



John Edward Leafer

September 10, 1942 - February 27, 2013

John Edward Leafer, 70, of Muskogee, Oklahoma passed away Wednesday, February 27, 2013 in Muskogee with his family at his side. John was born September 10, 1942 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to John and Margaret (Erwin) Leafer. He attended Grandview Elementary School, Tahlequah Jr. High, and Tahlequah High School where he graduated in 1960. John attended college at Connors Junior College and Northeastern State College (NSU). After graduating from Northeastern State College with a degree in Physical Education, he joined the Army Reserve. He began his teaching career at West Jr. High in Muskogee. He taught at Muskogee High School, Bacone Jr. College, NSU, Sequoyah High School, and Coweta High School. He retired in 2003 from Muskogee High School where he served the last two years as Muskogee's Athletic Director. He coached football at West Jr. High; football and baseball at Muskogee High School; baseball at Bacone and NSU, and football and baseball at Coweta High School.

John's highlights while coaching at Muskogee High School were four state tournament appearances capping his baseball coaching career off with a state championship in 1974. He had 19 players drafted into Major League Baseball. His most memorable season was in 1970 when he coached football and his team was undefeated. John was instrumental in placing MPS athletics in the prestigious Frontier Conference and being the front runner in having turf installed on the Indian Bowl playing surface. During his years of coaching and teaching driver's education, he enjoyed his students and impacted many

young lives by teaching not only skills but life lessons. He was a man of integrity and will be missed by many.

John married Mary Jane Grimes on October 6, 1967 and made Muskogee their home. He was a member of First Baptist Church and helped teach Sunday School for many years. One of his proudest moments was when he was ordained as a deacon in 2012. He served on various church committees over the years. He was a member of the Gideons organization and teacher organizations. John loved playing golf with friends, being around his children and grandchildren, watching football and gardening. He was a hands-on Papa and would do anything his grandchildren asked of him. They loved for him to come outside and play with them. He was a devoted husband and best friend, father, and "papa". He was always there for his family, whatever the need. For many years, he enjoyed going to the OU football games and keeping passing statistics in the press box.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane Leafer and two children; son, Chris Leafer and daughter, Carrie Leafer; grandchildren, Cole Harding Leafer, Emily Nicole Leafer, Camryn Lacy Sherwood, and Ryan Cole Sherwood; brother, Jonathan Taylor and wife Carolyn of Dallas, Texas; nieces, Cindy Smith, Sherry Sparks, and Jodi Mosley; nephews, Michael Taylor and Scott Taylor; sister-in-law, Sally Shipman and her daughter, Taylor Shipman.

In lieu of flowers the family would prefer donation to either the children's ministry at First Baptist Church, 111 South 7th Street, Muskogee, OK, 74401 or the Gideons International, P.O. Box 140800, Nashville, TN, 37214-0800.

The family would like to thank Theresa and the aides at Eastgate Retirement Village and Hometown Hospice for their compassionate care.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, March 5, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church with Dr. Lance Sawyer and Bill Crow officiating. Burial will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Darrell Wood, David Wood, Bob Jefferson, Bill Pearson, Andrew Summers and Chris Condley. Honorary pallbearers will be Russ Hayes, Bill Pearson, Sr., Tommy Lashley and John

Nichol.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

7600 Old Taft Rd.
Muskogee, OK 74401

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

MAR 3. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

MAR 4. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Service

MAR 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church Muskogee
111 S. 7th Street
Muskogee, OK 74401

Tribute Wall



“ *John Edward Leafer*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Sandy Rahe - March 07, 2013 at 05:59 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Class of 1960 - March 06, 2013 at 04:59 PM

JW

“ I would like to express my condolences to the Leafer family. I attended the funeral service for Coach Leafer to say my final goodbye to someone I first met in 1968, when I was 13 years old at the Old West Junior High School. It was coach Leafer's first year there. It didn't take long to know the kind of person he was, and I came to respect him.

Later on I attended Muskogee High School. I wanted to play football my Junior year and Coach Leafer gave me a chance to play for him on the Greenie sophomore team. Our team was undefeated that year and I learned a lot from him. This was one of my favorite memories of High School. He also taught me Drivers Ed. that summer of 1970.

He will be greatly missed!

Goodbye Coach Leafer!

John W. White

Class of 1971

John W. White - March 06, 2013 at 04:12 PM

JY

“ John was a very special person to me throughout my life, his wife was my teacher and he taught me in drivers ed. He will be missed and remembered in my heart daily

Jennifer Helsley-Young

Jennifer Young - March 06, 2013 at 08:20 AM

AJ

“ My deep sympathies to John's family. Boomer, you will be missed.

Arden James - March 04, 2013 at 11:27 PM

JB

“ Our prayers are with your family in this sorrowful time. Amie always laughed and told of the fun times she had in John's class and him naming her "Famous Amos". We are still in the Texas for the winter and won't be leaving until the 7th. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. James and Lila Bell

James and Lila Bell - March 01, 2013 at 09:04 PM

LV

“ Coach Leafer was my baseball coach at Muskogee Central in 1970. I'll always remember the interest and confidence he showed in me as a player and person. I coach now and always wonder if I have the same influence on my players as my coaches like Coach Leafer and others in high school had on me. Condolences to his family. Larry VanBeber, 1970, Muskogee Central High School.

Larry VanBeber - March 01, 2013 at 09:37 AM