



Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks

February 26, 1948 - February 4, 2021

Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks, 72, passed away Thursday, February 4, 2021.

Born and raised in Marion County (Brilliant), the son of Henry Hill and Manta Jane Gregg Franks. He was a lifelong resident of Gardendale, Alabama. Graduated Florence State University 1970, where he played football. He then completed his master's degree at Alabama A&M.

Ed had a distinguished coaching career 1970-2004 Dixie Junior High, Erwin High School and Gardendale High School where he lead his wrestling teams to state titles and coached numerous individuals to state championships. He coached the first three boys that were four time state champions in the state of Alabama, one of which was four years undefeated. He was inducted into Marion County Sports Hall of Fame for football.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry Hill and Manta Jane Franks as well as his grandson, Daniel Paul Clark

He leaves his wife of 47 years, Patricia Ann Cotton Franks. They met in Gardendale, Alabama marrying there on November 21, 1973. He leaves behind his daughters, Tara JoManta Franks (Chris) Darty and Laura Ellen (Jerry) Wilson. He will be remembered by his grandchildren, Montanna Eleese, McKenna JoLee and Cooper Rhodes Darty; Michael (Lindsey) Clark and Jericho Isaiah Wilson. Great grandchildren, Riley Marie and Reagan Nichole Clark; his brothers, Jan (Gracie) Franks, Gregg (Lisa) Franks, Perry

(Angie) Franks, Joey (Carrie) Cotton and Mark Cotton; nieces and nephews, Wendell Franks, Leslie Botzer, Karli Daniels, Cheslie Maahs, Dustin Franks, Brittany Franks, Chris Cotton, Kourney Cotton Keith, Zack Cotton and their families including a host of great nieces and nephews, as well as students, athletes and fellow coaches. He made a tremendous impact on each of these lives.

Visitation will be from 11AM-12PM on Wednesday, February 10th at Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home with Chapel Services at 12PM. Graveside Service will be held at 3PM at Brilliant Memorial Gardens in Brilliant AL.

Cemetery Details

Brilliant Memorial Gardens

Brilliant, AL

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home
2214 Decatur Highway
Gardendale, AL 35071
(205) 631-8810
gardendalefuneralhome2@gmail.com

Graveside Service

FEB 10. 3:00 PM.

Brilliant Memorial Gardens
Brilliant, AL

Tribute Wall

CK

“ Edwin as I knew him was like another cousin. We used to gather in the front yard of my Uncle Bud and Aunt Alice Gregg home and ride wheel toys as hard as we could go.

I didn't see him much during our teen years but we met again at what was known at that time as Florence State College where we were in the Fall, 1966 freshman class.

Family, I share with you a verse read at my Mother's funeral that has meant much to me in the 49 years she's been gone. Romans 8:18 KJV I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glories that shall be revealed in us. Enjoy the memories!!!

Charlie Kerr - February 13, 2021 at 01:16 PM

JW

Ed helped me thru Football initiation at Florence State when other upper class men wanted to beat my butt with a boat paddle...Jim Witt, grateful

Jim Witt - March 27 at 12:14 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks.



February 09, 2021 at 09:53 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks.*



February 08, 2021 at 03:34 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks.*



February 08, 2021 at 09:53 AM



“ *Your JHA Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks.*



Your JHA Family - February 08, 2021 at 09:19 AM



“ *Rest in peace coach! You taught us boys to become men. Prayers for the family for their loss God Bless them!*

Tony Byrd - February 08, 2021 at 07:09 AM

JD

“ Jeff & Patti Davies purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks.



Jeff & Patti Davies - February 07, 2021 at 10:40 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks.



February 07, 2021 at 09:31 AM

DH

“ Coach Franks you truly made a difference in so many lives. Through your example I became a better teacher one with compassion and caring for all my students. I learned to make time, to listen, but most of all to genuinely care. Prayers for peace and comfort to the whole family. Love you all Deb Hughes

Debra Hughes - February 06, 2021 at 08:05 PM

DM

To the Frank's family, coach Ed was a motivator, a man that knew how to coach boys how to win and he will be greatly missed.

David Meeks - February 08, 2021 at 11:07 AM

EE

Edwin was my first cousin. We had many good times together growing up. Have always had close relationships although separated by several miles. Always loved him, will miss him.

Earl Elliott - February 09, 2021 at 02:21 PM

RG

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Ronnie Guin - February 06, 2021 at 11:07 AM

VF

“ *Best wrestling coach ever! As a member of the '74 & '75 state championship wrestling teams, I'm sure those guys would say the same thing. His practices were the hardest work I've ever done; they made the rest of life easy in comparison. RIP, Coach.*

Victor Farris - February 06, 2021 at 10:15 AM

RA

Ed was a good man and a good coach. His wife Patricia and I grew up in the same neighborhood. This makes me so sad. I know Ed meant a lot to the students and athletes at GHS. Praying for Patricia and all the Family.

Randy Akers - February 06, 2021 at 11:03 AM

RG

“ *Lifting his family up in prayer. He made you into a tough athlete and so glad I was coached by him.*

Ronnie Guin - February 06, 2021 at 09:43 AM

KO

“ Prayers for Coach Franks family and close friends. I remember the days back in school coaching our football team. He pushed me hard but it was to make me better

I respect him for the man and coach he was he was a mentor to many good young men.

Rest In Peace coach.

Kealen Ogletree - February 06, 2021 at 09:25 AM

TP

“ My sincere condolences to Coach Franks family. I remember him well from my days at GHS playing Football and in general. Rest In Peace Coach.

Tommy Perrymon - February 06, 2021 at 09:18 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks.



February 05, 2021 at 11:27 PM

CO

“ Fond memories of Coach Franks in a gym full of wrestling mats. Condolences to his family from the Osborn Family...Bruce, Carla, Mallory and Tyler

Carla Osborn - February 05, 2021 at 10:34 PM

KD

“ *Condolences and prayers of comfort to Edwin’s family. We were friends back to our elementary school days, and many memories of our school years. Although we have not seen each other in years I still consider him as a great friend and individual.*

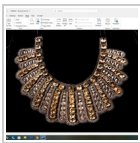
*Classmate of 1966 BHS
Ken Dickinson
Missouri City, Texas*

Ken Dickinson - February 05, 2021 at 10:15 PM

PE

“ *I had a great love for this man and was honored to be his pastor for many years. He was a leader of young men and so influential. May God grant His peace to his wonderful family.*
Pastor Rich Elseroad

Pastor Rich Elseroad - February 05, 2021 at 10:04 PM



“ *I so wish I could be there. My heart is with you all.*
All teenagers are full of angst and I was no exception, Ed, often found me sitting near his office with tears in my eyes or more often anger, but I always left him feeling happy or at least resolved. He could cut through whatever teenage drama with equal parts of common sense, empathy and humor.
He was more than a cousin or Coach, he was my friend and sometimes mentor, and I realize sitting here I never told him how much that meant to me.

Vicki Crutchfield - February 05, 2021 at 09:07 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks.*



February 05, 2021 at 08:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Henry Edwin "Coach" Franks.*



February 05, 2021 at 08:46 PM