW
I THOUGHT OF YOU,AND WHEN I DID MY HEART FILLED WITH
SORROW
BUT WHEN I WAKED THROUGH HEAVEN'S GATES I FELT SO
MUCH AT HOME
WHEN GOD LOOKED DOWN AND SMILED AT ME FROM HIS
BEAUTIFUL THRONE
HE SAID "THIS IS ETERNITY AS I HAVE PROMISED YOU
TODAY YOUR LIFE ON EARTH HAS PASSED BUT HERE IT
STARTS ANEW
I PROMISE NO TOMORROW BUT TODAY WILL ALWAYS LAST
AND SINCE EACH DAY IS THE SAME WAY,THERE IS NO
LONGING FOR THE PAST"
"FOR YOU HAVE BEEN SO FAITHFUL,SO TRUSTING AND SO
TRUE
THOUGH THERE WERE TIMES YOU DID SOME THINGS YOU
KNEW YOU SHOULDN'T DO
BUT YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN AND NOW AT LAST YOUR
FREE
SO WON'T YOU TAKE MY HAND AND SHARE MY LIFE WITH
ME?"

SO WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME DON'T THINK

*WE'RE FAR APART
FOR EVERYTIME YOU THINK OF ME,I'M RIGHT THERE IN
YOUR HEART!!*

Courtney class of ,96 Cline Formosa - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ZC

“ *Linda,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I know that
you will miss Gene and nothing will fill that void that you feel. You
are so blessed to have all the wonderful memories that you and he
have shared through the years. Gene was such a fun person, so
you had to have lots of laughs.
I'm glad that I got to see him in March.
With Love,
Zuann*

Zuann Candler - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *Dearest Linda,
My heart is so sad to hear of Gene's passing. I have known him
since I was 14, and have never forgotten what a wonderful man he
was. I have been fortunate in the past years to run into him at a lot
of UT out of town games. He was always the same, a wonderful
friend. He gave me a great sense of self confidence as a young girl
and always made me feel special. I know that your sweet family will
truly miss him. I am sure he is an angel in Heaven. Please know
that my prayers are with you. I am so sorry that I can't be with you
to celebrate his wonderful life.
Much Love, Jeanne*

Jeanne Qualls Winn - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Dear Lynda and family,
My heart breaks to hear this sad news; however, my heart is so joyful that Gene and I chatted by phone just this week. As I told Gene, I contribute much of my success as an educator to him. When I moved from Alabama to Harriman in 1974, Gene took a chance on this "outsider" and hired me to teach English at Harriman High. I am so proud that I was able to thank him just this past week for all his help in molding my educational career. Even though I only taught at Harriman High for about five years, I consider those years some of the most memorable ones of my long and rewarding career in education. Gene Thurman's warm personality and genuine interest in everyone he met made him a favorite friend to many. As long as I shall live, I will cherish his friendship and be thankful for the encouragement that he gave me. He was so proud of his family! During our recent phone conversation, he gave me an update on each of you especially the grandchildren. I ask God to grant you peace as you deal with the loss of this great man. This loss will touch the hearts of thousands and thousands!

Mona Hopper - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ It would be hard to find anyone in Harriman that impacted as many young lives as did Gene Thurman. Many of us will remember Gene for his keen ability to make friends and carry on a conversation with anyone at any time. He was a person we could all count on in any situation to do the right thing and were honored to call him our friend. His family, community and UT football were important to him, and he supported each with great passion and vigor. To the entire Thurman Family, I will always have fond memories of Gene and never forget the valuable life lesson's he taught so many.

Randy Button - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. May God comfort you and your family with all the wonderful memories you have of Mr. Thurman. I know I speak for many of us that he has made alot of fond memories for the Blue Devil Family. I am so proud to have been a part of those memories. God bless you and your family today and always.

Lynda Brown Watkins - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ I've found in that few thing in this world remain unchanged, but one consistant fact remained with me as I've made my way. Gene Thurman was a man of honor, a principal's Principal. His love for the kids whose lives he touched was unwavering, unbounded and never in doubt. He made a difference in this world, at Harriman High School and all the Blue Devils over the years. The family of Tim Cofer wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy on his loss to his family. Without a doubt it is the worlds loss and heaven's gain.

Timothy Cofer - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ To the Thurman Family,
I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Thurman's death. He was a wonderful man who touched many lives as an educator and friend. I know that your faith in God will help you through this difficult time. Your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Carmen Davis - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Lynda, Trent and Todd
Gene will be missed. We want you to know that we are keeping you all in our prayers and are praying that God will comfort you in your loss.

Dick and Donna Hall - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Lynda, Trent, and Todd, I am sorry to hear about Gene's death. You are in my thoughts and prayers. The world has lost a friend and heaven gained a jewel.

Cindy Melton Wright - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

FA

“ To the Thurman Family,
Mr. Thurman was the best principal in the world. He truly cared about his students and helped form us all into being the best we can be. Being an athelete and cheerleader for HHS, he was a great supporter and we appreciated his school spirit. The Class of 1982 was honored to have him as our special guest at our 10 year reunion. He will be greatly missed.

Felicia Thornton Van Asten - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Hey Lynda, Trent and Todd, I am so sorry to hear about Gene's passing. Your family meant so much to me growing up. You were the best neighbors a person could have. You are such a huge part of my life... You will be in my thoughts and prayers.
David French

David French - June 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Lynda, Trent, and Todd, I was so sorry to hear of Gene's death. He was a great principal, neighbor, and above all, a great man. He will be sorely missed by many. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you during this difficult time.

Stacey Griffin - June 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Mr. Thurman welcomed me a new kid into Harriman High School with open arms and was an outstanding principal and administrator. My prayers and thoughts are with the entire Thurman family. May God comfort and continue to bless you in this time.

Samuel Harvey - June 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Very special prayers and thoughts go out to you in your time of bereavement. Mr. Thurman was a special teacher, principal, and friend to many who were fortunate enough to have known him. He will be missed in the Blue Devil community.

Stacy Whittaker Jones - June 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Gene was a wonderful man that touched many people during his time with us. He will be sorely missed by many, and my thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time.

Jody Mullins - June 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ The Thurman family are in our thoughts and prayers. Mr. Gene Thurman was a very respected and thoughtful man and will be sadly missed by the Blue Devil Family.

Tony Wicks - June 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ To the Thurman family.

It is a heavy heart that I write these words. Gene Thurman meant so much to so many people who he watched over and guarded every day. He had this wonderful secret smile that made you feel like he cared deeply about you - at the same time gave you the gift of self pride, because you just knew he could see the good parts of your soul. I am so thankful that we celebrate the joy, the fun, and all the different attributes that he gave to his church, his community, and yes his school. Some how its very true that many of the DEVILS will be very BLUE the next few days.

Martha Roberts - June 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM