



James Luke Leggett

February 12, 1966 - June 10, 2015

James "Luke the Legend" Leggett, 49, born February 12, 1966, died June 10, 2015.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 14, 2015, at First Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel, with burial to follow at Hickory Grove Cemetery. Dr. Sid Leak, Rev. Jaymar Jackson, and Rev. Adam Wade will officiate.

Luke was a very well loved and respected coach and teacher at Laurel High School for seventeen years and at Seminary for three years. He was head baseball coach from 1999 until 2009 at Laurel High School. He was the 2015 Recipient of the Doug Hilton Award, named Coach of the Year, and a member of MAC (MS Association of Coaches) and Fellowship of Christian Athletics. He coached in Crossroads Diamond Club All Star Game in 2006.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jeanelle Jones Leggett; father, Quintin Leggett; and friend, Ike Welch.

Survivors include his wife, Nicki Simpson Leggett; daughter, Katherine Leggett Sophus; son, Chad Dozier; four grandchildren; sisters, Carol Blackledge, Fay Polito, and Gay Ruffin; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Wes and Iram Simpson; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, David and Tracy Ford, Kevin and Terri Walker, and Bill and Jami Laws; nephews, David and Will Ford, Jack Walker, and William Laws; nieces, Peyton Walker and Olivia Laws; cousins, Jody and Tamara Leggett, Preston, A. K., Luke, and Cullen; and nephew, Dewayne Leggett and wife, Terri. He also is survived by special friends,

Jessica and Rylei Pickerel, Meghan Roach, and Scott and Tammi Dodd; a host of other family and friends; and his beloved dogs, Trixie, Sadie, and Buddy, and the neighbor's critters.

Pallbearers will be David Ford, Jr., Will Ford, Jack Walker, Jody Leggett, Luke Leggett, Cullen Leggett, Dewayne Leggett, Ben Smith, Scott Dodd, Todd Breland, Matt Smith, and Ronnie Cochran. Honorary pallbearers will be David Ford, Sr., Kevin Walker, Bill Laws, William Laws, Preston Leggett, Jamey Watts, and a host of coaches and former administrators.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, 417 Security Square, Gulfport, MS 39507, First Trinity Presbyterian Church, 500 North 5TH Avenue, Laurel, MS 39440, or to the Laurel Educational Foundation C/O The Luke Leggett Fund, P. O. Box 288, Laurel, MS 39441.

Visitation will be held from 5 until 8 p.m. Saturday, June 13, 2015, at Memory Chapel which is in charge of the arrangements. A slide show of Luke's life, playing, and coaching will be presented during visitation by Devon Sellers, teacher at Laurel High School.

To view and sign the family guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Tribute Wall

VJ

“ Nicki, I just learned of your husband's passing. My our Lord grant you peace during this difficult time. You, and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Virginia Johnson - June 15, 2015 at 08:19 PM

BJ

“ Nicki and family We are so very sorry for the loss of James. James & I go all the way back to farm league baseball together. He was a great guy and it is a great loss to all of us who knew him especially you all. Our prayers will continue for you and the family.

Bruce and Rita Jefcoat - June 14, 2015 at 06:58 PM

KB

“ I will miss him so much he always made you smile when you were in a bad mood but there is no one like coach Leggett he was one of the all time great teacher's I have ever had no one can compare to him

Kathryn bishop - June 14, 2015 at 08:56 AM

MC

“ Thoughts and prayers for you all. Marilyn and Richard Crowder and family

Marilyn Crowder - June 13, 2015 at 07:46 PM

DB

“ James Luke Leggett

David M Bullock - June 13, 2015 at 11:04 AM

SW

“ Nicki and the entire Leggett and Simpson families, We are so sorry for you loss. Luke was one of a kind and a wonderful person. I always enjoyed dealing with him when I was at the paper. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Barbara and Fred Wansley Shawn Wansley

Shawn Wansley - June 13, 2015 at 09:52 AM

DD

“ Nikki sorry for your loss, you are in our prayers. Luke was a great guy and he will be truly missed by everyone that knew him.

Dan and Linda Donald - June 13, 2015 at 09:18 AM

LE

“ Coach will be truly missed. He fought it til the end!! C/O '03

La-Tima Evans - June 12, 2015 at 03:33 PM

SG

“ Sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you!

Shane Gatlin - June 12, 2015 at 01:36 PM

LM

“ The "Legend" will truly be missed!!

Leslie Mosely - June 12, 2015 at 01:00 PM

TB

“ We go back 30 years with Luke and Nikki. Terry and Luke played softball together and Nikki taught our two girls at Children's Village. He was and is such an inspiration to me as I continue my battle with breast cancer!!! Such a fine example of strength, courage, perseverance and faith in our Lord!!! Rest in peace Luke!!!

Terry and Evelyn Bush - June 12, 2015 at 12:14 PM

AM

“ Coach Luke was a kind man with a great sense of humor. He was always willing to share his deer sausage and a story with us at lunch. I appreciated how he went out of his way to check on me my first year teaching. He always had a way of making all of us laugh; I needed the laughs to "survive" my first year. The Legend will truly be missed.

Audrey Mayatte - June 12, 2015 at 09:59 AM

VG

“ Nicki, we have so many memories of our times we spent with you and Luke. So many trips together, so many softball tournaments. Luke was such a fun guy! We don't know why things happen the way they do, but God's plan is always right and right on time. You had such strong faith through this journey. I pray for strength and comfort for you in the days and weeks to come. Let us know if you need anything. We love you sweet friend. Rest In Peace Luke!!!!

Vicki and Larry Green - June 12, 2015 at 08:10 AM

RM

“ Nicki, so sad to hear the news. You and your family will be in my prayers. Praying for peace and comfort. You are not alone. 29

Randy Martin - June 11, 2015 at 10:42 PM

MW

“ He was one of the greatest. You will be missed by all. Forever a nader.

Matikia Wilson - June 11, 2015 at 06:30 PM

SB

“ We (Terry High) were playing Laurel in the state playoffs several years ago. They arrived at our field and within a few minutes of chatting with Coach Leggett, I felt like we were old friends. I was angry that day about an incident that had happened with our team. Luke asked me was was wrong and I told him. He said he understood. I wore my pants pulled up to my knees back then and when the game started I noticed Coach Leggett had his pants pulled up too. We passed on the diamond between innings and I said, "nice pants". He said, "I'm honoring you tonight." He made me laugh and feel much better. He wore them "up" the whole series. This was also the series where he did the "belly slide" into second on the soaked tarp at Laurel. Never will forget that. Several players from both teams followed. God has always been with Luke and now Coach has gone to be with God. I so glad our paths crossed.

Steve Bass - June 11, 2015 at 06:29 PM

MB

“ Y'all are on our minds and hearts.

Mark Brogan - June 11, 2015 at 06:15 PM

TG

“ Prayers go out to the family. Heaven is a better place with the presence of Luke. I enjoyed the many years of friendship that Luke and I shared.

Terry Gambrell - June 11, 2015 at 04:12 PM