



James "Jimmy" P. Taylor, Jr.

March 1, 1942 - February 20, 2026

James Pickens Taylor, Jr, or "Jimmy", age 83, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on February 20, 2026. A native of Atlanta, he was born on March 1, 1942. Jimmy attended S.M. Inman Elementary School and graduated from Henry W. Grady High School in 1960, where he played varsity football and baseball and was in the JROTC. He was very active in his church, winning multiple city-wide televised bible quiz shows with other youth in 1957. He attended Newberry College (1961) and received his BA from Oglethorpe University in 1963. Jimmy received his MA in counseling from Appalachian State University in 1968 and completed further graduate work in Education Administration at Atlanta University.

Jimmy was employed by Atlanta Public Schools for 38 years (1963-2001). He was a teacher, counselor, and coach at Roosevelt High School for 6 years (1963-1969) where he taught social studies and drivers education, and coached football, baseball, track, and girls basketball. He then served as Principal at Grant Park for 3 years (1969-1972), Tull Waters for 19 years (1972-1991), John B. Gordon for 2 years (1991-1993), and Lakewood Heights Elementary School for 8 years (1993 to 2001). He was beloved by many teachers and students during his tenure with the Atlanta Public Schools. As a family, when shopping or eating, there would often be calls of "Hey, Mr. Taylor!" and the family would not know who it was. But later in the car, he would share the person's name, what school they went to, and how long they

attended that school.

Jimmy loved US and Georgia history, traveling, studying his family's genealogy and spending time with family at their home or at the Florida beach house. Most family vacations were educational in nature and revolved around National Parks, Presidential homes, historical monuments, and multiple campgrounds as the family tried to visit as many states as possible.

Jimmy was an active volunteer serving as a soccer coach for 10 years. He coached his son's soccer teams through the years (1982-1983 U10 rec Greyhounds, 1983 - 1984 classic Arsenal, 1984 - 1991 premier Phoenix '73) where they won four State championships. He served on the board of Directors of the Gwinnett Soccer Association, serving as Chairman when the present fields were dedicated. During the years leading up to the purchase of the land, the garage seemed to always be filled with fund-raising chocolate bars which the entire family was involved in selling. Jimmy also served on the Board of Directors of Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity for 10 years and Pinnacle Credit Union for over 25 years. In retirement, Jimmy volunteered as a tax preparer at the Newnan library for over 20 years. Jimmy was nearly a life-long member of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer where he was a devoted member for 75 years, serving as usher for over 50 years.

Jimmy is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Shera Ann Jones Taylor; daughter, Meredith Leigh Taylor Ivey (Russell) of Huntsville, AL; son, Mark Brandon Taylor (Brianna) of Marietta, GA; three grandchildren, Brandon James Ivey, Christine Leigh Ivey, and Sarah Jane Taylor. He was preceded in death by his parents James Pickens Taylor, Sr. and Margaret Adeline Coyne Taylor and by his brother Charles Frank Taylor.

The family encourages those who were touched by Jimmy's life to join in the celebration of his life at a memorial service to be held at Word of God

Lutheran Church 4486 Hwy. 34 East, Sharpsburg, GA, on February 28th, 2026 at 11:00. Visitation will be held 1 hour prior to the service. A reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall and the interment will be at 2:30 PM at Westview Cemetery in Atlanta.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice in his memory. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **28**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Word of God Lutheran Church
4486 East Highway 34
Sharpsburg, GA 30277

Funeral Service

FEB **28**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Word of God Lutheran Church
4486 East Highway 34
Sharpsburg, GA 30277

Tribute Wall



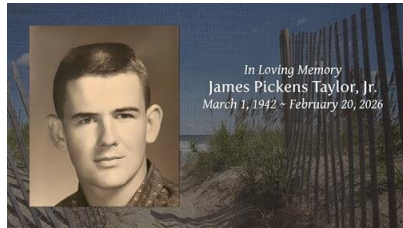
“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of James "Jimmy" P. Taylor, Jr.*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - February 28 at 12:23 PM



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jimmy" P. Taylor, Jr.*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - February 24 at 08:56 AM

TN

Absolutely beautiful memories of a God-fearing gentleman, wonderful husband, wonderful dad and precious friend! Our dear Mr. Jimmy Taylor.

T. Nyaguze - February 24 at 12:57 PM

SL

“ I was very sorry to read about the passing of Mr. Taylor. As the University Librarian at Oglethorpe University, I would like to honor Jimmy with a book in the library collection in his memory. If a family member would reach out to me with a title, I will purchase it and place a memorial book plate inside the front cover with his name. You can reach me via email at slewin@oglethorpe.edu.

Sarah Lewin
Oglethorpe University

Sarah Lewin - May 06 at 08:55 AM

HW

“ Mr. Taylor. Amazingly, I have known Mr. Taylor for 44 years, since I was five years old. I have a long and very fond history with him, even before I was born. He was my Mother's teacher when she was 13 or 14 years old. Ironically, he went to Boys High School in Atlanta, which later became Grady High School, which I attended. Mr. Taylor would later become my elementary school Principal. Providing me with my first plane trip that I can remember (because the very first one I was just two years old). To this day I have the souvenir from that trip. And who knew, later in life my mother would reconnect not with him just as my Principal, but eventually her boss. I am just grateful for the relationship Mrs. Taylor allowed us to have with him. I am evermore so grateful that she allowed me to visit him back in December.

I have always admired the family vacations Mr. Taylor and his family had. I know he TRULY loved his family. Sending all of my love to the family. All of my love to Mrs. Taylor and their children and grandchildren!!! I wish you all the peace and necessary comfort to cope with this very hard time!

-Hope

Hope (Jenkins) Williams - February 28 at 11:01 AM



“ I was only blessed with Jimmy’s presence in my life for a short 8 years. That was not nearly long enough. He was my mentor when I first volunteered with AARP Tax-Aide, and he taught me a lot. We had a laugh together when we discovered he knew my high school principal from Sylvan Hills High School, and I admitted I had been called to that office a couple of times but never punished. Jimmy was an altogether good human being, giving in nature, caring of heart, and always wanting the best for those around him. He will be missed by so many whose lives he touched.

Melissa Staton - February 24 at 04:02 PM



“ Extending my deepest condolences to you Mrs. Taylor and to your family. Sending my love and I will be praying for the Taylor family to receive the love and support that you all will need. Mr. Taylor was my late mom’s (Patricia Jenkins-Nyaguze) social studies teacher and my Elementary School principal at Tull Waters. In addition to this, Mr. Taylor was family! A heart of gold combined with love, joy and pure sincerity describes Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor did so much for my family. He was a true philanthropist. Thank you Mrs. Taylor for sharing your beloved husband and best friend with so many of us!

With Deepest sympathy,

Teresia Nyaguze-Allen



Teresia - February 24 at 12:40 PM

DW

“ I met Jimmy when I joined the Board of the Pinnacle Credit Union. Jimmy was always dedicated to the members of the Credit Union and he was diligent in his duties as a board member often pointing out things that other people may have missed. I am out of town on the day of the service but my thoughts go out to the family of this man who had a long history of working for the welfare of young people.

Dennis White

Dennis White - February 23 at 10:59 PM

SM

Sending my love and prayers to the Taylor Family from a Mountainbrooke neighbor from long ago fond memories. Sue May

Sue May - February 24 at 07:15 PM

LL

“ Jimmy and I were great friends for more than 40 years. We both coached separate soccer teams in the Gwinnett Soccer Association. As our sons advanced in age and skilled play we coached them together in several tournaments. We spent many hours together helping develop the Gwinnett soccer fields.

We enjoyed several camping trips with our sons.

Jimmy was a great people person. I never heard anyone say a negative word about him.

I was able to visit him while in the Hospice Care facility.

I was honored to have Jimmy Taylor as my friend and I will miss him greatly !

Ladale Lankford - February 23 at 10:46 PM

LL

“ *Ladale Lankford lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" P. Taylor, Jr.*



Ladale Lankford - February 23 at 10:24 PM

BN

Mr. Taylor was a great principal and friend. We worked together at Tull Waters Elementary school for many years. It was my pleasure to have worked under his leadership 🙌 May God bless his family. Barbara Naylor-Hill

Barbara Naylor-Hill - February 26 at 06:04 AM

TW

Jimmy Taylor is an example of a man whose life was well lived. His service to others in so many roles of leadership and friendship is truly remarkable. We knew Jimmy and Shera through his service on the Board of Pinnacle Credit Union. We have wonderful memories of trips, dinners, and years of meetings, while enjoying Jimmy's sense of humor and valuable insights. We pray for God's comfort and blessings for Shera and their family.

Alan and Tricia Weeks

Tricia Weeks - February 26 at 10:29 AM