



T. Holmes Cunningham

August 29, 1922 - November 1, 2016

Turner "Holmes" Cunningham, age 94, passed away peacefully at his home in Newnan surrounded by family on November 1, 2016. He was born on August 29, 1922 at home in Shellman, GA to the late Velma Holmes Cunningham and Robert Douglas Cunningham

Along with his parents Holmes is preceded in death by his loving and caring wife Gerry Cunningham whom he was married to for over 67 wonderful years. Holmes was the second oldest of 5 children, brothers Doug and Harold along with sister Edna Claire have also passed on. His surviving sister Carolyn "Shug" Walton just celebrated her 88th birthday and resides in Eatonton. Survivors include his proud children, Bob Cunningham, Cathy Cunningham, Mark Cunningham and his wife Patty and Craig Cunningham and his wife Jill. Holmes was granddad "Papa" to grandchildren, Courtney, Rob, Jackson, Lindsey, Brooks, Kelly and two great grandchildren Julia and Evie were all a great joy to Holmes.

During his enrollment at North Georgia Military College he was proud to answer his country's call to duty after the attack on Pearl Harbor. During his WWII duty in Panama and Guatemala he served with the U.S. Army. He was then called up during the Korean conflict as an Air Force Officer. He remained in the Air Force for over 25 years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force reserves.

In 1947 he got his first degree from the University of Georgia and began his teaching career in Tignell, GA. While furthering his educational career, Holmes

made stops in Wheeler County, Laurens County, Carroll County, Houston County, DeKalb County and on his final stop he was principal of Newnan High School from 1970 until 1983. During his time, as principal of Newnan High school Holmes had the privilege of watching all four of his children graduate and served two terms on the board of education.

Holmes was a sport model granddad and loved entertaining and spending time with all of his grandchildren. Holmes was an avid tennis player and enjoyed playing all the way up until his early 80's. He was a voracious reader of non-fiction and loved watching and pulling for his beloved Georgia Bulldogs in any sport. His kind, loving spirit will be missed by all who knew him.

The funeral service is Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 11 AM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home with Rev. Dan Akins. The family will receive friends from 9 AM until service time at McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson Street in Newnan. Burial will be at 4 PM on Saturday at Pine Grove Cemetery in Eatonton GA.

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

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

Cemetery Details

Pine Grove Cemetery, Eatonton, GA

Grove Street
Eatonton, GA 31024

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 5. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

NOV 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Tribute Wall

JE

“ *Mr. Cunningham was my principal at NHS in the 10th grade. He retired the next year. I will always remember him at morning duty in the front lobby. My condolences to his whole family. Thinking of you all.*

jennifer Welch Egas - November 05, 2016 at 10:22 PM

CP

“ *I was so sad to hear of Holmes passing. Our heartfelt condolences to all of the family.*
Cheryl Peake

cheryl peake - November 05, 2016 at 04:43 PM

BP

“ *He has left a great legacy.*
Beth Spradlin Pitts

Beth Spradlin Pitts - November 05, 2016 at 05:22 AM

LW

“ *Mr. Cunningham was a wonderful friend and mentor to me. He helped me get into and make it through Ga Tech. He gave me my commissioning oath when I entered the Air Force. He was always there for me and my family. I loved him very much.*



Lionel Wynn - November 04, 2016 at 10:11 PM



“ 97 files added to the album LifeTributes



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - November 04, 2016 at 03:13 PM



“ My sincerest condolences go to Mr. Cunningham's family. He hired me as soon as our initial interview was over, and I am forever grateful in his trust and judgement. He remained a mentor and friend over the years, not just a principal. His wisdom, dedication, and inspiration has affected many and will continue to do so. While I and others mourn his passing, we will always have a loving respect for the legacies he has left behind.

Dan Coleman, Newnan HS - November 04, 2016 at 09:51 AM



That is Dan Coleman at Newnan HS.

Dan Coleman - November 04, 2016 at 09:52 AM



“ Quite simply, Holmes Cunningham was the finest teacher I ever had. His inspiration enriched my life and expanded my horizons. A fine man I respect very much and hold his memory as one of my treasures. Rest in peace. Mike Steed

Mike Steed - November 03, 2016 at 08:55 PM

MB

“ On behalf of the Newnan High School Class of 1971, we wish to express our sincere condolences to the Cunningham Family and all who knew and loved Mr. Turner Holmes Cunningham, our beloved Principal. Mr. Cunningham was an exceptional educator and leader. We are proud to have had him at the helm to help us navigate through the unchartered course of our senior year of high school. His memory will live eternally in our hearts. Melvin Bolton, President, Newnan High School Class of 1971



Melvin Bolton - November 03, 2016 at 07:50 PM

BC

Thank you Melvin, Bob Cunningham

Bob Cunningham - November 04, 2016 at 11:15 AM



“ My condolences go out to the whole family. Mr.C helped a lot of us become responsible adults, for that we will always be grateful.

Brenda Jackson - November 03, 2016 at 05:29 PM

CH

“ My condolences goes out to Craig and the rest of the family. Mr. Cunningham was such a good person and seems like he was born to be a leader. I was proud to have him as my principal. May God bless you all.

Carolyn Hudson - November 03, 2016 at 11:33 AM

RP

“ *Ray and I lost a great friend when Holmes passed away. Fond memories will always be with us. He is now with the love of his life, Gerry. I pray that the family will find comfort and peace in the days to follow. Always remember that we love you, the family.*

*God Bless You All,
Gerrie and Ray*

Ray and Gerrie Petty - November 03, 2016 at 09:02 AM