



Robert Bernay Parks

September 12, 1941 - September 30, 2024

Robert Bernay Parks passed away on September 30, 2024, in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 83. He was born on September 12, 1941, in Hico, Texas, to J.T., Jr. and Mary (Bullard) Parks. From a young age, he loved participating in sports, including playing little league baseball, running track, and playing football. He learned the importance of hard work early on by working on a dairy and in the cotton fields. Robert graduated from Cleburne High School in 1960 as a football standout and attended college to study education. During college and beyond, he drove a truck for Central Freight during the summer months for eleven years. He received his bachelor's degree from North Texas State University and his master's degree in educational administration from Tarleton State University.

In 1965, Robert began a decades-long career in education. He taught school and coached six-man football at Liberty Chapel and later coached virtually every boys' sport in Rio Vista. While in Rio Vista, Robert met his love, Janis Winfield, whom he affectionately called "Jan." They married on February 19, 1977. Together, they raised two children, Clint and Molly. At age 35, Robert accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior and made a public profession of faith at First Baptist Church in Rio Vista and was baptized by Pastor Gil Lane. Robert continued his career in education by serving as high school principal in Plains and Lampasas, superintendent in White Deer, and assistant superintendent in Liberty Hill. He always enjoyed watching the sporting events, band performances, and one-act play competitions. Throughout his career, he oversaw the building of new school facilities on multiple occasions and witnessed his schools achieve several state championships. Robert retired in 2015 after fifty years in the school business.

Robert loved music, with gospel and country and western being his favorites. He enjoyed playing the guitar and singing and was always teaching himself to play other instruments including the piano, harmonica, accordion, autoharp, mandolin, dobro, and fiddle. He encouraged his children to make music as well. He taught Clint to play the guitar, and together they enjoyed performing at local pickin' and grinnin' sessions. He faithfully drove Molly to her piano lessons twice a week that were forty-five minutes away. Thanksgivings spent at his mother's house in Cleburne were particularly special. After lunch, the family

would sit around and tell old stories, and then Robert would lead the sing-a-longs, with his mother, brothers, and extended family taking part. He had a heart of service and was heavily involved in the churches he attended. Over the years, he taught Sunday school classes, served as an usher, assisted with the youth group, and played music for vacation Bible school. He served as a deacon at First Baptist Church in Lampasas and a deacon and elder at Fellowship Baptist Church in Liberty Hill. Robert regularly played the guitar and sang at church, often with Janis singing alongside him.

After retirement, Robert and Janis moved to Whitney, where Robert continued playing music and serving in church. He also enjoyed golfing, riding around in his pickup truck or golf cart, attending men's breakfasts, and spending time with his family. He was well-known for his practical advice, which always centered around working hard and making good decisions.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers Jackie and Bill. He is survived by his wife, Janis of Dallas; children Clint Parks of Round Rock, and Molly Ward and husband Aaron of Dallas; grandchildren Karen and Travis Parks of Brownwood, and Owen, Austin, and Jillian Ward of Dallas; great grandchildren RhyLynn and Maeleigh Jo; and many other loving family members.

Celebration of Life will be 11:00 am Friday, October 4, 2024, at Cedar Creek Baptist Church 5643 FM 933 Whitney, Texas 76692 with Pastor Ricky Gobert officiating.

Graveside service will be 2:00 pm at Rose Hill Cemetery in Blooming Grove, Texas.

Pallbearers will be Clint Parks, Owen Ward, Aaron Ward, Andy Pogue, Rob Beasley and Ted O'Neil.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

300 Rose Hill Road
Blooming Grove, TX 76626

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Cedar Creek Baptist Church
5643 FM 933
Whitney, TX 76692

Pastor Ricky Gobert officiating

Graveside Service

OCT 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

Rose Hill Cemetery
300 Rose Hill Road
Blooming Grove, TX 76626

Tribute Wall

SU

“ I am so sad to hear of Mr. Parks passing. He was such a wonderful man to myself and my family. I will never forget our peach cobbler fights with Andy Pogue during Friday night football! He was such a light in this world!

Summer - October 04, 2024 at 09:43 AM

RT

“ Loved and respected Coach Parks. Coach Parks taught me so many life lessons, I feel so blessed to have had him as my coach. I last talked with him a few years ago and he still remembered small details about a basketball game that was played in 1977. He cared for us kids and we knew it. I am in California and so hate that I cannot be there tomorrow to celebrate Coach Parks going home. R.I.P coach, see you soon.

Ricky Totsch - October 03, 2024 at 09:54 PM

ER

“ Evan R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Bernay Parks.

Evan R. - October 03, 2024 at 08:18 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Bernay Parks.



October 03, 2024 at 03:14 PM

BH

“ So sorry for your loss.
Mr Parks was our beloved History teacher, our Boy's coach and our Principal.....He was strict, but we knew he cared.
He spoke words of wisdom and care that were like a bright light to me, that have never been forgotten...
He was a genuine gentleman...the Best.
Deepest sympathy,
Brenda Jones Hall, Pampa Tx

Brenda Hall - October 03, 2024 at 01:18 PM

TS

“ Coach Parks was such a wonderful man! He was my coach, teacher, advisor, mentor and friend from 1975 to 1981 at Rio Vista. The man made a big and positive impression on me that has affected my entire life. Things he taught us coaching and in the classroom are extremely fond memories to me. Simple things like how to “tuck and roll” paid off on the football field but even in life outside of school when you would fall or need to quickly get away from a situation. I have many, many stories, most with some humor, but the one that I will share here is from study hall. Coach Parks was my study hall teacher twice and he was excellent at making us knuckleheads behave. As a treat, every once-in-a-while, he would read to us. He read the short stories of Edgar Allen Poe. His reading was with his heightened passion. One of the great things about Coach was always his passion but with these readings, he kicked on the after burners! “The Tell Tale Heart” was our favorite of his readings. Wow, did he ever get our adrenaline going with his passionate reading! He entertained us in the moment, but what he really did was open us up to great writers and books and how to entertain. What a great man!

I wish I could be there to celebrate his wonderful life but I am out of state and sadly cannot make it. God bless Coach Parks family in this saddening time and I ask that He comforts them. - Todd Searcy

Todd Searcy - October 03, 2024 at 12:06 PM

BB

“ There are no words to say what "Coach Parks" meant to me. Loved the man. Love his family.

Beverly Boyd Barnes - October 02, 2024 at 09:51 PM

KG

“ Coach Parks was our Jr. High home room teacher. He made learning fun for me. I He was our history teacher & I loved being in his class.



Kelly Bingham Green - October 02, 2024 at 09:15 PM