



Terry Wyatt Kitchen

May 13, 1952 - February 4, 2019

Terry Wyatt Kitchen, 66, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri passed away peacefully Monday, February 4, 2019 surrounded by his loving family.

He was born May 13, 1952 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri to Paul F. and Wilda Ford Kitchen. Coach Kitchen was a coach, teacher, and administrator for over 40 years and employed at Cape Girardeau Public Schools for nearly his entire tenure. He was still performing in the role of Junior High Athletic Director upon his passing. Retirement did not suit him.

Terry graduated from Cape Central High School in 1970. While a student, he was awarded the title of Mr. CHS, and also lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. As a senior football player he was named Outstanding Lineman of the Year for the Southeast Missouri North Conference, placed on the 4A All-State team as a Defensive Specialist, and was second Cape Central All State football player. The following spring he was Honorable Mention All-State in baseball. Finally, he was honored with the Lou Muegge Award, given to the senior athlete who best exemplifies outstanding traits on and off the field.

He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in 1974 with a BS in Education, followed by a Master's Administration in 1991. While working on his Bachelor's, he played baseball on scholarship for SEMO Hall-of-Fame coach Joe Uhls, lettering all four years.

After college he worked for Central Foods, performing various tasks. His first job in education came in southern Illinois when he became assistant baseball and basketball coach for Shawnee High School. He then became head baseball coach for one year.

In 1978 he received the opportunity to do his dream job when he was named the head baseball coach for Cape Central High School, a position he maintained until stepping down to become the school's athletic director in 1991. While head baseball coach, he amassed a record of 212-76, including eight district titles, four trips to the state final four, and one state championship game appearance.

Afterwards, he held the position of Cape Central athletic director until 2003. While athletic director, he received three more prestigious honors. The MIAA Association named him the Athletic Director of the Year of the Southeast District in 1996. In 2001 the Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce awarded him Administration Educator of the Year. In 2002 he was inducted into the Cape Central Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 2003 he returned to the old high school building, which is now the junior high, and became the junior high athletic director, assistant eighth grade coach, assistant varsity baseball coach, and part-time PE teacher. In 2009 he officially retired, but still worked part-time as the junior high athletic director, in addition to working as a groundskeeper during the summer months. In 2018 he received two more honors: Semoball Lifetime Achievement Award and the Sam Giambelluca Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout his life, Coach always made sure to give glory to God. He attended Christ Church of the Heartland and would frequently speak in front of the congregation to offer words of encouragement. When in public, people

would often request a prayer from him. He always made sure to pray for the person right there on the spot, never afraid to pray in public.

Those who knew Coach know how much he loved his pit bulls. He cared for them like they were his children and they loved him just as much.

He married his high school sweetheart Barbara Stafford on November 22, 1975 at the First Pentecostal Assembly in Cape Girardeau. She survives along with their two sons, Tatum (Kari) and Kory (Lauren). Also surviving are his four grandchildren who brought him so much joy, Claire, Cole, Cooper and Luke.

Also surviving are his mother, Wilda Kitchen; brother, Paul (Peggy) Kitchen; five nieces, Angie (Bard) Womack, Alison Moorman, Jodie (Charlie) Chappell, Sonja (Ron) Ford, Mandy (Andy) Rickett; nephews, Jeff Narsh, Walter (Malissa) Seabaugh, Casey Musgrove and Dallas (Lieki) Musgrove.

He was preceded in death by his father, Paul F. Kitchen and nephew, Scott Kinder.

Visitation will be held 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Friday, February 8, 2019 at Christ Church of the Heartland in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 am Saturday, February 9, 2019 at Christ Church of the Heartland in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. Zack Strong officiating.

Burial will be at Cape County Memorial Park in Cape Girardeau.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorials be made to the

Terry W. Kitchen Male Athlete Scholarship at First State Community Bank c/o
Tara Holyfield.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1909
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Christ Church of the Heartland
720 Bertling
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Service

FEB 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Christ Church of the Heartland
720 Bertling
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall



“ Will miss you Coach Kitchen. Rest in peace!

dexter robinson - August 22, 2023 at 12:38 PM



“ Coach was a gift to us all, he molded us in ways that helped us win not only on the field but in life! I will forever be grateful!

Love ya Coach!

Rhett Pierce

Rhett Pierce - February 16, 2019 at 05:36 PM



“ Such a terrible loss! Terry was a paragon of player, coach, AD, friend, father, brother, and human being! He gave his boundless spirit and energy everyday to whoever he met! I never knew a more positive person in my life! Gone too soon...he will forever be remembered as a shining light to all who had the privilege to cross his path! God Bless his soul!

Todd Michael - February 11, 2019 at 03:12 PM



“ Barb, It has been many years since I've seen you or Terry but I have wonderful memories of our times as classmates at Cape Central. I am so sorry for your loss but it sounds as if Terry is with our Savoir, Jesus, which is the best news. I will also remember that Terry was a pallbearer for my dad. Prayers & hugs. Pam Uhls Herrmann, Victoria TX

Pam Uhls Herrmann - February 09, 2019 at 09:57 PM

CS

“ Terry and I didn't really know each other that well but he will be missed

Carly Smith - February 09, 2019 at 12:05 PM

JS

“ Coach Kitchen - how blessed you are to be in the presence of the One you have loved - and you blessed us here, too. My boys all were coached by you sometime in their school years or in summer leagues. Dear family: God will comfort you with His peace and His love. Thanks for sharing your husband, dad, grandfather, etc. Mrs Jeannette Stone Jimmy, Chuck and David Stone

Jeannette Stone - February 09, 2019 at 11:30 AM

SG

“ Coach was always pushing you to do more, to practice like you wanted to play and act. Most of us needed this encouragement and now as a parent I can pass this along to my children. I will always remember coach as someone who would let you play and did not over coach a game or practice, something that only true players can appreciate.

Love ya coach,

Steve Goodman

Steve Goodman - February 09, 2019 at 10:58 AM

LB

“ I remember Ciach Kitchen as a teen at Cental High School. Teery always had a smike and something positive to say to you. I worked at times at Junior High School Ciavh still had that smile and akways Praise his God. My hesrt abd prays are sent out o his family. T here is not enough words to say how much Coach was loved. To God be the glory



Linda Barnett - February 09, 2019 at 06:59 AM

DK

“ Paul, Peggy, and family. Terry was inspiring as a “Tiger” and as a man. We will miss him so much. Praying for you all as you journey onward. Blessed memories you will have with you always. So sorry I couldn’t make it to visitation.

Donna Komorech - February 09, 2019 at 02:41 AM

JB

“ I remember Terry from May Green, sandlot football and as #42 at Cape Central. I will always have good memories of him.
Joe Burton

Joe Burton - February 08, 2019 at 08:46 PM

AK

“ Dear Mrs. Kitchen,
I still remember when Coach was the speaker at a CHS sports banquet back in the day and he was all spruced up in a suit and tie. As we weren't accustomed to seeing Coach in such attire, everyone complimented him throughout the early part of the night before he spoke. When he did speak, he began by commenting about everyone's compliments. As he continued, he took off his coat jacket and the sleeves were shredded, hidden by his coat. He untucked his shirt and the bottom of the shirt that was tucked in was cut in strips. He had two different socks on...his point was that what we see on the outside doesn't always match what's on the inside. His encouragement was to be authentic and true to ourselves and be courageous enough to show others who we are, which are children of a God who loves us regardless. I pray your memories will be vivid for you and your family for the rest of your years. Coach is, and always will be, a true man of God full of integrity and grace. May God wrap His arms around you during this difficult time. Love to the Kitchen family.
Angie Keys-Bird

Angie Keys-Bird - February 08, 2019 at 07:35 PM

EF

“ Praying for the family during this time. Terry made a difference in the Cape area and will be greatly missed. Will always remember his passion for Cape Tigers. May you have peace and comfort in the days ahead. Elmer Ford CHS Class of 1963.

Elmer Ford - February 08, 2019 at 07:21 PM

SO

“ Dear Barb, Tatum, Kory and family,

I am so saddened to hear of Terry's passing. What a great guy and what great memories from our high school days. I will be keeping all of you in my thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.



Susie O'Connell - February 08, 2019 at 05:03 PM

DB

“ Dear Mrs. Kitchen and Family

I am so very sorry for your lost. Both Terry and Tatum were my student teachers and Terry also taught my four sons. Terry also supervised a number of my student teachers throughout his time at Central High School. Anytime I visited Terry to evaluate his student teacher we talked as much about the Lord as we did the progress of University student. One day my son Blaine was hit in the head with a baseball so hard that he dropped to the ground and Terry rushed over laid hands on Blaine and prayed for his recovery. Blaine went to the hospital looked like he had been hit by a truck but had no concussion and was healed and protected through Terry's prayer. To know Terry Kitchen was to love him and appreciate his work and his Christian witness.

In Christ Dr. Gene Brunkhorst

Dr. Gene Brunkhorst - February 08, 2019 at 12:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Terry Wyatt Kitchen.*



February 07, 2019 at 09:06 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Terry was a wonderful person, he will be missed greatly.*

Kim Loper - February 07, 2019 at 12:31 PM



“ *I and Terry didn't know each other as well but my grandpa Rodney Bowman and Terry were first cousins. He will be dearly missed*

Carly - February 07, 2019 at 11:44 AM



“ *I have known Terry since the mid 1960's. Classmates, teammates and then more recently seeing him throughout the year at Cape Central while I was videoing sports for the CHS Booster Club and he was athletic director. He was, as his obituary says, "Mr. CHS" as a student, but, let me add, he was and forever will be Mr. CHS. My prayers and sympathy go out to Barb, his children and Paul, Peggy and children and all the Kitchen family.*

Ken Campbell - February 07, 2019 at 08:07 AM

LD

“ Terry and I taught together at Cape Central. He was a Central Tiger through and through. I knew that not only was he a great coach but a Christian who spoke and also taught people God is here for us. One hot day just last summer a friend and I were walking into Hobby Lobby and Terry was walking out. Terry approached us with a friendly smile and hug. I knew he was I'll and asked how he was doing. His reply was Great! god has cured me. How about you? I replied by telling him I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He immediately put his hands on my shoulders and prayed for me right there on the parking lot!! My friend, myself and Terry she's a few tears. We went into the store and Terry went home. Terry is home in Heaven. His favorite thing to let all know was that he (Terry) bled orange blood, yet deep down in Terry's heart he knew Jesus shed Scarlett blood to make us white as snow. God Bless Coach Kitchens' Family. Linda Dirden (I taught with Terry from 1977 until I retired from CHS in 2006)

Linda Dirden - February 07, 2019 at 04:00 AM

KH

“ You will truly be missed coach K Prayer for the family
BleedingBlackOrangeandWhite
#Forever A Tiger
We are CT

Keirria Hughes - February 06, 2019 at 10:32 PM

GF

“ I really do not know what to say, words escape me when I try to explain Coach. One of a kind, friend, colleague, teacher, mentor, husband, father, grandfather and God's servant.
I am so lucky to have been able to teach at CJHS with Coach and to work at the basketball games and share so many stories with him. I can hear him now saying "Hey Gal" ready for tonight's game. Memories are treasures to carry always, Coach has left me a wonderful gift of memories.

Gretchen Fee

Gretchen Fee - February 06, 2019 at 08:11 PM

LC

“ Barb,
So sorry for your loss of Terry you & your family are in my thoughts and prayers.
In Him.

Linda Koch Caldwell

Linda Caldwell - February 06, 2019 at 07:34 PM

MB

“ We could not have asked for a better role model for our kids than Coach Terry Kitchen. He was honest, hard working, loyal, tenacious, and yet loved a good laugh! He showed us all what it means to live with PURPOSE and PASSION! We were blessed to call him Coach, friend, and a brother in Christ. Love and condolences to Barbara, Tatum, Corey, and all the family. You remain in our thought and prayers!

Mike, Gwen and all the Bennetts

Mike Bennett - February 06, 2019 at 04:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Terry Wyatt Kitchen.*



February 06, 2019 at 10:56 AM



“ *He was my student, baseball player, baseball coach, colleague, go-to-person for help, but most of all--he was my friend. I share your emotion in the lost of a truly good human being. Thanks for the memories, Terry. Joan McPherson*

Joan McPherson - February 06, 2019 at 09:55 AM

KJ

“ Undeniably one of the most influential coaches I have ever had. Most importantly, one of the most influential Christian individuals I have ever met. Coach, your impact on my life has been, and continues to be, significantly profound. Cape Central has been truly blessed by God in placing you at the right place at the right time for the right reasons with the right message. Your energy, enthusiasm, empathy, and the encouragement were the fuel that powered so many of your "kids" to do the right things on and off the field that others couldn't do by having us do the things in practice that others wouldn't do. We owed our success then, and arguably owe our success now, in part, to you. Many things I remember about you, but three that are noteworthy here: 1. "Keep improving and working to get better. If you think you can't be beat, you already are."; 2. "It's hard work climbing to the top. It's even harder work to stay on top."; 3. "Hey! Let's win, let's win, LET'S WIN!!!!". Lastly, I'd be remiss if I didn't simply say, "Coach, I'll miss you!"

To the Kitchen family: God has gained a great angel to oversee us all now. Thank you so much for sharing him so graciously with all of us! We are all extremely grateful.

Sincerely,

*Ken Pemberton, Jr.
CHS Class of 1992*

Ken Pemberton, Jr. - February 06, 2019 at 09:31 AM

JW

“ So sorry to hear of my classmate Terry's passing. We played baseball together at Cape Central and with the American Legion team. He was the best all-around athlete in our class of 1970, playing football, basketball, and baseball with a passion for excellence. My thoughts and prayers go to Barbara and the family.

John "Pearl" Wright

John Wright - February 06, 2019 at 08:28 AM

RW

“ I have many fond memories with Terry. Going all the way back to our days playing together for the Capahas(1970-1981 when we both retired), being his assistant coach at Central in 1979 his first year as head coach, after being his brother Paul's assistant the previous year. Remembering also the many games I umpired for him(after I gave up the assistant job) when he was head coach and also for him as athletic director. You could NOT find a more hard working, dedicated person than Terry. He played hard, coached hard and worked hard at whatever he undertook. Just Thankful I got work and play with Terry and call him my friend, as he had such a Positive influence on everyone. Prayer go out to all the Kitchen family in this sad time of sorrow. RIP Terry.

Roger Williams

Roger Williams - February 05, 2019 at 08:33 PM



“ My dad (Rick McDonald) shared a memory have him with me and I thought I would share it with you: He was as tough as a pine knot in basketball We had a drill in practice to make you tough and score while being fouled The name of the drill was "Anything Goes" and that describes it It was one on one and he was always my opponent . The first to five baskets was the winner..... I didn't win very often .

Coach Kitchen not only went to high school with my dad but was my AD while I was in high school. I will never forget his strut, his smile and the way he could pep up a room! Truly inspirational. He had once promised my dad that he would always look after his girls while we were in school and he kept his promise. Dad recently said of Coach, "His path would truly be a difficult one to follow but well worth the effort to try. "

Erica Morgan - February 05, 2019 at 05:38 PM



“ Coach Kitchen was such a great example of Tiger spirit. He always said "I bleed orange and black". He loved his family, his school, his players, and most of all he loved His Lord. Our thoughts and prayers to the Kitchen family. Truman and Ruth Smith

RUTH SMITH - February 05, 2019 at 05:23 PM



“ Loved his spirit and enthusiasm. So happy he coached my boys. He was definitely the ultimate Tiger 🙏🙏🙏

Jackie Clark-Otto - February 05, 2019 at 05:12 PM

BJ

“ *Benny and I were so very sorry to hear of our Friend and Classmate Terry's passing.. We have been lifelong friends . Barb and Family please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. Be Blessed in God's Grace and Mercy..*
Benny & Genetha Johnson

B Johnson - February 05, 2019 at 04:33 PM

AB

“ *I want to tell the kicthen famliy. Im so sorry to hear aboutthis great man name Terry. .he was the best coach i ever had in school.you will be miss*

Annie. Bell - February 05, 2019 at 03:23 PM