



Coach Doc Ryan

June 1, 1948 - December 12, 2024

The committal service for Coach Doc Ryan will be at 11:00am, Thursday, January 2, 2025 at D/FW National Cemetery and will be in LANE 1. Per D/FW policy, please DO NOT assemble in Lane 1 prior to 10:45am.

In lieu of flowers, and in honor of Coach Ryan's love for education, contributions are strongly encouraged by his family to a scholarship set up in his honor by his sons at

<https://bold.org/funds/coach-doc-ryan-memorial-scholarship-fund/>

Coach "DOC" Ryan passed away peacefully on December 12, 2024 at his residence surrounded by family. He was born June 1, 1948 in Toledo, Ohio to Howard and Helen Kelly Ryan, both of whom preceded him in death along with his brother, David Ryan.

Doc was the son of a career military family and lived all over the United States and Germany attending schools in Germany, Florida, Georgia, Arkansas and Oklahoma, graduating in 1966 from Eisenhower High School in Lawton, Ok. After graduation, Doc enlisted in the U.S. Army dutifully serving his country and was stationed at many bases as well as in Vietnam. After being honorably discharged, Doc attended Cameron University in Lawton. While at Cameron, he also excelled as an athlete on the college's football team. Upon receiving his degree, he began on a long and fulfilling career as an educator. Doc moved to Terrell and began coaching and teaching in 1982 where he coached

football and track, taught Health Sciences and PE and, while it was still offered at the TISD campus, driver's education. He retired (the first time!) in 2014 but never one to stay still, he began working with Mabank ISD where he continued to make an impact on young lives and colleagues. In the last few years, Coach Ryan returned to TISD and helped in every way he could by being in the classroom as a stand in teacher or coaching PE to a new generation of Terrell at the GLA campus. His constant smile and always welcoming personality made him a favorite of all the students and while many were blessed enough to have Doc as a coach and teacher, ALL were blessed to have his wisdom and encouragement.

Coach Ryan was a frequent sight in the halls, on the field, on the track, and in the classroom and whether he was inspiring everyone with his words or his example, he became a mentor to countless students over the years. His signature phrase "Looking good!" was his unique way of encouraging, interacting and relating to not only his students, but also to fellow faculty and the parents. His iconic personality was a beacon of hope to many of the youth who needed that type of attention and commitment from an educator. Coach Ryan's example of hard work accomplishes achievements gave all who met him, young or old, student or teacher, resident or visitor, the example they needed to make their own dreams come true. There are surely an infinite number of stories of how Coach Ryan inspired, motivated, influenced and positively impacted every one of his players and students and each story is an echo of the passion and enthusiasm Coach Ryan displayed every day as a gifted educator.

Coach Ryan leaves his legacy to be carried on by his sons: Truck Ryan (Stacie), Justin Ryan (Jessica), David Ryan (Audrey); grandchildren: Averi, Collin, Gabrielle, Hannah, Arick and Ryder; siblings Thomas Ryan (Kathy), Diane Nichols (Dave) and John Ryan; former wife and mother of his children Deb Livingston, as well as several nieces, nephews, other relatives along with the countless students. Coach Ryan embodied the true spirit of a born

educator- words matter and, with hard work and dedication, success can ALWAYS be achieved.

“Looking good!”

Memorial service celebrating the life and legacy of Coach Ryan will be 1:00 p.m. Friday December 20, 2024 at the Terrell Performing Arts Center. Family will receive friends Thursday December 19, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations. Interment will be at DFW National Cemetery at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Dallas/Ft. Worth National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, TX 75211

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **19**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations
642 N Rockwall Avenue
Terrell, TX 75160
(972) 524-0881
<https://www.maxslaytonfunerals.com>

Memorial Service

DEC **20**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Performing Arts Center
400 Poetry Rd.
Terrell, TX 75160

Tribute Wall



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Coach Doc Ryan*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - December 20, 2024 at 01:58 PM

EK

“ *Coach Ryan was a great man who he helped a lot of students to become great people. He will be missed in the halls of Terrell high school.* ❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏



Elaine Kasper - December 26, 2024 at 10:59 AM

KS

“ Dear



*David, Audrey, Truck, Stacie, Justin (Goose), Jessica & family,
We were so sorry to hear about Coach Doc! As you have witnessed
he has made a huge impact on students, Terrell ISD & the entire
community of Terrell! He has left a huge void in the lives of many.
Continued prayers for all of you his family! Gone but never
forgotten! RIP Coach!
With deepest sympathy,
Karo, Wilson & Duane Stewart*

Karo Stewart - December 20, 2024 at 01:05 PM

MS

“ Without and Coach Dan, this picture never would've been. Doc
made it possible for me to escape poverty because he believed in
me and showed me the way.



michael "Snow" Smith - December 19, 2024 at 06:10 PM

GR

“ I played football for Coach Ryan during his first 3 years at Terrell. I
have never worked so hard for someone's approval. He had a gift of
getting the most out of you, and he certainly brought out the best in
me. I loved him!

Gregg Rogers - December 19, 2024 at 02:53 PM

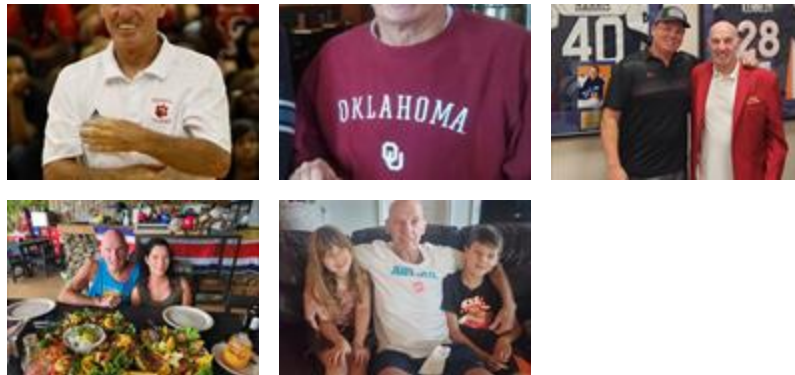
DK

“ Played ball with both Tom & Dick many years ago in Germany when we were in our teens. Dick was really good and a tough ball player. We went our separate ways like all Army brats until Connie started connecting us all via the internet. Fortunately Tom & Dick came by our place in Florida for a visit almost 60 years later in May 2022 and we had a chance to catch up a little. It's nice to see Doc was loved and had such a positive influence on so many young people. He'll be missed.

David Keefe - December 18, 2024 at 05:21 PM



“ 215 files added to the album Memories Album



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - December 18, 2024 at 12:10 PM

BD

“ Cameron University Defensive Back (Doc Ryan) and I (Bob Densmore) cross paths during a college football game. He was coming upfield to make a tackle and I caught him with both feet down and ran over him while blocking for SWOSU. He shared this story when I was the principal of Terrell High School (2000-2008). We always got a great laugh. Doc was one of kind. He was instrumental in helping his students become great adults. He never gave up on anyone. He truly is one of the best coaches I ever been around. RIP Doc..... looking good!

Bobby Densmore - December 16, 2024 at 03:57 PM

EN

“ I think definitely one of my favorite “memories” with you is when you saved my life, not joking. I was drowning, as a baby and you had no hesitation to jump in that water. I don’t think i had too many memories of the past year with you because we are so far, but after your diagnosis, we visited so much. I got to hug you for the last time the day before my birthday, at thanksgiving. You always had a rough exterior, but god knows how much you loved us all. BUZZ won’t be the same without you. I know you aren’t in pain anymore, and im glad. Rest in peace uncle dick. Me, Gigi, and papa love you so much.



Evan Nichols - December 15, 2024 at 07:26 PM



“ Oh Dick, I have so many wonderful memories of growing up with you. Tom tells me he remembers you both holding Dave and me on your laps on the way home from the hospital when we were just newborns. I also remember pictures of you both grinning from ear to ear as you held us. However, my first actual memory of you is riding on your back as we flew down farmer’s hill on a sled. As I got older, you gave me rides on the back of your Triumph motorcycle and taught me how to drive...including parallel parking and driving a standard 😊. I feared nothing if you were with me. I was always so proud that you were my big brother!

Thanks for being the cool uncle to my girls and making my Dave feel like he was your fourth brother.

My memories, and the legacy you leave behind are what is carrying me through what is one of the saddest times of my life. 💔

I love you so much more than you ever felt comfortable letting me say....I said it anyway, and I am so happy I did.

Diane Nichols - December 15, 2024 at 06:30 PM

EN

“ Evan Nichols lit a candle in memory of Coach Doc Ryan



Evan Nichols - December 15, 2024 at 03:21 PM

JL

“ We grew up together. He lived across the street from us. We always had fun playing games and the street. I will miss seeing you on Facebook and all the kids you mentor.



Joyce Laastad - December 14, 2024 at 11:09 PM

CI

“ Diane, I only met your brother once, we popped by the school to tell him hi and I remember his smile. I feel like I knew him from all the memories you have shared with me. What an inspiration he has been to so many students, friends and family. Sending prayers to you and your family. Cheryl

Cheryl Ives - December 14, 2024 at 11:03 PM

CR

“ I have so many memories but to name a few when I was younger you took us skiing, summertime we went out on dirt bikes, always on the boat, knee boarding, jet skiing, trips to Florida especially the family gatherings they was always jumping lol never a dull moment with the Ryan's I love you unc ❤️ and truly blessed to call you my uncle I hope this message finds you in peace and surrounded by love in heaven. I want you to know that even though you have left this world, you will always hold a special place in my heart. I think of you often and cherish the memories we shared together. I am grateful for the time we had, and for the love and wisdom you imparted on me.

I wish you were here with us, but I know you are watching over us from above. Your spirit continues to guide me and inspire me to be the best version of myself.

I miss you so much, but I find comfort in knowing that you are at peace and free from pain. Rest in peace, Unc I love you.



Crystal Ryan - December 14, 2024 at 10:19 PM

EN

“ *Forever gonna miss you uncle dick.*



Evan Nichols - December 14, 2024 at 09:54 PM



“ *When I told him I joined THE USAF, he told me it was going to be hard--but that I could do it. And it came full circle upon retirement. 20 years later and looking back...it WAS hard. All of it was hard, retirement was HARD. and he was telling me how hard it was going to really be, and I did it, Coach, my brother from another mother, my brother in arms. Later Coach--Jessica A.*

Jessica Attaway - December 14, 2024 at 09:54 PM

JB

“ *The world lost a great man. May he rest in peace. Sending prayers for his family*



Janis Blair - December 13, 2024 at 01:53 PM

AR

“ I have Soo many! Growing up with you as our uncle was definitely a great experience! Summers spent at the lake on boats and jet skis, playing foosball and pool. Always such a wonderful and fun time. I was always Soo proud to tell someone you're my uncle. As an adult, calling you just to make you laugh because it always made me laugh. Sometimes laughing for 2 or 3 minutes straight with no words lol.. then to hear night red! (Click) Lol. I'll miss being called Red and Amber Jack You will for sure be loved and missed forever. This life won't be the same but I hope you're resting and looking down on us all. We all love you.

Amber Richardson - December 13, 2024 at 10:49 AM

JY

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Coach Ryan's family and friends. Many thanks to CR for all the lives he touched.



Julie Young - December 13, 2024 at 08:56 AM

JC

“ Condolences and comfort during these difficult times.. Growing up with him not only as a coach, teacher and driver's Ed trainer , he taught life lessons never to be forgotten
Peacefully,
John Carmona



John carmona - December 12, 2024 at 10:42 PM

SH

“goose I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your father. He was a good man and will be missed deepest regards 1996 Terrell varsity football..

stewart harwell - December 12, 2024 at 08:25 PM