



Richard Crawford Brooks

December 13, 1945 - October 11, 2022

Richard Crawford Brooks, 76, of Newnan passed away Tuesday, October 11, 2022. He was born December 13, 1945 in Lake City, FL to the late Harold Brooks & Doris Crawford Brooks.

Richard grew up in Lake City, FL before moving to Auburn where he graduated from Auburn High School in 1963. He received his undergraduate degree from Auburn University and his graduate degrees from the University of West Georgia.

Richard Brooks served as a Coweta County teacher, principal, school system administrator and Superintendent of the Coweta County School system during his 30-year career in education, 1972 to 2002.

Brooks began his educational career after several years as a manager for the Firestone Tire Company. He began teaching industrial arts at Newnan High School in 1972, before moving to the newly-opened O.P. Evans Junior High School as a teacher.

In 1975, Brooks returned to Newnan High School as an Assistant Principal, under Principal Holmes Cunningham. In 1976 he was named the Principal of Central High School, which at that time served 9th and 10th grade students in the Newnan High district.

In 1986, Brooks was appointed as the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services for the school system. Among the many duties of that position, Brooks oversaw the first major school construction program in Coweta County in 30 years. Between the 1950's and the 1985 only one new school - O.P.

Evans Junior High, now Evans Middle School - had been built. The 1980's building program coincided with a significant increase in Coweta's suburban population growth. In 1994, Brooks was named Superintendent of Schools by the Coweta County Board of Education. In both positions, Brooks continued to oversee major capital programs to meet the rapid growth student enrollment. During Richard Brooks' administrative career, 12 new schools were built, including Northgate High School, Coweta County's third high school. With the exception of three older schools that were closed (Madras, East Newnan and Grantville Brown), every existing school in the county had been expanded or refurbished to some extent before Brooks retired as Superintendent. Two other dreams were realized during Brooks tenure as Superintendent - the establishment of the Central Educational Center and the start of construction on the school system's Centre for Performing and Visual Arts.

Brooks worked with Dr. Joe Harless and Coweta County business leaders in the late 1990's to conceive of and establish the Central Educational Center, Coweta County's first charter school. After a community-wide planning process spanning several years, the state of Georgia approved CEC's charter as a joint partnership between the school system, West Central Technical College and the local business community.

Brooks' career was dedicated entirely to the Coweta County public school system, and included eight years as Superintendent from 1994 until his retirement on March 31, 2002. Upon his retirement, Richard Brooks was honored by the Georgia legislature for his eight years of service as Superintendent of Coweta County Schools.

In 2008, the Coweta County School System began construction on the county's 19th elementary school in northwestern Coweta County. The Coweta County Board of Education voted unanimously that year to name the school in honor of the former Superintendent of Schools. Brooks Elementary School was opened in August 2009.

Always active in community service, Brooks has also served as Chairman and acting President of the Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce, President of

the local United Way, President of the Newnan Civitan Club, Chairman of the Coweta County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and on the Board of Directors for the First United Methodist Church of Newnan, among other honors and associations. In the 1990's Richard and Donna Brooks became the first married couple to be members of the Newnan Rotary Club at the same time.

War Damn Eagle!

Condolences may be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

The memorial service is 11 a.m. Monday, October 17, 2022 at Newnan First United Methodist Church with Rev. Connor Bell, Dr. Jimmy Ellison, and Rev. Gary Parrish officiating. The visitation is Sunday afternoon between 3-5 p.m. at McKoon Funeral Home. Rather than flowers, the family requests donations be made to either Coweta Fellowship of Christian Athletes at www.cowetafca.org/donate or to Coweta Samaritan Clinic at www.cowetasamaritanclinic.org Survivors include wife, Donna Staples Brooks; children, Alyssa Payson, Ryan (Alexis) Brooks, Rebecca (Lee) Chisolm, Robin (Jeff) Brown; grandchildren, Charlie Chisolm, Brooks Chisolm, Drew Brooks, Mac Brooks, Ola Brown, Camille Brown, Pelham Brown, Cara Payson, Paul Bell; and brother, Randy Brooks.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Memorial Service

OCT **17**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Newnan First United Methodist Church
33 Greenville Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Crawford Brooks*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - October 16, 2022 at 03:54 PM

SR

“ *Ryan, I am sorry to read of your father's passing. He impacted so many lives in positive ways and set a great example for what it means to be a man. I cannot imagine how proud he was of you and the life you've built. I pray for comfort and peace for you and your family.*

Shane Reynolds - October 24, 2022 at 05:15 PM

SM

“ Donna, wife Marty and I send our sincere condolences to you and your family. A life devoted to educating our most precious resource...our future leaders...our children...is a most noble thing. You may be aware that my Dad was Superintendent of Coweta County Schools at one time. We moved to Meriwether in 1965 and did not overlap Richard's time there, but I can know more than most the challenges he faced and appreciate the successes he accomplished for the youth of Coweta, as well as his other noteworthy community service besides to the schools. I just learned of his passing when our Agency Sales Leader forwarded to us. May God comfort you in your time of loss.
Samuel Morris, Jr.

Sam Morris - October 18, 2022 at 02:39 PM

ER

“ Enesta Favors Reeves lit a candle in memory of Richard Crawford Brooks



Enesta Favors Reeves - October 17, 2022 at 12:48 PM

SP

“ Shirley Porter lit a candle in memory of Richard Crawford Brooks



Shirley Porter - October 17, 2022 at 11:17 AM

SP

Mr. Richard Brooks proved to be a dedicated leader and a well-respected principal during the ten years I taught at Central High School.

I send my condolences and prayers to his family. May your hearts be touched by the love that surrounds you.

Shirley Porter - October 17, 2022 at 11:27 AM

MJ

“*Mr. Brooks was my principal at Central High School. I gained to love he and his wife through the wonderful times I witnessed as a 9 and 10th grade. I heard a lot of complaints but when someone treats you as if you are special you learn to love, care and respect the person. Said on Mr. Brooks, and be sure to say hi to my mother your cafeteria managerManager!*”



Matthew Bailey Jr - October 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM

PG

“*So very sorry to hear this about Mr. Brooks. Many Prayers, Hugs and Love to his loving wife, Donna, all his children and grand children during this difficult time. Mr. Brooks was one of the BEST!! I worked with him for many years at Central. He was always well respected by all the staff and all the other workers at the school. He treated everyone the same, no matter what your title or position was. We always wanted to do the best we could for him, the students and the school. His accomplishment for the Coweta County Schools and Newnan were many. Mr. Brooks will be missed by everyone that knew him and had the honor to work with him.*
RIP my friend,
Pat Grubbs”



Pat Grubbs - October 16, 2022 at 08:16 PM

LF

“ *Lisa Fitzpatrick lit a candle in memory of Richard Crawford Brooks*



Lisa Fitzpatrick - October 16, 2022 at 04:59 PM

PS

“ *Richard was a true professional, a “brick and mortar” Superintendent who did so much for this school system including expanding our existing schools, building new schools, and pushing for the construction of the Nixon Centre which has become such a centerpiece of our school system. I especially remember him being kind to me when he really didn’t have to. So very sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy. Peter & Jean Skrmetti*

Peter & Jean Skrmetti - October 16, 2022 at 10:20 AM

GW

“ *Richard was my boss and mentor for my entire tenure with the school system, first when I was a teacher at Central High and later when we both took administrative jobs at the central office.*

I am so grateful for all he did to support me and further my career. He was not only a professional colleague, but also a friend. He really cared for the children under his charge and did so much to improve and expand upon all the good educational work that was going on in the system.

I'll never forget a piece of advice he gave me about dealing with parents while I was still in the classroom. It was - that it's not always important sometimes what the situation actually is, but rather what it appears to be. That is, we must put ourselves in parents shoes and take care to imagine how things will appear to them, not what the actual facts may be and plan our work accordingly.

The school system benefited greatly by his work and leadership and those who knew him as a friend were richly blessed as well.

Rest in peace my old friend.

Gary Waters - October 16, 2022 at 07:55 AM

DC

“ *I worked for Richard at Central High School. He loved Coweta Schools! So sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers for the family! Rest In Peace my friend! 🙏*

Donna Carter - October 15, 2022 at 05:47 PM

SH

“ *Richard was a wonderful family man, he was a tremendous leader and a huge part of our community and he was a true friend to so many. Donna and family our thoughts and prayers to all of you. May God give you peace and comfort in the days ahead. Donna we always enjoyed seeing and talking to y'all. War Eagle! Our friend. Love, Bev and Mike Yeager Family*

SheriffYeagerFamily - October 15, 2022 at 11:50 AM

SW

“ *As a substitute teacher in Coweta County schools over many years I was pleased to work alongside and under Mr. Brooks' supervision. He treated everyone with respect and therefore they treated him likewise. It's heartbreaking to hear of his passing and I am praying for Mrs. Brooks and all of their family. Take care of yourselves as you navigate this difficult journey ahead.*

Susan Osborne Weegar - October 15, 2022 at 03:17 AM

GH

“ *Ginger Hartlein lit a candle in memory of Richard Crawford Brooks*



Ginger Hartlein - October 14, 2022 at 02:12 PM

MC

“ Back in the day, Richard Brooks was the top Principal in Coweta Co.

He was highly respected by students and teachers alike. Richard was a rock of stability in a school (Central High) that was rough by today's standards.

I was always impressed in how he treated people from the students to the janitor. He had time for everyone and was supremely confident, but always humble and caring. No one at Central High ever wanted to disappoint him.

I saw him under extreme duress when a group of students overdosed in his office, our school made the Atlanta TV news that day - but Richard somehow remained calm and reassuring.

Central led the way in things like advanced classes for honors students, when that wasn't in vogue. He met a lot of resistance at times in building the Honors Program, but always remained focused on turning Central into a great school.

I know he suffered with health issues lately, but back in the day Richard exuded strength and he was the best Principal out there.

matt collins - October 14, 2022 at 11:38 AM

TC

“ We are heart-broken to hear of this sad news. Donna, we pray that God will comfort you and the family. Sending prayers and love.
Tommy and Sharlon Cobb

Tommy and Sharlon Cobb - October 13, 2022 at 02:06 PM

DC

“ My condolences to the Books family. Mr. brooks was a very kind Principal at Central High School.

Donna M. Cook

Donna M. Cook - October 13, 2022 at 11:56 AM

FF

“ Our prayers are with all the Brooks family during this most difficult time. Mr. Brooks did an outstanding job leading the Coweta County School System for 8 years and made a lasting impact on the system and the community. His accomplishments were many and he will be missed by everyone that knew him. I appreciated the advice and support I received from Mr. Brooks during my service on the Board of Education.

*Sincerely,
Frank and Melody Farmer*

FRANK AND MELODY FARMER - October 13, 2022 at 11:40 AM

GP

“ Gerrie Petty lit a candle in memory of Richard Crawford Brooks



Gerrie Petty - October 13, 2022 at 08:15 AM

AD

“ I served as an assistant principal from 1980 to 1986 under Richard at Central High School. I was also his neighbor. I learned a tremendous amount about school leadership from Richard. He once told me, “Surround yourself with competent people and let them do their job.”

The greatest concept I learned from Richard was the importance of supervision of students. He instilled in me the necessity of never letting students go unsupervised for a single minute of the school day. As much as parents want their children to learn, they want them to come home safe and sound even more.

He also taught me the importance of good public relations between schools and the public. He advocated an open door policy, inviting parents to see the good things going on in our school.

Richard and I had fun, too. As neighbors, we enjoyed watching our children play together, and our pets too. His boxer, Belle, and our cat, Willie Nelson Denny, enjoyed a love-hate relationship that Richard and I laughed at many times.

*Rest well, my friend.
Andy Denny*

Andy Denny - October 12, 2022 at 10:53 PM

NT

“ Donna, Praying for you during this sad time. Please know I am here if you need to talk. Nancy Twomey

Nancy Twomey - October 12, 2022 at 09:28 PM

RP

“ *Renee Proctor lit a candle in memory of Richard Crawford Brooks*

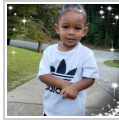


Renee Proctor - October 12, 2022 at 07:58 PM

LM

Richard was such a fine and successful man. Donna, you are such a smart and sweet woman. Love to you and your children. Take care in the days ahead. 🙏🙏

Lynne and Hugh Maddux - October 12, 2022 at 08:29 PM



Donna you and your family are in my prayers 🙏

Frances Smith - October 12, 2022 at 08:44 PM



Donna you and your family are in our prayers 🙏

Frances Smith - October 12, 2022 at 08:44 PM

KH

“ *Mr Brooks was the sweetest person at the school he was always in a good mood and very nice to everyone Prayers too all Rest In Peace*



Kay Cochran Hemmings - October 12, 2022 at 05:50 PM