



Nathan Smelley

November 24, 2016

Nathan Smelley, educator, coach, deacon, and beloved husband and father, passed away on Thursday, November 24, 2016 at the age of 86.

He is survived by his wife of 12 years, Vivian Rountree Bevis; son Bobby Smelley and daughter-in-law Debbie Smelley; daughter Renee Jones and son-in-law Art Jones; grandchildren Jennifer Hall, Lauren Jayroe and husband Blake Jayroe, Wendy Miller and husband Daniel Miller, Jamie Smelley and Shannon Smelley; great-grandchildren Ethan Banan, Zachary Hall, Ava Hall, and Layla Jayroe; sister, Frances Kemp, Sylvania, GA; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years Gladys Culpepper Smelley. Mr. Smelley was born to Robert Festus Smelley and Ima Lemmond Smelley on September 19, 1930 on the family farm in rural Banks County, GA.

Growing up in a home with no electricity or running water, he graduated from the Gillsville School in 1947. He attended Berry College near Rome, GA, where in addition to earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics, he was also a pitcher on the varsity baseball team and president of the 1951 Senior Class. He would later attain a Master's Degree in Mathematics from Auburn University in 1967. After graduating from Berry College, Mr. Smelley entered the United States Air Force, serving from 1951-1955 as a radar technician, primarily at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan.

Honorably discharged from the Air Force, he worked as a book-keeper for Armour Fertilizer Works in Atlanta. He married Gladys Culpepper on

September 15, 1956. In 1962, Mr. Smelley moved his young family to Suwanee, GA where he began a long and successful career as a math teacher and coach at North Gwinnett High School. During his 26 years at North Gwinnett, Mr. Smelley taught math, algebra and trigonometry; was chair of the Math department; was an assistant football coach; head women's basketball coach; head baseball coach; athletic director; and STAR teacher. He was also a board member of the Gwinnett Teachers Federal Credit Union. Mr. Smelley was inducted into the North Gwinnett Hall of Fame in December of 2015.

Mr. Smelley was also involved in the Suwanee community as a charter member of Shadowbrook Baptist church where he served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, treasurer, and on various committees. He was a member of the committee that selected the location of George Pierce Park and was often a volunteer poll worker on election days.

Visitation for Mr. Smelley's friends and family will be at Flanigan Funeral Home in Buford, GA, from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, November 27 and from 4-8 p.m. on Monday November 28. The funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, November 29 at Shadowbrook Baptist Church, 4187 Suwanee Dam Rd, Suwanee, GA. Burial will be at Lula-Bellton Cemetery in Lula, GA, near the family farm where he was born.

Tribute Wall



“ *Nathan Smelley*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *I am so sorry for you loss. Mr Smelley was a wonderful man and great teacher. I know he was loved by many. I had wanted to get by the funeral home to pay my respects but was unable to make it to there nor the funeral. All the family is in my prayers.*

Richard Weaver - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *We would like to offer our sincerest condolences for your loss. It is our hope that your family finds comfort in the Bible at John 5:28, 29. This scripture has comforted our family in coping with the loss of our love ones. We hope it does the same for your family. Our prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

T. Banks - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of Ms. Smelley. May you gain comfort from the words Jesus spoke in the Bible at John 11:25, promising a resurrection. Warm Regards, Kay*

K. Banks - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ So sorry to hear the news of Mr. Smelley passing. Such a sweet and gentle man.

Skip Rene & Charli Grace Head

Renee Head - November 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ To the family of Nathan Smelley, please accept our condolences. After many years of membership in The Suwanee Goodtimers Club, he will indeed be missed. Speaking for all of our members, may God now hold Nathan in the palm of his hands.

*Mary Lewis
Current President
The Suwanee Goodtimers Club*

Mary Lewis - November 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Dear Bobby and Family, I cannot be there in person, but want you all to know that we, the Kelly Family, loved your parents. Your Dad was a Prince among men. We are sending you hugs and a ton of love.

Lisa, Cris, Holly, and Phyllis Kelly Patterson

Lisa Kelly - November 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ *The Smelleys have been our neighbors for over 40 years. We have known them also through school and church. Our prayers go out for the family. We will miss seeing him almost daily at the Post Office and when we go out for lunch. Vivian, I know you are going to be lonely and remember we are just a phone call or a street away. He loved his church and was very dedicated to the church. We will miss him dearly.*

Gary Goss - November 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *Condolences to the family Mr. smelley was one of the best teachers and men I have ever known, I have never heard a ill word of any kind against him and he never forgot who you were and who your family was, he is a perfect example of an angel on earth Rip coach if anyone is in heaven there is not a doubt you are there.*

Pam Reed Smith - November 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *I am saddened to hear of Mr. Smelley's passing. He was always such a champion of his students and followed us with great pride and interest. He was a special person and caring teacher. May he rest in peace.*

Carol A. Terry, MD - November 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Smelley. He was a great teacher at North Gwinnett, he was a good friend to many and I believe he always remember his past students. He always had a smile and a few jokes too. Prayers for his family.

*Tommy Morris
And Family*

Cindy and Tommy Morris - November 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ So sorry to hear this. Love Mr. Smelly...my favorite teacher. He was always smiling and he really cared about his students. RIP Mr Smelly.

Cindy Pass - November 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM