Mr. James J. Reed

September 20, 1929 - August 9, 2025

James J. Reed, 95, of Dover, Fl., who was Papa to his family and Coach to many, is with the angels and his beloved wife of 66 years, Lucille W. Reed, who predeceased him. He left us on Aug. 9, 2025.

Surviving are his son, James “Jimroe” Reed (Donna); daughter, Karen Barajas (Adam); grandchildren, Staci Altman (Ryan); Clay Barnes; Matthew Reed; and Amanda Pickett (Jimmy). Surviving great-grandchildren are Ryan, Aurora & Nova Altman; Grayson Hill; and Ali & Palmer Pickett. Also surviving are Jim’s wife, Janice Martinez; three stepchildren, Carole, Keith (Cecelia) and Stephen (Jeanette) McDonald; eight step grandchildren and one step great-granddaughter.

Born in Dover on Sept. 20, 1929 to James Lee and Marie (Williams) Reed, Jim was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Dover. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Southeastern State College in Durant, OK and a master’s degree from Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss. While in college in Oklahoma he met and married Lucille, his beautiful Choctaw school princess. He once wrote, “I had heard of love at first sight, and she was it.” His other claim to fame (his words), was a paid role in Jim Thorpe’s movie, “All American” while he was a college sophomore.

Jim began his teaching and coaching career in 1954 at the former Pinecrest

High School, where he was athletic director; football, basketball, baseball and track coach. Pinecrest was Tampa Bay Conference Co-Champions in football and state FFA softball champions under his leadership. In 1959, he began coaching football and baseball at the former Turkey Creek High School where he led the Gobblers to five Tampa Bay Conference football championships, including a 1968 district championship. In 1961, the Gobblers garnered the Hillsborough County Outstanding Team Award. With 100 wins, Jim still ranks among the county's winningest coaches. He was honored by the Tampa Chapter of the National Football Foundation and was the Bayshore Optimist Club's 1963 Coach of the Year. He spent 10 years as a Little League umpire.

Jim became Dean of Students at Plant City High School in 1973; then moved to the school district's administrative offices as a Management Analyst in 1980 until his retirement in 1990. After retirement, he helped coach the 1995 Plant City Little League All-Stars to a state championship. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps.

A celebration of Coach Reed's life will be held on Thursday, August 14 at 11:00 A.M. at the First Baptist Church of Dover, 3223 Gallagher Road, where the family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Dover Building Fund.

Cemetery Details

Dover Cemetery

3223 Gallagher Road
Dover, FL 33527
http://firstbaptistdover.org

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Dover
3223 Gallagher Rd
Dover, FL 33527
(813) 719-2273

Funeral Service

AUG **14**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Dover
3223 Gallagher Rd
Dover, FL 33527
(813) 719-2273

Tribute Wall

Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. James J. Reed

Hopewell Funeral Home - August 15, 2025 at 01:52 PM

VG

Our deepest sympathies. What difference he made for so many people. Blesdungs and peace to your dear family Ron and Vonda Gainey

Vonda and Ron Gainey - August 15, 2025 at 07:14 PM

VG

God bless you all.
Peace and blessings. What a great man

Vonda and Ron Gainey - August 15, 2025 at 07:15 PM

SK

Sylvia Knox lit a candle in memory of Mr. James J. Reed

Sylvia Knox - August 13, 2025 at 09:41 AM

SK

I worked with Jim at Turkey Creek and Plant City High Schools. He really made an impact upon the thousands of students and teachers he worked with. He will be remembered as a great man, teacher, and coach.

Sylvia Knox - August 13, 2025 at 09:45 AM

I attended Turkey Creek High School in the 7th Grade. Coach Reed was my Math teacher and was always an awesome teacher and was admired by everyone. Prayers for the Family.

Barbara Joiner - October 03, 2025 at 04:55 AM

44 files added to the album LifeTributes

Hopewell Funeral Home - August 13, 2025 at 08:30 AM

VG

Our deepest sympathies
What a great man. Blessings and peace

Vonda and Ron Gainey - August 15, 2025 at 07:16 PM

PT

Pam Jaudon Tehrani lit a candle in memory of Mr. James J. Reed

Pam Jaudon Tehrani - August 13, 2025 at 01:33 AM

GC

Ginger Cook lit a candle in memory of Mr. James J. Reed

Ginger Cook - August 12, 2025 at 09:55 PM

PD

Peggy Damron lit a candle in memory of Mr. James J. Reed

Peggy Damron - August 12, 2025 at 06:57 PM

SW

Jimroe, I'm so sorry for your and your family's loss. I hope you remember me when we were kids and played together. Y'all lived on the second story of the old Lithia/Pinecrest post office. My deepest condolences.

SandraShirley Waldron - August 12, 2025 at 05:07 PM