



Coach Lendell Massengale

September 10, 1932 - January 18, 2017

Coach Lendell Massengale, age 84, of Shelbyville, passed away Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

Funeral services will be 1 PM Monday, January 23, 2017, at Scott United Methodist Church. Dr. Robin Kimbrough will be eulogist. Burial will follow in Mt. Ararat Cemetery.

The family will receive visitors Sunday from 5-7 at the funeral home, and again Monday 11 AM until time of service at the church.

“Coach” Lendell Massengale, Sr. was born in Marshall, Texas, in Panola County, on September 10, 1932. He was one of 13 children, including a twin sister, Idell, born to Hugh T. and Susie V. Massengale.

He graduated from Pemberton High School in Marshall Texas in 1952, and went on to attend Tennessee State University (TSU) where he lettered in football for four years, playing the position of center. He also met and married his beloved wife, Marilyn Gipson Massengale, while at TSU. On Monday, January 15, 2017 they celebrated 62 years of marriage. To this union was born four amazing children – Lendell, Jr., Avery Carvel, Marilyn Louisa and Susan Ilene.

Coach, as he was affectionately known by most, received both his Bachelors and Masters degree from TSU in Physical Education and certification in counseling from MTSU. He began his career as an educator in Shelbyville, Tennessee, Marilyn's hometown, in 1956. At Bedford County Training School, later known as Harris High School. He was a classroom teacher and coached football, basketball and track. Later, after integration, he went to Central High School where he taught and coached track and freshman football. After his third season as Head Freshman Coach, his team was undefeated, of which Lendell Jr. was on the team. In his fourth season, the team was not only undefeated but unscored on with the opposing team never crossing the 50 yard line. He would conclude his career at Central High as a Guidance Counselor for 20 years, where he advised, encouraged and even insisted that his students attend college and/or attained gainful employment. In many instances, he would take students to colleges, from Shelbyville to Nashville and beyond to get them enrolled in addition to securing scholarships on their behalf.

In the role as community activist and servant, Coach served as a Shelbyville City Councilman for twenty years. He was the first African American to hold this position. He was threatened by the Klu Klux Klan when he led a movement to discontinue the collection of money at an intersection in downtown Shelbyville. The KKK once told him to step down as City Councilman or he would be killed. His response was "The coward who wrote that letter can come forward, we can discuss it like men." He was later appointed Vice Mayor of the city. He was the first African American to run for Mayor of the city of Shelbyville. His bid was unsuccessful, but it paved the way for many more who hold elected positions in the city and county today.

He played a pivotal role in the creation and current day reality of the H.V. Griffith Park and Recreation Facility where his name is etched on the cornerstone of the facility.

Coach taught many of the youth in Shelbyville to drive while serving as a Driver's Education Instructor. From 1972 – 1976, he could be heard on the Shelbyville radio station, spinning rhythm and blues records from 10 p.m. to midnight as the radio disc jockey known as the "Soul King." Coach was also an entrepreneur who sold cars and fine clothing accessories, in line with his own reputation for being well-dressed.

A member of Scotts Chapel United Methodist Church, Coach was a church trustee, among other roles. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, and continued to return to Marshall, Texas for his high school reunions, never missing one until his health began to decline.

Left to continue his legacy of achievement and service are his wife of 62 years, Marilyn Gipson Massengale, his children, Lendell, Jr. (Kelsey), Carvel (Anita), Marilyn Louisa Harris (Terone, Jr.) and Susan McClain; Sister, Ollie Massengale Braxton Greenhouse; grandchildren, Gabriel, Christi(Seth), Lenzie, Lexie, Dakota, Dalton, Avery, Ariel, Terone III, Terilyn, Bryson, Malia and Olivia; great-grandchildren, Myell, Amiyah and Halcyon; Brother-in-law, Samuel J.V. Abernathy, and a host of nephews, nieces, other relatives and family friends.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel
2022 North Main St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
(931) 684-8356
feldhausgowensmith@gmail.com
<http://feldhausgowensmith.com/>

Visitation

JAN **23**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel
2022 North Main St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
(931) 684-8356
feldhausgowensmith@gmail.com
<http://feldhausgowensmith.com/>

Service

JAN **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel
2022 North Main St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
(931) 684-8356
feldhausgowensmith@gmail.com
<http://feldhausgowensmith.com/>

Tribute Wall

JG

“Marilyn, I'm so sorry to learn of your amazing father's passing. I remember you speaking often of both your parents and the appearance on the Price is Right. Jackie Goode (from Crisis in Tullahoma).

Jackie Goode - January 24, 2017 at 11:21 PM

CB

“Hello Marilyn and Family,

I am extending my deepest sympathy to you on the passing of Lendell Massengale, a great husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather. I can remember meeting Lendell and some of the family at my grandmother Mary Brown's funeral in Midland, TX in the 1970's when I was still in college. My late father, Charles D. Brown Sr., was Lendell's first cousin.

I knew that Lendell lived in TN, unlike several of his brothers that I also met who resided in Los Angeles. I was able to see them more often when I traveled back to TX or vacationed in CA. I am sorry that I did not have the opportunity to spend more time with Lendell after reading all about the wonderful contributions he made to his students during his career in education as well as to his community. Those who knew him well were certainly blessed as he seemed to have given much in service to others.

I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

*Cassandra Brown-Collier
University Heights, OH*

Cassandra Brown-Collier - January 24, 2017 at 05:10 PM

YW

“ *Yolanda Wright lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Yolanda Wright - January 24, 2017 at 01:22 PM

YW

We are thinking about and praying for your family.

Yolanda Wright - January 24, 2017 at 01:23 PM

PM

“ *Uncle Lendell, aka Uncle Lank, you are the finest man I've ever known. Because of the example of manhood you have positively exemplified all men who have ever been fortunate enough to know you are better fathers, husbands and leaders. I just want to say thank you for bringing us all joy, and for encouraging us in our times of need. Rest In Peace Uncle Lank. Everything is going to be alright. Your nephew, Patrick Massengale.*

Patrick Massengale - January 24, 2017 at 10:29 AM

SP

“ *Sharhonda Pope lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Sharhonda Pope - January 24, 2017 at 04:01 AM

EM

“ Hold on to God unchanging hands. Love and prayers?

*Josephine Cole
Eddie jewel MOON
Johnetta Johnson
Doris Jenkins
Willie Dean Wilburn
Roy L. Edwards
Theodis Wilborn*



Eddie Jewel Moon - January 23, 2017 at 06:40 PM

NM

“ Marilyn, I am so sorry to hear about Coach. God needed a good man in his army, and he got one. Prayers needed, I am still having a hard time. Love and Prayers

Norma Mccurry - January 23, 2017 at 03:39 PM

TJ

“ Praying for the entire Massengale Family!



Toledo Johnson - January 23, 2017 at 08:46 AM

TJ

“ Toledo Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



Toledo Johnson - January 23, 2017 at 08:42 AM



“ Brenda Wilson lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



Brenda Wilson - January 23, 2017 at 05:00 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Coach Lendell Massengale.



January 22, 2017 at 11:09 PM

KE

“ Kay Elam lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



Kay Elam - January 22, 2017 at 09:00 PM

SC

“ *Sylvia Castleman lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Sylvia Castleman - January 22, 2017 at 08:23 PM

FH

“ *Frances Henderson lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Frances Henderson - January 22, 2017 at 09:50 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Coach Lendell Massengale.*



January 22, 2017 at 09:39 AM

RB

“ *Rita Batts lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Rita Batts - January 22, 2017 at 08:10 AM

MF

“ *Mark Swagerty and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Coach Lendell Massengale.*



Mark Swagerty and Family - January 21, 2017 at 10:04 PM

MC

“ *Our condolences to the Massengale family.
From the Collier Family*

Marvin Collier - January 21, 2017 at 09:34 PM

MS

“ *Mark Swagerty lit a candle in memory of
Coach Lendell Massengale*



Mark Swagerty - January 21, 2017 at 09:08 PM

MD

“ *My condolences to my classmate Lenny and to all the Massengale family. Coach will be remembered as a fine man by MANY Central High students from over the years.
Michael Davis, CHS class of 1970*

Michael Davis - January 21, 2017 at 04:55 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Coach Lendell Massengale.*



January 21, 2017 at 12:57 PM



“ *Bob Prince lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



bob prince - January 21, 2017 at 05:01 AM



“ *So sad to hear of the passing of such a GREAT man. Coach, you will remembered forever in the hearts of your former students and others who you touched. I am forever grateful for the impact you had on my life. Thanks for encouraging me. As Bob Hope said, "Thanks for the memories." Prayers to the family.*

Richard A. (Ricky) Fuller, SCHS, Class of 1975

Richard Fuller - January 20, 2017 at 02:01 PM



“ *Carvel and family, so sorry for your loss. Praying for the Lord to give you comfort and strength.*

Pat Holden

Pat Holden - January 20, 2017 at 01:44 PM

DS

“ *Debbie Smith lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Debbie Smith - January 20, 2017 at 01:44 PM

ML

“ *Minnie L.Henderson lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Minnie L.Henderson - January 20, 2017 at 01:32 PM

SZ

“ *So very sorry to hear about Coach Massengale's passing. Truly love and admire Coach Massengale and his wonderful family. What a wonderful teacher, man and role model for so many of us. God blessed Shelbyville, Tennessee with this man and his family. Praying for all family members as you celebrate his positive influence and life.*

Steve Zitney - January 20, 2017 at 11:00 AM

TI

“ *Toni Sebastian Inman lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Toni Sebastian Inman - January 20, 2017 at 10:28 AM

JA

“ *Carvel and family,*

I am so sorry for your loss and thinking of you during this time. I thought a lot of your dad and he meant so much to this community over the years.

Jan Harris Anthony

Jah Harris Anthony - January 20, 2017 at 10:23 AM

KH

“ *Kim Harvey lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Kim Harvey - January 20, 2017 at 10:19 AM

DR

“ *I only met Coach a couple of years ago but I very quickly grew to respect him. And loved talking to him. He will be remembered as a great person.. prayer to his family.My thoughts will be with you.*
DONNA REED.

Donna Reed - January 19, 2017 at 07:26 PM

JD

“ *Joyce Dawson sent a virtual gift in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Joyce Dawson - January 19, 2017 at 06:08 PM

JD

“Joyce Dawson sent a virtual gift in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



Joyce Dawson - January 19, 2017 at 06:07 PM

CG

“Carolyn Goodman lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



Carolyn Goodman - January 19, 2017 at 06:03 PM

CH

“Christie Harvey lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



christie harvey - January 19, 2017 at 05:01 PM

MJ

“Melanie Spence Johnson lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



Melanie Spence Johnson - January 19, 2017 at 03:45 PM

RS

“ We have lost a first class gentleman and an outstanding human being. Our deepest sympathies.

Roy & Cathy Stallings
Savannah, Georgia



Roy Stallings - January 19, 2017 at 02:30 PM

MW

“ Mary Reese Wright lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



Mary Reese Wright - January 19, 2017 at 01:43 PM

Adrian
Harvey

“ Adrian Harvey lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



Adrian Harvey - January 19, 2017 at 01:29 PM



“ Elsie Angus lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale



Elsie Angus - January 19, 2017 at 01:25 PM

DE

“ *Debbie lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Debbie - January 19, 2017 at 01:01 PM

DS

May the peace of God be with you.

Debbie Smith - January 19, 2017 at 01:19 PM

 Drew Harvey

“ *Drew Harvey lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Drew Harvey - January 19, 2017 at 12:30 PM

SF

“ *Sherry Smith Fyffe lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Sherry Smith Fyffe - January 19, 2017 at 11:29 AM

SF

May prayers and peace comfort this family through their loss. He was a truly inspirational man.

Sherry Smith Fyffe - January 19, 2017 at 11:31 AM

ET

“ *Elsie Trice lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Elsie Trice - January 19, 2017 at 11:03 AM

 Karyn Williams

“ *Truly an inspirational man, so sorry for you loss my prayers are with you!!*



Karyn Williams - January 19, 2017 at 10:58 AM

BB

“ *Heart felt condolences to The Family, Pray's and Love.*



Betty Ann Buckingham - January 19, 2017 at 09:57 AM

NB

“ *SORRY FOR YOUR LOST, LOVE YOU AND FAMILY.*

NANCY BUCHANAN - January 19, 2017 at 09:48 AM

Rita Rippy

“ *Rita Rippy lit a candle in memory of Coach Lendell Massengale*



Rita Rippy - January 19, 2017 at 08:45 AM

BD

Much love and thoughts from Scott Methodist church family and friends

Barbara Draine - January 19, 2017 at 01:09 PM

KM

MAY GOD COMFORT THE MASSENGALE FAMILY.COACH MASSENGALE WAS A PILLAR TO THIS COMMUNITY.KATHY ARNOLD MADDOX

KATHY ARNOLD MADDOX - January 19, 2017 at 02:34 PM

TM

May you family be comforted in you time of loss. He was a great man.

Todd Mayo - January 20, 2017 at 10:55 AM

VS

Pemberton High school, Marshall, Texas, class of 1952 send condolences to the Massengale family? He will not be forgotten. Our prayers are with the family.

Class of '52

Violet Jean Strange - January 22, 2017 at 08:24 PM