



Floyd VanWert Anderson

August 27, 1927 - December 14, 2022

Floyd V. Anderson 95, of Milledgeville, GA passed away at home on December 14, 2022 amongst family. Funeral services will be at Williams Memorial Chapel on December 28, 2022 at 11:00. Family will receive friends from 10 until the Funeral hour.

He was born on August 27, 1927 in Port Allegheny, PA to Ernest R. Anderson Sr. and Amelia Van Wert and grew up in Titusville, PA. He joined the U.S. Navy out of high school and served in the South Pacific Theatre during WWII, until his honorable discharge after the war in 1946 and truly was a member of "The Greatest Generation". Following his military service and the return to his home state of Pennsylvania, he attended and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, having earned his BS degree in Education.

His academic career began at Northside High School in Atlanta, GA, in the early 1950's , where he taught classes and coached 2 GA State Championship Girls' Basketball Teams , 1 GA State Champ Track Team and he also served as an assistant football coach. While teaching and coaching at the high school level, he attended Geo. Peabody College (now Vanderbilt University) during the summers and earned a Masters of Education degree. His first collegiate teaching/coaching position in the mid 1950's took he and his young family to Montevallo, AL and Alabama College (now- University of

Montevallo), where he continued to teach and successfully coached men's tennis and Cross-Country track and field. His 1966 men's tennis team remains the only undefeated athletic team in the school's history and was inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013.

Following Alabama College, he was recruited to Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts in Chickasha, OK in 1966 to both teach and establish an athletic program for the newly turned "Co-ed" college. He served as a teaching professor, Dept. Chair, and the Athletic Director. In 1967, fate brought him back to Georgia, and Georgia College (Milledgeville) He served as the Chairman Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department and the first Athletic Director, establishing the first men's and women's athletic program, as the Colonials which preceded the Bobcats.

His tenure at GC & SU spanned from 1967 - 1989 in teaching, coaching, and administration. During this time, he was responsible for the hiring and mentoring of 4 GC & SU Hall of Fame Coaches (Stan Aldridge, Mike Peeler, Geza Martini, John Kurtz) and was an "influential and active" force behind the establishment of GCSU's East & West campus complexes and related facilities.

He is often referred by those who know/knew him as the "Father of Athletics" at GC & SU.

His first Baseball Team aka "The Boys of '69" have consistently held annual reunions in Milledgeville to stay connected, celebrate, and remember those early days. Floyd Anderson retired from GC & SU in 1989 and was awarded "Professor-Emeritus" status by Georgia's Board of Regents. He was inducted into the GC & SU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.

One of his noteworthy accomplishments related to education was "in, of, and for" the "out- of - doors". He was the founder of the GC Outdoor Education

Institute (Lake Laurel based), the ensuing Outdoor Education academic program, and was an active member of the National Outdoor Education Project founded and based at Michigan State University. He also pursued additional degree work (towards a Ph.D.) at Michigan State University while teaching Outdoor Education classes at the National level in summer sessions.

Another long-time passion was his work with white oak baskets, starting with an apprenticeship with his early mentor/friend, and long-time Baldwin County GA resident Joe Dennis, that began in the mid 1970's. Their relationship blossomed over the years and following Mr. Dennis' passing 1982, eventually culminated in Floyd being selected as a Master Craftsman by the GA Council for the Arts. He was an original member of the Great Lakes Heritage of Basketry Project. Examples of his art/craft are on permanent exhibit and housed at the Association of Michigan Basket Makers Guild at Michigan State University. He always credited Joe Dennis's teaching style and patience, with enabling his success in "weaving the white oak".

Floyd and his wife Melissa, also an avid and accomplished Basket Maker, were very active throughout the USA and Canada in "weaving the white oak" via teaching, mentoring, and demonstrating this disappearing art form for some 40+ years together.

Floyd Anderson was preceded in death by his parents, his siblings Gertrude Marshall, Earnest R. Anderson, Jr., Nancy Anderson, and his first wife Lee Anderson. He is survived by his wife Melissa (Campbell) Anderson, sons Blake (Paula) and Blaine (MaryEllen) Anderson, Grand Daughter Sarah Beth (James) McMillan, Grandson Brannon Anderson, and Great Grand Children (J.D. and Madeline McMillan), and friends of which there are too many to list.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donation be made to:

GCSU Athletic Endowment at <http://alumni.gcsu.edu/FloydAnderson>
or by mail to GCSU Athletic Endowment, University Advancement 410 Green
St. CBX 96 Milledgeville, GA 31061

Previous Events

Receive Friends

DEC 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Williams Funeral Home & Crematory - Milledgeville
1670 N. Jefferson St.
Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-2148
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

Celebration of Life

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



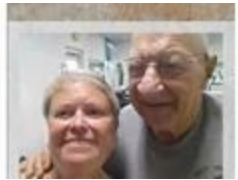
“ Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory created a Webcast will start approximately 10 minutes before the service in memory of Floyd VanWert Anderson



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - December 28, 2022 at 10:29 AM

DH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



D Hardison - December 31, 2022 at 08:28 PM

SV

“Floyd and I connected in the mid-1980s through his and Melissa's basketry work at the Museum of Appalachia. Or "re-connected" as the case may, because he and my late father (a phys ed prof at the University of TN) and a bunch of other mutual friends had been involved in outdoor education programs when I was a kid. This was one of those chance "old home" encounters that blossomed into a second generation of friendships as the years went by. One of the highlights of every October was gathering with Floyd, Melissa, Andrea Fritts, Kathy Brown and others from the Museum of Appalachia, ahead of the Museum's Fall Homecoming festival, and enjoying a campfire feast/laugh-a-thon. It is rumored adult beverages were occasionally served. Over time, this became known as "the joint meeting of the Brotherhood of Unruly, Lowdown, Lying Hillbillies Observing Creative Knowledge Every Year (BULLHOCKEY) and the Society of Appalachian Sainly Sisters (SASS)." Our antics evolved into an ever-growing collection of stories, jokes and puns than ran in my newspaper column every fall. It became such a mainstay that readers would call or write and demand to know "when are you liars gonna get together again?" Precious memories, how they linger. No doubt Floyd, Julian Harris, Big Sam, Cat Allen, Ed Capen and all the outdoor ed folks from Way Back When are having a riotous time around the heavenly campfire. Mary Ann and I hold Melissa and the entire Anderson clan in our hearts. Sam Venable, Knoxville TN

Sam Venable - December 21, 2022 at 04:59 PM

EB

“ I first met Floyd Anderson when I took a canoeing class at Georgia College in the mid-1980's. I enjoyed his classes so much that I went on to take shooting and sailing as well. The rapport that I established with Mr. Anderson eventually led my being accepted as a Recreation Assistant working for him and living at Lake Laurel East Campus Complex for three years.



Mr. Anderson was a very colorful, insightful and knowledgeable, yet grounded person who reminded me of my own father in a lot of ways. He became like a father-figure to me for several years when I first moved away from home for good in 1986. I still remember and am guided by the lessons I learned, both in his classes and the life lessons learned living and working at Lake Laurel.

I am sad to learn that his days on this Earth are concluded, yet I am also happy that he lived such a long and full life. My condolences to his family and friends, I am truly grateful to have known Floyd V. Anderson, grateful for the impact he had on my life, and grateful for all the cherished memories.

Rest In Peace

Eric Buckley - December 20, 2022 at 05:32 PM

EB

Nancy and I wanted to come to Mr. Anderson's services to pay our respects in person, but unfortunately, an untimely encounter with COVID-19 has prevented us from doing so. It is my sincere hope that the college honor Floyd V. Anderson by naming something in his memory (if it has not already done so). My suggestion would be what is now called the Outdoor Center, which comprises Lake Laurel. Other family, friends and former colleagues may have other suggestions, but certainly his name should be remembered. One-of-a-kind!

Eric Buckley - December 27, 2022 at 07:57 PM

VP

“ Dear Anderson Family,
Mr. Anderson was a wonderful and interesting teacher. I learned so much from him and from Lee. I have many craft items I made at Lake Laurel. The week long Outdoor Education Institute brought students and instructors from all around. Sending peace and comfort to the family.

Virginia DeLoach Pittman

VIRGINIA PITTMAN - December 19, 2022 at 09:44 PM

LC

Prayers are with you all at this most difficult time. Floyd was a pleasure to be around. I so appreciated his help with the Annual Fishing Event. He was a special friend and loved by so many of the people he came in contact with. Please know how much we appreciated him and Melissa over the many years that we worked together on this event.

Liz Caldwell and family

Liz Caldwell - December 27, 2022 at 05:43 PM

TL

“ Tommy Linda lit a candle in memory of Floyd Anderson



Tommy and Linda - December 19, 2022 at 11:54 AM

BF

“ Bear and I have very fond memories of Mr Anderson through classes at Georgia College, at the Outdoor Institute at Lake Laurel, and at Brown's Crossing Craftsmans Fair. Mr. Anderson was truly a legend.

Bear and Donna Findley - December 19, 2022 at 10:12 AM

DD

“ Many wonderful memories of Floyd as my basketball coach at Northside High when we won the State Championship. He changed my life when he hired me to start a women’s gymnastics team at Georgia College in 1968. Thank you Floyd for believing in me. My deepest sympathy to all the family, especially Blake and Blaine whom I remember as very young boys.

Delene Johnson Darst - December 18, 2022 at 09:07 PM

CB

Delene, that decision changed a lot of our lives. I’m forever grateful that I was one of the early gymnasts in the GC program. What an insightful leader Floyd was.

Crystal Beanta - February 05, 2023 at 03:27 PM

RE

“ He was a good friend and always telling a good story he will never forget me and my Dad for a lot of things but the best one is about a old sweet potato I was talking to Melissa about it Friday he can think about that old ———- Chocker in Heaven now GodBless Melissa and the family Randy Etherton and Family from Knoxville Tennessee

Randy Etherton - December 17, 2022 at 07:18 PM

RR

“ It is with heavy hearts that we send sincere condolences and warm hugs your way. Our many memories of Floyd bring many smiles and much laughter. We have truly lost a very dear friend. ❤️

Russ and Shelley Reed - December 17, 2022 at 01:32 PM

EB

“ My condolences to the family during the passing of your beloved family member, Mr. Floyd Anderson. May God continue to strengthen and comfort you all during this time of sorrow. 🙏🌹❤️



Elisa Bonds-Ratliff - December 17, 2022 at 10:58 AM

SA

Please accept our sincere sympathy. Floyd was responsible for us moving to Milledgeville. Stan and Wanda Aldridge

Stan and Wanda Aldridge - December 17, 2022 at 03:36 PM

SI

“ Anderson family...so very sorry for your loss. Mr. A was a wonderful teacher, storyteller and such a funny man. Our hearts and prayers are with you all during this sad time.

Steve and Judy Ivey - December 17, 2022 at 08:03 AM

SC

“ I attended Georgia College in the late 60's and had his golf class as a P.E. elective. I did everything we were told to do and managed a B in the class. I have never picked up a golf club since then. He was very nice and patient--a great instructor. His family was fortunate to have him for 95 years. Shirley Lanthripp Chapman, Tennille, GA.

Shirley Ann Lanthripp Chapman - December 16, 2022 at 08:41 PM

CG

“ Mr. Anderson taught me shooting, handicrafts, and sailing at Georgia College in the late 70s. I so enjoyed his classes, he was a great teacher. I know he will be missed by all who love him.

Cecelia Gunter-Stewart - December 16, 2022 at 06:25 PM

BD

Bennett Daniel

Mr Floyd I called him taught me in classes at Ga College around early 70's and things he taught me I've used all my life. When I do them I think of Floyd. He was my friend. After he retired he came out to our farm everyday to watch me saw logs on my Woodmizer Saw Mill. He really was from The Greatest Generation and is a part of my life He was loved

Bennett Daniel - December 28, 2022 at 11:56 PM