



Kermit Silas Perry

May 13, 1933 - February 25, 2023

Kermit was born May 13, 1933, in Cedartown, GA, the only child of Elbert D. and Clara Mae Perry. He attended Cedartown High School where he excelled in football, basketball and track. Kermit graduated Cedartown High School before attending The University of Georgia, on football scholarship, for coach Wally Butts.

After sustaining 14 shoulder separations, his football days were over, but he completed his UGA athletic career as S.E.C. champion high-hurdler. He served as captain of the track team for two years, and president of the G-Club. Kermit credited his success in track to his coach and mentor, the late coach "Spec" Forest Towns. Some of Kermit's records still stand today.

While at the University, Kermit was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, Gridiron, Sphinx, and Blue Key Secret Society. During his senior year, he was presented the "Distinguished Military Student" award and was a member of Scabbard and Blade, a military honor society. After graduation, he served six months of active duty with the U.S. Army. During that time, he won the high hurdles at the Sugar Bowl invitational, set a hurdlers record at the Fort Benning Invitational, and was chosen to the third Army All-Star team.

Kermit received his master's degree in Education Administration at Peabody University. He was hired as track coach and assistant football coach at Darlington School in Rome, Ga, and later coached football and was head track coach at Richmond Academy in Augusta. In 1960, Kermit became the head football coach in Tifton, GA. In 1964, Kermit left the ranks of high school athletics to be head of the Department of Recreation in Newnan, GA. While in Newnan, he was active in various civic organizations, President of the Kiwanis Club and named Newnan Jaycee's "Young Man of the Year" in 1967.

Kermit's involvement was not only as a coach and player. He spent 25 years officiating high school and college basketball. He remained active for many years with the SEC basketball tournament administration. In 1971, Kermit returned to his alma mater, UGA, as the business manager for the Bulldogs, later becoming assistant athletics director for UGA

with coach Vince Dooley.

In 1981, opportunity was called by way of new Auburn head coach, Pat Dye. Kermit joined the Auburn staff as assistant athletics director - responsible for facilities and game operations. He and his wife, Betsy packed away all of their red and black memorabilia and became loyal Auburn Tigers.

In 1992, Kermit and Betsy moved to Newnan. They unpacked their red and black from the Alma Mater they shared but kept a warm place for the many friends they had in Auburn. Kermit remained active as a knowledgeable athletics supporter for the University of Georgia and local high school teams. For ten years he hosted coach Danny Cronic's weekly tv show for East Coweta High School.

In 1992, after 22 years in college athletics, Kermit entered a new career with the Georgia Department of Pardons and Paroles. During the next eleven years, he achieved certification as a post certified instructor and master instructor. He spent countless hours in the classroom at the Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth teaching in service for parole, GBI, Georgia Police Corp and the general instruction department. Throughout his career, Kermit has enjoyed being asked to speak at numerous conferences and workshops on a variety of topics.

Kermit served on the Coweta Sports Hall of Fame board and was inducted as a member in 2006, for his notable contributions to athletics both on and off the field. Kermit's love of people kept him very active, and he enjoyed his participation in the White Oak Men's golf association. He loved to share a good story and his many years of high school and college athletics provided him with endless material.

The memorial service celebrating the life Kermit lived is Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 3:00 PM at SonRise Baptist Church, 6 Shenandoah Blvd E, in Newnan with Rev. Don Helms and Dr. Tim Riordan officiating. The family will receive friends on Sunday from 2:00 PM until service time at the church.

He is survived by his wife, Betsy Haavie Perry; son, Steve Perry and his wife Angel; grandchildren Heather and Jackson Perry; step son Chip Marett and his wife Kathryn and their children Kiley and Briggs Marett; Step daughter Laura Marett and her husband Scott Wilkening and their child Henry Wilkening.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be made in Kermit's name to

Spec Towns Endowment, In Care of the Georgia Bulldog Club, P.O. Box 1472, Athens, GA 30603 or to SonRise Baptist Church Youth Program, 6 Shenandoah Blvd E., Newnan, GA 30265.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

SonRise Baptist Church
6 Shenandoah Blvd
Newnan, GA 30265

Funeral Service

FEB 5. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

SonRise Baptist Church
6 Shenandoah Blvd
Newnan, GA 30265

Tribute Wall

NT

“ *Kermit was a wonderful great man.
I am truly sorry he has left us.*

Nancy Twomey - March 08, 2023 at 09:35 PM

JT

“ *Betsy, I am very sad for your loss. I got to know Kermit while on the track team at UGA. I always enjoyed talking to him and swapping Coach Towns stories. Not many people can claim to have beaten Coach in a hurdle race but legend has it that Kermit did just that. Jimmy Tuggle, UGA Track Captain 1970*

JIMMY TUGGLE - March 08, 2023 at 02:44 PM

CH

“ *For someone who has a lot of words, I'm left with none, except "wow" and "I love you." Wow both at all the super amazing things he did in his life (that I didn't know anything about!!!) and that in a blink, he's gone from this world. And the I love you is self explanatory, but Mrs. Betsy- I absolutely do, and am here for you, day or night- you call and I will be there. ❤️*

Chasidy - March 04, 2023 at 07:24 PM

RW

“ *It broke my heart to see Mr. Kermit's passing. My husband and I got to know him when we lived in Newnan. The last time I saw him was when we were having lunch at White Oak a few years ago while visiting. Mr. Kermit came over to our table and visited for a while. What a sweet man. I know he will be missed. Prayers for your family during this time.*

Ruth Jones Warren - March 03, 2023 at 11:40 AM

DH

“ *Betsy, I'm so sorry for the loss of your dear Kermit. I was in Newnan the other day and thought about you two. May God bless you in this difficult time.*

Debbie Hester - March 03, 2023 at 09:51 AM

JH

“ Mr. Kermit was an annual participant in the Bedrock classic golf tournament, a local tournament that was a benefit for the S.A.F.E. educational program. It was hear that I first met Kermit 20 years ago. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. Please know you are in my thoughts, and prayers during this difficult time. Until we all meet again Mr. Perry may your rest peacefully.



Jamie Hixson - March 03, 2023 at 07:26 AM



“ I knew Kermit for a relatively short time but enjoyed dozens of rounds of golf with him. You simply fell in love with him - he was truly a gentleman and will be sorely missed. May he rest in peace.

Danny Hager - March 02, 2023 at 07:33 PM

RO

“ Kermit did a great job as a trainer with the Parole Board and was a fine fellow.. His family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers.

Roger Nott, retired Parole Officer - March 02, 2023 at 06:11 PM

YF

“ Kermit has always been a dear, dear friend. Enjoyed a many conversations with him. We discussed law enforcement and it's training, countless hours of Georgia, Auburn, East Coweta and Newnan football. I can hear him say, “now hears a good one for you”. Oh, and the golf stories. According to him no one could play a particular hole at White Oak better than he. Will miss my friend. Ms. Betsy and family you better believe our conversations also included y'all! My prayers to you for God's peace and comfort in the days ahead. Retired Sheriff Mike and Bev Yeager Family

Yeager Family - March 02, 2023 at 10:01 AM

LH

“ I only knew Kermit through Steve and Angel as we are neighbors. If the measure of a man can be ascertained through the stature of his children, then Kermit was a giant among men!

liz Higgins - March 02, 2023 at 08:05 AM

AP

Thank you Liz ❤️

angel perry - March 05, 2023 at 09:34 PM

NY

“ Blessings to you Betsy. I know you have lost your best friend. But remember your loss is only temporary. Neely.

neely young - March 02, 2023 at 07:09 AM

DL

“ HEY BETSY & FAMILY , SO SORRY TO HEAR OF KERMIT'S PASSING ! GOD BLESS YOU ALL & REMEMBER GOD HEALS ALL ! DOUG LANDRUM & FAMILY ! YA'LL ARE IN OUR PRAYERS !

DOUG LANDRUM - March 01, 2023 at 09:48 PM

BI

“ My fondest memory of Kermit was when adult men softball players in Newnan would tease Kermit that he set up the softball fence depth based on the distance needed to ensure he could hit home runs. All the players loved him.

Billy - March 01, 2023 at 08:38 PM

BN

“ Kermit's friends have a variety of memories. My favorite memory of Kermit was how much he loved and worshiped his Betsy. His love for her was a love for the ages. I will remember him the most for that. RIP Kermit

Barbara Nesbitt - March 01, 2023 at 06:18 PM

TW

“ Mr & Mrs Perry are 2 of my favorite people who trust me to take of grooming their dog Sadie. I always looked forward to seeing him bring Miss Sadie in and tell me how excited she would get in the drive over. I will very much miss seeing him and his warm smile and how much he LOVED his little pupper.
To all his family, you have my deepest condolences and are in my prayers for healing of broken hearts.
Tina Walsh

Tina Walsh - March 01, 2023 at 06:07 PM

GP

“ Gerrie Petty lit a candle in memory of Kermit Silas Perry



Gerrie Petty - March 01, 2023 at 07:09 AM

ME

“ I was very saddened to hear of Kermit's passing. What a wonderful and honorably man. A great neighbor and someone that made a difference in the lives of countless people. I wish we had more Kermit Perrys in our world. Thinking of you Betsy, and your family.

Mark Elrod - February 28, 2023 at 09:40 PM

AW

“ One of our favorite people on earth, our cherished friend Kermit will surely be missed by all who knew him. Kermit could always be counted on for a warm hug, and a chuckle or three! He made this world a better place with his presence. Sending big hugs to you, Betsy, and to the entire family❤️

angie weathersby - February 28, 2023 at 07:12 PM

JJ

“ My deepest condolences to the family.

Jimmie Rowell Jones - February 28, 2023 at 05:07 PM