



James Edward Drake Jr.

April 1, 1941 - September 5, 2015

James Edward Drake Jr. age 74 of Athens passed away Saturday September 5, 2015 at Crestwood Hospital.

Born April 1, 1941, in Paducah, Kentucky, to James Edward “Doddie” drake and Helen Moore drake, he resided in the East Limestone Community of Limestone County. Jimmy was a 1959 graduate of east Limestone High School. He attended Walker Junior College, Florence State College, and Montevallo State University where he obtained his Master’s Degree.

His coaching career was 21 years at his beloved East Limestone High School. He was also principal there for seven years. During his career he earned two state “Coach of the Year” honors, was named region “Coach of the Year” four times, he was awarded “Coach of the Decade” and inducted into the Limestone County 2004 Sports hall of Fame. In the years of 1979 and 1990 his East “Indians” won two State Championships. Basketball was the sport he loved, but he had great passion for helping others.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Drake; one son Chad Drake and wife Amanda; two daughters, Kelley Lewter and husband Travis, and Amy Goff; six grandchildren: Olivia Lewter, Drake Lewter, Mary Allison Goff, Drew Goff, Allie Drake, and Jamison Drake; and one great grandchild, Avery Goff.

The funeral will be Wednesday, September 9, 3:00 pm, at East Limestone High Gymnasium; with visitation Tuesday, September 8, 6-9:00 pm at the Gym. Interment will be at Roselawn Cemetery, with Limestone Chapel Funeral Home directing. Grandchildren will be pallbearers, with Wayne Henderson, Mike Moore, Roger Mathis, and Todd Tomerlin as honorary pallbearers. Jimmy will always be remembered as "Coach" and mentor to many children in Limestone County. Memorials may be made to your favorite charity or East Limestone Basketball program.

Please sign our tribute wall at www.limestonechapel.com

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time of loss. Mr. Drake was a very fine person who will be missed greatly.*

Jeff & Tammy Burgreen - September 09, 2015 at 07:34 PM

FS

“ *Mike D avis siad it all. Jimmy was above all a true chirstian . he treated everyone alike. may all the family find comfort in knowing he is w ith the LORD today. F aye S hirley*

Faye shirley - September 08, 2015 at 03:34 PM

JH

“ *sorry to hear of jimmy passing away. he was a very fine person and will be missed in limestone county jimmy hargrove*

jimmy hargrove - September 08, 2015 at 03:20 PM

US

“ *With deepest sympathy , Larry Joe Robinson (class of 1974) and Patricia Robinson*

Userking929@aol.com - September 08, 2015 at 02:04 PM

SW

“ *Thoughts and prayers goes out to Kelly and family during this time.*

Sandra Walker and family

Sandra Walker - September 08, 2015 at 01:49 PM

AC

“ Dear Caroline, Thank you so much for your call today. I am still in a state of shock but wish so much to express my deep sympathy to your and your children in the loss of you loved one.
Charley and I will keep you and your family in our thought and prayers. God bless and keep you.
Ava Warren Cambron and Charley W. McPeters

I will share this information to other Drake family as available.

Ava Warren Cambron - September 08, 2015 at 01:31 PM

EN

“ I was saddened to learn of Jimmy' s death. Death sure comes faster than we like. Jimmy was a great coach and principal at East Limestone. He was very faithful sports fan at East Limestone High. After he retired he never missed a ballgame if he could help it. During basketball season you could always look for him on the other side on the bottom row with Jerome Wagnon and some other men . I remember the year East won State how excited he was. I remember him coming to other games when he would have to set in his truck. You don't find many people with such dedication. He will be missed by many people all over the county. . My love and thoughts go out to the Drake family. God be with you all. Love, Edria Ann

edria ann norton - September 08, 2015 at 12:20 PM

GG

“ I was greatly saddened upon hearing the death of Coach Drake. Coach Drake hired me at East Limestone in 1996 and I will always be grateful for the opportunity he gave me as a young educator and coach. He was always very passionate about the students at EL and truly loved the school and the whole East Limestone community. My sympathies to the entire Drake family.
Greg Greenhaw

Greg Greenhaw - September 08, 2015 at 11:19 AM

LG

“ James Edward Drake Jr.

Lori Goff - September 08, 2015 at 10:26 AM

TS

“ Reminding those whom you support that your thoughts are with them.

Tribute Store - September 08, 2015 at 09:58 AM

PE

“ So sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in knowing he was such a wonderful mentor to every life he touched and loved by all who knew him!

Patsy Hinkle Ennis - September 08, 2015 at 08:53 AM

MS

“ Coach Drake was my coach and homeroom sponsor, He was a top shelf guy and had a lot of patience. He did care about people and loved to have a laugh with his students. I have always had the utmost respect for him. Rest in peace my brother.

Malcolm Schrimsher - September 08, 2015 at 08:40 AM

JB

“ *RIP my friend*

Johnny Burgreen - September 07, 2015 at 10:19 AM

MD

“ *It was with deep sorrow that I learned of the death of Coach JJimmy Drake, There has been no other single person who has had the impact for good on our community. His influence in building great basketball teams and ushering the quality of basketball to another level is well documented. His personal integrity and his character was without question. Coach Drake was a kind and gentle man whose faith was unwavering. I will always appreciate his commitment and trust in Jesus Christ as his greatest achievement. I pay tribute to the memory of this my friend and brother.*

Mike Davis, fellow coach and friend

Mike Davis - September 06, 2015 at 05:14 PM

SS

“ *My sympathy to the Drake family. You are being held up in prayer during this time of loss.*

Sandra Swartz - September 06, 2015 at 04:17 PM