



James Thomas "Sonny" Reeves Jr.

August 20, 1940 - September 25, 2022

James Thomas "Sonny" Reeves, Jr., age 82, of Harriman, Tenn., passed away on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at Oakmont at Gordon Park in Bristol, Va.

He was born August 20, 1940, to the late James Thomas "Bud" Reeves, Sr. and Mary Alma Worthington Reeves. He was raised by his grandparents, Claude Thomas Reeves and Bleavy Ashburn Reeves, on the Homestead of Cumberland County alongside his aunts and uncles. The family eventually relocated to Harriman, where Sonny excelled in sports. He lettered in football and basketball at South Harriman High School where he graduated in 1959. Sonny received a B.S. in Physical Education in 1965 on an athletic scholarship to Carson-Newman University, where he played quarterback for the Golden Eagles. He completed his M.A. in Health and Physical Education at Tennessee Technological University in 1970.

Sonny was employed by the Harriman City School System, first serving as a truancy officer and Biology teacher. He eventually became principal of Harriman Middle School (formerly Cumberland Middle School). Of all the various positions he filled during his 37-year tenure with the school system, the most important title he attained, according to Sonny, was that of "coach". He was a Christian and longtime member of Trenton Street Baptist Church. Sonny harbored an abounding love for underprivileged children, animals, and

athletics of any variety.

Additionally, he was preceded in death by his wife of 27 years, Judy Ann Newman Reeves; three paternal aunts and an uncle who he considered his siblings: Cecil Hargis and husband, Kermit; Nell Sweeney and husband, John; Geneva Mitchell and husband, Leon "Bus"; and Ralph Reeves, Sr. and wife, Wanda; and an additional maternal aunt, Calla Worthington Stone.

He is survived by his daughter, Amanda Reeves Perry and husband, Matthew, of Abingdon, Va.; stepmother, Velma Reeves, of Oak Ridge, Tenn.; brother-in-law, Richard Newman of Harriman, Tenn.; several cousins; and a host of friends.

A funeral ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Trenton Street Baptist Church with Ted Taylor officiating. A committal service will be held on Friday, September 30, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in Roane Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held on Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Trenton Street Baptist Church, 519 Trenton St., Harriman, TN 37748; the Roane County Animal Shelter, 296 Manufacturers Rd., Rockwood, TN 37854; or the United Way of Roane County, P.O. Box 317, Harriman, TN 37748.

Kyker Funeral Home of Harriman is serving the Reeves Family. www.kykerfuneralhomes.com

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **29.** 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Trenton St Baptist Church
519 Trenton St
Harriman, TN 37748

Funeral Service

SEP **29.** 7:00 PM (ET)

Trenton St Baptist Church
519 Trenton St
Harriman, TN 37748

Burial

SEP **30.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Roane Memorial Gardens
1400 N Gateway Ave
Rockwood, TN 37854

Tribute Wall



“ I was honored to be coached by Coach Reeves from 1967-1970. Coach was a fair but hard-nosed man. Three things I remember Coach emphasized was hard work, tenacity and integrity. He genuinely cared for his players and did the best He could. I grieve with Amanda and Matt for this loss. I have a vision of Coach and his fellow coaches Dockery, Paty and Gamble all together again in that glorious field we call heaven. Rest in peace Coach.

Rev Dr Michael Ladd - September 29, 2022 at 02:37 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of James Thomas "Sonny" Reeves Jr..



September 28, 2022 at 11:06 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Thomas "Sonny" Reeves Jr..



September 27, 2022 at 11:25 PM



“ Amanda, so sorry to hear of your dad's passing, my prayers to you and your family
Bob Gallagher

Robert Gallagher - September 27, 2022 at 11:07 AM

JB

“ So sorry to learn of the passing of such a good guy. Sonny and I were childhood friends and played Little League Baseball for the South Harriman Pirates. Sonny was the kind of childhood friend you don't forget. He was the consummate Coach even at age 8, always willing to help the less capable player. Sonny was well liked and respected by his coach, John Scott and fellow teammates, Bink and Bobby Bentley, Buddy and Jerry Copeland, Ray Dalyromple, Jimmy Whittenbarger, David Graves and others. Will never forget the great times we had as children. May Sonny find eternal rest in the arms of the greatest coach of all. God Bless Sonny and his family
Jim ' Bink' Bentley’

James E Bentley - September 27, 2022 at 11:01 AM

DF

“ Amanda and Matt,
You are in my thoughts and prayers as you grieve the loss of your loved one. May the many cherished memories comfort you today and always. With sincere sympathy.



Debbie Foster - September 26, 2022 at 07:50 PM