



Mr. Donnie Drew

October 2, 1941 - March 3, 2022

Donald Avery Drew of Commerce, Georgia, passed away Thursday, March 3 at Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital after an extended illness. He was 80 years old.

Donnie was born on October 2, 1941 in Preston, Georgia to the late Charles and Maggie Lowery Drew. He was the youngest of six children, all of whom have preceded him in death. Lovingly known by both his grandchildren and the softball team as “Pops,” Donnie mentored thousands of students and athletes over his long and distinguished career.

Donnie began his teaching career in Georgetown, Georgia before moving to Randolph County, and then made the move to Commerce High School in 1983. Donnie served his communities for over 55 years in education, coaching basketball, softball, and baseball. He was involved with the CHS softball program for 39 seasons. Donnie worked with region 8A of the Georgia High School Association and was involved in several executive committees through the years.

Donnie Drew was devoted to the students and the athletes, always believing in them and reminding everyone that students truly are the “stars of the show” in education. He loved this community and his beloved Commerce Tigers.

Donnie loved his family, as was evident by devotion to his precious wife, the late Clair Riley Drew, who preceded him in death eight years ago, as well as to his daughters and grandchildren. He is survived by his two daughters, Kimberly Drew Standridge (Jennifer Fitzgerald) of Lavonia, and Kerri Drew Matthews (Adam Matthews) of Commerce, and by seven grandchildren, Kaelan Standridge, Cayden Lord, Riley Lord, Camryn Lord, Hayden Matthews, Griffin Matthews, and Trenton Matthews.

A visitation for Donnie is planned for Saturday, March 5 at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Family Life Center from 4:00 pm until 7 pm. All are invited to attend. The funeral service will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, March 6 at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Family Life Center, with a private graveside service to follow at Grey Hill Cemetery. The Reverend Blake Carter and the Reverend Verlin Reece will officiate the service.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor the family may contribute to the Donnie and Clair Drew Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Commerce High School, 272 Lakeview Drive, Commerce, GA 30529.

Little-Ward Funeral Home, Commerce is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Grey Hill Cemetery

Clayton St.
Commerce, GA 30529

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Olive Baptist Church Family Life Center
190 Mt. Olive Church Road
Commerce, GA 30529

Service

MAR 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Olive Baptist Church Family Life Center
190 Mt. Olive Church Road
Commerce, GA 30529

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Donnie Drew*

October 09, 2023 at 05:17 AM



“ *Will always have fond memories of going to church & playing softball with him many years ago at Mount Olive. He was so genuine and touched so many people. I don't believe I've ever known a better man. Without a doubt, he will be greatly missed.*

Bobby Brown - March 16, 2022 at 12:58 PM



“ *Thank you for unselfishly sharing your Dad with so many young people. My daughter has many fond memories of him. We were blessed to have him as a mentor. We need more people willing to step up to the plate. Your family can be very proud of all his accomplishments. Hold tight to those special memories! May God Comfort You*

Sara Grogan - March 05, 2022 at 04:59 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Donnie Drew.*



March 04, 2022 at 09:02 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mr. Donnie Drew.*



March 04, 2022 at 06:42 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Donnie Drew.*



March 04, 2022 at 06:10 PM



“ *Mr. Drew gave me my first full time teaching position at Commerce High School. He was a very wise and patient man, and I count him as one of the two best principals I ever had the pleasure to work for. I helped him coach the softball team one year, and I'll never forget him yelling "Holy Cow" when something would go wrong on the field. I have nothing but fond memories of him.*

Kendra Baugh Childers - March 04, 2022 at 05:58 PM

CM

“ Mr. Drew “Pops” was one of a kind. He was so invested in the next generation. He poured his love and wisdom into his students and players. I had the honor of being coached by Mr. Drew in softball. Not only was he an incredible coach but he was also an outstanding Christian man. He served Commerce well and left it a better place in his legacy. I can’t say enough about just how wonderful this man was. You were so wonderful and so loved. Thank you for investing in the lives of others so well. I know you heard the words “well done, good and faithful servant” as you entered the gates of Heaven.
Love Crystal Miller “Rainwater”

crystal Miller - March 04, 2022 at 01:44 PM