



## James Thomas Matney

August 17, 1959 - September 28, 2021

James Thomas Matney, 62, of Hagerhill, Kentucky, passed peacefully in his sleep, Tuesday, September 28, 2021. He was born in Paintsville, Kentucky, August 17, 1959.

Jim graduated from Belfry High School in 1977, where he excelled in football, wrestling and baseball. He then continued his wrestling career at Liberty University, where he graduated in 1982 with a degree in history. He came back to Kentucky and served as an assistant football coach at Belfry High School. In 1983, he was hired to be the head football and wrestling coach at Sheldon Clark High School in Martin County, Kentucky, where they won 2 team wrestling state championships in 1994 and 1995 and 17 individual state champions. He and his football team also achieved success winning the regional tournament and reaching the semi state. In 2004, he began coaching at Johnson Central High School and led the eagles to 5 straight state championship appearances, winning two state football championships in 2016 and 2019, two state wrestling dual meet championships in 2019 and 2021 and ten individual state champions.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Kermit and Pauline Matney of Stone, Ky and two sisters, Rita Cheryl and Joyce Ann.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah, two sons, Dalton and Carson, four

brothers, Clyde Payne (Bobbi) of Youngsville, North Carolina, Gary Matney of New Braunfels, Texas, Bill (Susan) and Mike Matney of Stone, Kentucky, his mother and father-in-law John and Sue Jude, sisters-in-law Tammy Goble (Kelly), Janette Jude (Larry Joe), and Cindy Mills (Jason), ten nephews and eight nieces. He is also survived by countless friends and players, past and present. He is truly missed.

A walk-through visitation will be held in the gymnasium of the Johnson Central High School on Sunday, October 3rd from 6:00-9:00pm. Funeral services will be held at the Johnson Central Football Stadium on Monday at 1:00pm with visitation starting at 11:00am. In the event of inclement weather, services will be moved to the gymnasium. Burial will follow at the Mayo Cemetery in Prestonsburg, KY. Face mask are strongly encouraged for all in attendance. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the "Matney College Fund" at the City National Bank, 603 South Mayo Trail, Paintsville, KY 41240, P:606-788-4983. Arrangements are under the direction of the Callaham Funeral Home, Inez, KY.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 3. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Johnson Central High School  
257 North Mayo Trail  
Paintsville , KY

## Visitation

OCT 4. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Johnson Central High School  
257 North Mayo Trail  
Paintsville , KY

## Funeral Service

OCT 4. 1:00 PM (ET)

Johnson Central High School  
257 North Mayo Trail  
Paintsville , KY

# Tribute Wall

NR

“ *Nora Ray lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



nora ray - October 04, 2021 at 11:58 PM

RS

“ *Dear Debbie, Dalton, Carson and all of the loved ones: May God bless, comfort and strengthen you as only He can. Also may He give you that Peace that only comes from Him. We have been praying and we'll continue to keep you in our prayers. Our love in Christ. Rosemary Salmons, Dylan Smith and family.*



Rosemary Salmons - October 04, 2021 at 12:46 AM

FR

“ *Faye Carpenter Rife lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



Faye Carpenter Rife - October 03, 2021 at 12:39 PM

FR

*A great coach & man has been taken too soon. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Rest in Peace Coach*

Faye Carpenter Rife - October 03, 2021 at 12:41 PM

SM

“ Sweet Debby and your precious family, many thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. Lean on God and those around you for your strength and comfort for the days ahead. Jim selected the most wonderful helpmate long ago to share his life and dreams with. It doesn't seem that long ago when I visited you and Jim at your first house on Wickerfield! :) No doubts that he knows you will be honorable and forthright with your love and commitment to your boys.

*Our condolences,  
Jeff and Sherry Meade*

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**Sherry Meade** - October 03, 2021 at 10:34 AM

EM

“ Eric Marcum lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney



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**Eric Marcum** - October 02, 2021 at 08:08 PM

EM

*Coach was a great man and will be sadly missed fly high you was loved by all who knew you and I'll never forget all the times on the football field*

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**Eric Marcum** - October 02, 2021 at 08:12 PM

DR

“ Coach Matney and I use to lock horns during wrestling matches/tournaments.  
But when the match/tournament was over we always greeted each other and shock hands.  
He was a true teacher/coach/friend.  
God bless you Jim and your family.  
From: David LaRocco

David La Rocco - October 02, 2021 at 02:13 PM

BM

“ Bertha Mullins lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney



Bertha Mullins - October 02, 2021 at 10:24 AM

BM

Prayers for the family

Bertha Mullins - October 02, 2021 at 10:25 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Thomas Matney.



October 01, 2021 at 11:08 PM

NB

“ He was one of the greatest, and a really great mentor,R.I.P. Coach.

Norman Blanton - October 01, 2021 at 08:38 PM

TS

“ *Praying for His entire family*



Thomas&Kathy Sparks - October 01, 2021 at 02:33 PM



“ *Tracy Ferguson lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



Tracy Ferguson - October 01, 2021 at 11:41 AM

HW

“ *HEAD FOOTBALL COACH WALT WELLS purchased the Serenity Prayer 30" Sonnet for the family of James Thomas Matney.*



HEAD FOOTBALL COACH WALT WELLS - October 01, 2021 at 09:44 AM

MW

“ *Mary Musick Ward lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



Mary Musick Ward - September 30, 2021 at 08:57 PM

MF

“ *Meliss Gumble And Family lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



**meliss Gumble and family** - September 30, 2021 at 07:09 PM

PC

“ *Patsy S Coleman lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



**Patsy S Coleman** - September 30, 2021 at 03:18 PM

PW

“ *Pauline Whitt lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



**Pauline Whitt** - September 30, 2021 at 02:44 PM

PW

*Coach will be sadly missed by all. He was a good friend that I worked with for many years. Always treated me with respect.*

**Pauline Whitt** - September 30, 2021 at 02:47 PM



“ *Teresa Burke lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



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**Teresa Burke** - September 30, 2021 at 02:44 PM

AC

“ *My deepest sympathies to Debby, Dalton and Carson and his extended family. This is so heartbreaking for so many reasons and on so many levels. So many people knew him and loved and respected him and he changed the direction of so many lives and made a significant difference to many. He will surely be rewarded for that. And more. God bless his family in the days that come...Sending love and prayers to them all.  
RIP Coach Matney!*



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**Angie Calloway** - September 30, 2021 at 02:38 PM

WS

“ *RIP My deepest sympathy for Debbie, And Boys 🙏 May GOD comfort her and all who knew and Loved him in days ahead 🙏 Fly High with the Angles Coach Matney 🧡 ❤️ our loss is Heavens gain 🙏🧡🙏*

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**wanda Sartin** - September 30, 2021 at 02:32 PM

WS

“ *Wanda Sartin lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



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**wanda Sartin** - September 30, 2021 at 02:24 PM

FT

“ *Frederick Douglass Wrestling Team purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of James Thomas Matney.*



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**Frederick Douglass Wrestling Team** - September 30, 2021 at 02:06 PM

PH

“ *Mr. Matney was a winner on the field and off. He played hard, loved big, and always believed in you even when you couldn't believe in yourself. He is the stuff of legends and they'll never be another like him. Bless Debbie and his boys we all loved him*



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**Paula Hayes** - September 30, 2021 at 12:52 PM

DT

“ *Rest In Peace and deepest sympathy to the family and the community.*

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**dave & kathy tofaute** - September 30, 2021 at 12:32 PM

AS

“ Anna Stepp lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney



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Anna Stepp - September 30, 2021 at 11:17 AM

AM

“ Jim Matney was more than a coach. He was an inspiration, he was a mentor, and he was an example. He was a leader, he was a friend, he was a husband, he was a father, and he was a Christian. What was remarkable is he was able to do all those things with excellence. His legacy and impact will live on forever in the mountains he loved so much, but more importantly it will live on in the hearts of the people he loved even more. The world is a darker place today without this bright light. I loved him, I will miss him, and my whole heart and prayers are with Debby, Carson, and Dalton. I love you and I am praying for you every day.

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Aaron Marcum - September 30, 2021 at 11:00 AM

JB

“ Coach was a leader and mentor in every way, it was a gift to know him and be one of his mountain kids.. he will be missed.. Sending prayers and hugs to you Deb and your family



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Jammie (Preece) Bartrom - September 30, 2021 at 10:19 AM

JF

“ *Judy Fletcher lit a candle in memory of James Thomas Matney*



Judy Fletcher - September 30, 2021 at 09:59 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of James Thomas Matney.*



September 30, 2021 at 09:50 AM

WF

“ *With all our love : The Marcum Family purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of James Thomas Matney.*



With all our love : The Marcum Family - September 30, 2021 at 09:44 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of James Thomas Matney.*



September 30, 2021 at 08:48 AM

FL

“ *he will be missed by all who went to central*



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**florawhitt** - September 30, 2021 at 07:02 AM

CH

“ *CovCath Wrestling - Jim Hummeldorf purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Thomas Matney.*



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**CovCath Wrestling - Jim Hummeldorf** - September 30, 2021 at 03:51 AM



“ *Footprints Tribute Blanket was purchased for the family of James Thomas Matney.*



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September 29, 2021 at 09:58 PM