

## Richard "Coach" Adkins

May 8, 1937 - February 2, 2021

Richard "Coach" Adkins, 83, of Fort Gibson, Oklahoma left this earth to enter his eternal home on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. He was born May 8, 1937 in Muskogee, Oklahoma to Oren James and Patricia (Murphy) Adkins.

Richard attended Muskogee Public Schools and graduated from Central High School with the class of 1955. He furthered his education at Oklahoma State University graduating in 1959 with a B.S. Secondary Education in History and Psychology. In 1963 he graduated from Northeastern State University with a M. S. for Secondary Education and in 1973 obtained a M. S. in Guidance and Counseling.

Richard married the love of his life, Carolyn Anne Watson on May 31, 1959 in Perry, Oklahoma. They shared more than 61 years of life, marriage, and making memories.

Richard enjoyed being a teacher and counselor and was known as "Coach" to his students. Early in his career he was head coach at West High School where his team went undefeated during his tenure at the school. In the early 1970's, he began coaching at Fort Gibson High School and the later became a counselor until his retirement in 1992. Along the way in his career, Richard started wrestling programs at Cushing and Fort Gibson high schools.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, tennis, and all sports. Most important was spending time with his family and being a coach and mentor to his students.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oren and Patricia Adkins.

Richard is survived by his wife, Carolyn, of the home; sons, Greg Adkins and

wife Debbie, David Adkins and wife Tammy; and daughter, Patty Ann Henderson; grandchildren, Eric Adkins and wife Cindy, Kyle Adkins and wife Ada, Justin Adkins and wife Mac, Rachel Adkins, Melissa Flavell, and Zoey Henderson; eight great-grandchildren; along with other family members and many friends who will dearly miss him.

The family would like to express a very special "Thank you" to Dena Longpine and Crystal Harris for their love and help giving to Richard; also the staff of Good Shepherd Hospice; as well as Rebecca and Adam.

The family requests memorials can be made in Richard's honor to the Fort Gibson Fire Department.

A private family service is planned with Rev. Bob Hancock officiating.

Funeral services provided by Cornerstone Funeral Home. Condolences may be made to the family online at <http://www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard "Coach" Adkins*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *I was unaware COACH was in heaven now.. I loved, honored & highly respected Coach Adkins. Coach had great life wisdom which he shared at the right times. One of his short but valuable quips: " Get up before the bell rings!" He instilled determination in my life, he listened to me with his good mind & heart. I was so glad he came to Fort Gibson HS, I attended West High in 8th grade and he was one of my teachers, I was impressed how intelligent COACH ADKINS was! His looks through his black glasses & his hopefully a smile.. I will never forget this most wonderful teacher/Coach/counselor. I am blessed and all those who had the privilege of being lead by COACH we all were greatly blessed!*

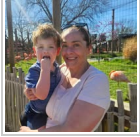
Lavon Chouteau Van Namee - April 18, 2022 at 02:18 PM



“ *Mike Lippmann lit a candle in memory of Richard "Coach" Adkins*



mike lippmann - March 25, 2021 at 06:13 PM



“ I feel so blessed to be apart of Richard's family or as we always called him, Pap Pap. When I came in to the picture they all accepted me in as one of their own. The Adkins family has truly blessed me beyond measure & I am forever grateful. Growing up my father was in the military, we never lived around my grandparents & it truly affected my relationship with them. Still to this day I don't have a relationship with my biological grandparents. It's something I've always wanted.

Nanny & Pap Pap took me in as a granddaughter and they showed me the kind of love I never knew I needed. Pap Pap was one of the kindest guys I've ever met. He would always grab my hand when we'd get ready to leave & say "Hey.. I love you" & I could feel he meant it. He cares so deeply for his family.

I haven't been apart of the Adkins family very long but he has touched my life in so many ways. I can't thank him enough for caring. I love you Pap Pap & I'll miss you dearly. Your future great grandkids will always hear about how wonderful you truly are.

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**Ada Adkins** - February 13, 2021 at 10:16 PM

JM

“ Mr. Adkins was a very nice man. I owe him a lot and never have forgot when he helped save my baby girls life while he was a counselor. Mr. Adkins knew right away that she was having a seizure..she quit breathing and he began CPR on her till the ambulance got there. Thanks to him my daughter Michelle Lee Mayo now Sheneman is alive today . Will forever be grateful for this man's knowledge. R.I.P. MR. ADKINS.... Your in good hands with GOD!!!

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**Judy Mayo** - February 13, 2021 at 01:20 AM

EH

“ Mr. Adkins was a good man and had concern for others.

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**Ethel Huggins** - February 12, 2021 at 05:56 PM

SH

“ *Shelia Risenhoover Haughey lit a candle in memory of Richard "Coach" Adkins*



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**shelia Risenhoover Haughey** - February 09, 2021 at 10:32 PM

CA

“ *Coach Adkins was my first year wrestling coach at Fort Gibson in 1972. He laid the foundation for the Fort Gibson wrestling Program. The life skills I learned from him has stuck with me to this day. He was tough and disciplined and only your best effort possible was acceptable to him. Great Coach and Great Man.*

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**CLAYTON ARMSTRONG** - February 07, 2021 at 02:01 PM

BT

“ *Carolyn and David, By the time I was of football age at West, Coach Adkin's had hung up his whistle. But I do recall him coming out to help at practice my 8th grade year. Believe me he had everyone's respect when he was present. It wasn't until the time I worked with you both at Phoenix that I saw the lighter non-coach side of Coach Adkins I'm sorry to hear of your loss.*

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**Bill Trzcinski** - February 05, 2021 at 10:20 PM

TN

“ To one of the most influential men in my life, you showed kindness when I didn't have a place after school by allowing me in your home. Knowing that if I went home that I didn't have a ride back for the games. I ate many sandwiches and probably wasn't a big deal for you, but I will always be grateful. Because of this I'm able to help others that I see in need. There are many people that played a part but your words still ring true. Thanks coach

Tyrone Nero - February 05, 2021 at 04:44 PM

LB

Richard and I taught and coached at them West Junior High during the early 1960,s! He was a good friend and coach. He will be missed!

Lyle Burris - February 05, 2021 at 09:44 PM

RG

“ Some of my most cherished memories are of my relationship with Richard. One of my biggest regrets is letting the distance between Checotah and Ft. Gibson to allow this relationship to diminish. However, Richard and Carolyn never left my thoughts. Richard was one of the best people I have ever known.

Ray Grandstaff - February 05, 2021 at 11:21 AM

TD

“ Anyone who had the privilege of playing for Coach Adkins knew what a great coach he was. He was a molder of character in young men and the life lessons he taught us have served us well past the football games and wrestling matches of our formative years. Most of us would have run through a wall for Coach. Respect and honor to a life well lived, Coach. Enjoy your heavenly reward!

Tom Doerner - February 03, 2021 at 09:53 PM

SA

“ Sam lit a candle in memory of Richard "Coach" Adkins



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**Sam** - February 03, 2021 at 09:49 PM

TD

“ Anyone who had the great privilege of playing for Coach Adkins knows what a terrific molder of men this man was. He taught us life lessons that have stayed with us long after the football games and wrestling matches. Most of us would have run through a wall for Coach Adkins.

*His toughness was matched only by his genuine concern for the development and well being of the young men he coached so well. Rest In Peace Coach!*

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**Tom Doerner** - February 03, 2021 at 06:36 PM

GD

“ Coach Adkins was a very positive influence in my life at West Junior High School in the wrestling program.

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**Gary Dunlap** - February 03, 2021 at 04:58 PM

PR

“ Coach Adkins may have been the greatest football coach for young guys ever. He was in the style of Vince Lombardi (whose philosophy I believe he followed). He was a tough guy and wouldn't put up with foolishness, but cared a lot for his students and players.

*Compliments were few, but when you received one, it meant everything. I had tremendous respect for him and learned many valuable lessons under his tutelage. RIP Coach.*

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**PAUL ROWSEY** - February 03, 2021 at 11:39 AM

AD

“ *Best coach I ever had, loved the man. He made everyone feel they were good. Great motivator. He even played in my tennis tournament a few time's! My 9th grade year 1969 was the last undefeated team. RIP coach!!*

Alan Dawson - February 03, 2021 at 11:32 AM

SO

*Wrestling and playing football for coach is something that i wish more boys could of experienced. Taught us boys many lessons in life . A man if you knew, you never forgot. RIP*

Steve Olzawski - February 06, 2021 at 08:55 AM

RL

*I never knew Richard Adkins as a coach. By the time I met him he had moved on to counseling at Fort Gibson Elementary. He was my son's counselor and actually mine too. He helped both Jared and I through some really touch times. Jared's comment when he learned of Richard's death was, "He was a good man and helped me a lot." I know a lot of children benefited from Richard's excellent counseling.  
Rita Lewis*

Rita Lewis - February 08, 2021 at 07:05 PM

SH

*Coach Adkins was always so nice to everyone but he had a soft spot for football players and cheerleaders 1973. Love that coach.*

shelia Risenhoover Haughey - February 09, 2021 at 10:36 PM

ML

*Very sad to read of Coach passing. I was blessed to be guided by him in the 1960's at West High. Coach taught me some life lessons in football and wrestling. Remember his old truck pushing us when we were running and the look Coach would give us when we made a mistake. Thank you for everything. You leave a great legacy. Prayers to his family.*

Mike Lippmann - March 25, 2021 at 04:43 PM

ML

*Great coach but an even greater man. Thank you for your guidance in football and wrestling. You will be missed.*

*Mike Lippmann*

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**mike lippmann** - March 25, 2021 at 06:11 PM