



Johnny Murphy Strickland

September 19, 1932 - February 26, 2026

Johnny Murphy Strickland, 93, of Morris passed away at home on Thursday, February 26, 2026. He was born September 19, 1932. Johnny was a proud military veteran, serving in the US Army during the Korean War. He was a well-respected coach and teacher at Mortimer Jordan High School and served as the principal of Warrior High School from the late 1960's until his retirement in 1989. Johnny was a faithful church and choir member at Enon Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clair and Vinnie Strickland; brother, Jim Strickland; sisters, Anne Kelchner and Mary Logan.

Johnny is survived by his wife of 62 years, Gloria Strickland; children, Jay Strickland, Scott (Robin) Strickland, Blake (Angela) Strickland and Jeremy (Jeneane) Strickland; grandchildren, Kelsee (Taylor) Philpot, Kori Strickland, Kayman (Aaron) Beach, Sawyer (Camryn) Strickland, Sam (Emma Grace) Strickland, Aselefech Strickland, Mitke Strickland, Evie Strickland and Rohenn Strickland; great grandchildren, Preslee Philpot, Nolan Philpot, Vivian Philpot, Lydia Philpot, Pyper Strickland, Lakely Strickland, Natalie Beach, Braxton Beach, Elliot Beach, Lennon Beach, Oliver Strickland and Graham Strickland and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Visitation will be Sunday, March 1, 2026 from 5pm to 8pm at Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home. The funeral service will be Monday, March 2, 2026 at 11am at Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Ken McWilliams officiating. Interment will follow in Morris Cemetery in Morris, Alabama.

Cemetery Details

Morris Cemetery

8600 Stouts Road
Morris, AL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

MAR 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home
2214 Decatur Highway
Gardendale, AL 35071

Tribute Wall

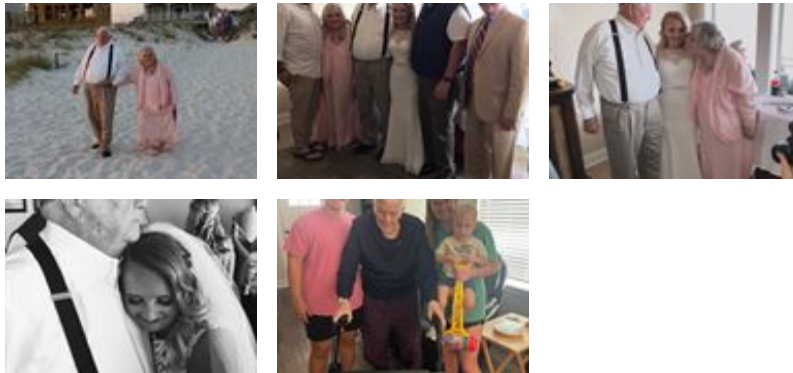
DH

“ *Mr. Strickland was a good man and will be missed by many. I graduated from WHS in 1973. He was always very positive when I knew him. He gave me a lot of inspiration about always giving my best and going on to college. I unfortunately didnt have a chance to tell him what he meant to me in my life. Sometimes we can have a positive effect on other people without even knowing it. Mr. Strickland was a class act and a great man!*

David Hall - March 12 at 11:38 PM



“ 92 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home - March 01 at 11:35 AM

KL

“ Thus ends the Trinity of Football, Basketball and Football coaches from the mid-60s at Mortimer Jordan High School. Johnny Strickland, Jimmy Trotter and Gerald Tuck. Coach Strickland was probably a better teacher than a coach. November 22, 1963 just after 1:00, I was in his American History classroom (in the old WPA gym) when it was announced that the President, John F. Kennedy had been shot, killed. For some ignorant reason the class applauded the news. Coach Strickland immediately chewed our asses out. I have always had respect for him for that. In retrospect, had John F. Kennedy lived, this would have been a far different country. Kennedy had a military background and was a proxy for his older brother in politics. Like Kennedy, Coach Strickland was far smarter than those around him.

Ken Laney - February 27 at 06:19 PM

RH

“ Mr. Strickland, as I knew him, was my principal, family friend, and employer. He was honest, loving, kind, giving, and would help you however he could. He will be missed. Gloria, Jay, Scott, Blake and Jeremy, I am so sorry for your loss and you are in my prayers during this season of grief.

Rhonda Trotter Hardgrave

Rhonda Hardgrave - February 27 at 06:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Johnny Murphy Strickland.



February 27 at 06:14 PM

TJ

“ *Tim and Jeri Jones purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Johnny Murphy Strickland.*



Tim and Jeri Jones - February 27 at 04:33 PM