



## Sam O. Short

August 17, 1928 - October 27, 2019

SAM O. SHORT, 91, passed away Sunday, October 27, after an extended battle with pneumonia and respiratory disease. He died peacefully at Grandview Hospital in MICU surrounded by family. He was a devoted Christian, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, hero, and inspiration to many. He is preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Barbara Short, his mother and step-father Lessie and J.D. Short, and his brothers Bobby and Billy Short. He leaves behind 3 sons: David (Nancy) Short, Larry (Susan) Short, and Rex Short; 5 grandchildren: Andy (Susan) Short, Allison (Scott) Mann, Paige and Samuel Short, and Laura Whitaker; 4 great-grandchildren: Riley and Emory Mann; Sandlin and Griffin Short; and special friend Anne Langner.

Sam's accomplishments are many. He was a three sport star (football, basketball, track) at West End High School. He went on to play football at Western Kentucky. He spent 19 years as a high school football coach and over 50 years as a football and basketball official at the high school and college level. His final job was with the Alabama High School Athletic Association as the supervisor of officials. He served multiple terms on the rules committee of the National Federation of State High School Associations. He has been inducted into the Alabama High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, the National Federation of State High School Associations Sports Hall of Fame, and the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, all as an official. He is also in the Vestavia Hills Sports Hall of Fame.

He played a major role in creating the first officiating camps in the nation on a high school level and was instrumental at the outset of desegregation in bringing white and black officials together to work racially mixed games. He served as an elder for the Belview Heights/Pine Lane church of Christ for over 25 years and was most recently a member of the Gardendale church of Christ. Visitation will be Friday, November 1, 2019 from 11:00 a.m until 1:00 p.m. with the funeral service to follow at 1:00 p.m. at The New Gardendale Funeral Home. Burial will be at Oakwood Memorial Gardens.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Sam O. Short*



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**Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home** - December 13, 2019 at 03:55 PM

CO

“ *We loved Brother Short. Our family worshipped with the Short family for many many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

*Keith Bailey  
Doug Bailey  
Connie Bailey Campbell*

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**Connie** - November 01, 2019 at 11:36 PM

SJ

“ *My prayers go out 2 tha Family of Mr. Sam Short, The Father of all Referees n tha State of Alabama. RIP PECKERWOOD.*



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**Shedrick Jordan** - November 01, 2019 at 11:56 AM



“ Emily Zimmerman lit a candle in memory of Sam O. Short



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**Emily Zimmerman** - October 31, 2019 at 10:37 PM

JM

“ Sam was a friend and mentor. He was a joy to be around. I am delighted that he and I got to talk at length at the recent Hall of Fame induction. His contributions to Alabama High School sports have been legendary. I am sorry that I cannot be there - I just returned from Singapore. My Prayers and thoughts will be with You and Sam tomorrow. Joe Manjone

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**Joe Manjone** - October 31, 2019 at 08:07 PM

CA

“ Cathy Anderson lit a candle in memory of Sam O. Short



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**Cathy Anderson** - October 31, 2019 at 12:31 PM

MO

“ Awesome man! Strict disciplinarian but one of the kindest thoughtful men I have met in my life

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**Maurice Oliver** - October 31, 2019 at 11:29 AM

DW

“ I had the honor to play football for Coach Short in 1958-1959, Thanks to his faith in a 148 pound guard, I was a starter on both offense, defense, and special teams in 1959. Those are memories I still hold dear today. Had the opportunity to pick up Coach Short and bring him to our 55 Class Reunion. Everyone was happy to see him and have the opportunity to talk and reminisce with him. We all had our pictures taken with him and it was just a great night for all of us.  
*Don Walker, Montgomery, Al.*

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**Don Walker** - October 31, 2019 at 08:57 AM

KB

“ Walt joins me in wishing the family our sincere sympathy.....prayers for COMFORT and PEACE in the coming days...since Walt (Barnes) was a coach they had quite a bit of time together...he tells the story of when they were both lifeguarding the same pool for summer money.....Walt on one side of the pool and Sam on the other....Walt sees a child in distress and Sam could not see it because it was just under where he was sitting...Walt whistled and Sam dove in to save the child and dove right on his head.....memories...such fun.....I knew him from West End Highschool and those wonderful times there.....\

*Walt and Kay Barnes*

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**Kay Barnes** - October 30, 2019 at 10:29 PM

SA

“ Shanda Halford Adamson lit a candle in memory of Sam O. Short



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**Shanda Halford Adamson** - October 30, 2019 at 09:50 PM

CM

“ Once I was sent to Coach Short for an altercation I had with a younger classmate for making fun of a special needs student. Before doling out punishment, has asked if I hit the younger classmate. I told him that I didn't hit him. He said I could go on my way. As I left, he said, “you can go... but I would have hit him”. I still laugh at that. Coach Short was a great man, and class act.

chris moore - October 30, 2019 at 08:41 PM

SS

“ Sending my condolences to Coach Short's family. I played sports at WEHS 1959 - 1963 and I remember the late evening football practices :-)

Stan Smith - October 30, 2019 at 07:10 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sam O. Short.



October 30, 2019 at 05:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sam O. Short.



October 30, 2019 at 12:48 PM

CB

“ In 1974, as a Senior, I got to be Sam Short for a day, as assistant principal at Vestavia Hills High School. It was an interesting experience. In 2001 I became a real assistant principal at Vestavia High School and spent 17 years in that position. Coach Short helped lay the foundation for such an outstanding school. He was a man of principle and stuck to them. He was fair but firm. He is a legend still at Vestavia High School.

*Charlie Bruce, Class of 1974*

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**Charles Bruce** - October 30, 2019 at 12:08 PM

WQ

“ Wendy Quinn lit a candle in memory of Sam O. Short



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**Wendy Quinn** - October 30, 2019 at 11:24 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sam O. Short.



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October 29, 2019 at 05:19 PM