



## "Buddy" Roy Knapp Jr.

October 9, 1944 - January 3, 2026

Coach "Buddy" Roy Knapp Jr. age 81 of Centre, passed away Saturday, January 03, 2026 at his home.

Buddy Knapp leaves behind a legacy of leadership, dedication, and service that spanned more than five decades in education and athletics.

Beginning his coaching career in Notasulga High School in 1969, Buddy Knapp devoted his life to mentoring young athletes through both football and basketball, believing that sports provided a foundation for discipline, integrity, and lifelong values. His coaching journey continued at Carrollton High School from 1976 to 1987, Mount Zion High School from 1987 to 1996, Coosa High School from 1996 to 2001, and concluded with a return to Mount Zion High School from 2001 to 2003.

To his players, Buddy was more than a coach—he was a mentor, teacher, and steady influence during some of the most formative years of their lives.

Whether on the football field or the basketball court, he emphasized effort, accountability, and respect. One of his most enduring lessons was his belief that athletes should always carry themselves with "class, character, and clout," a phrase that became a cornerstone of his coaching philosophy and a standard his teams were proud to uphold.

Among his fellow coaches and coworkers, Buddy was known for his integrity, loyalty, and tireless work ethic. He led by example and earned the respect of colleagues through fairness, consistency, and an unwavering commitment to his athletes. He never asked more of others than he was willing to give

himself.

He often reminded his teams to “do things the right way, even when no one is watching,” a principle that guided both his coaching and his life. His influence reached far beyond seasons and scoreboards, shaping young men and women long after their playing days had ended.

Buddy Knapp leaves behind a lasting legacy in the countless athletes he coached, the colleagues he supported, and the communities he faithfully served. Built over five decades of dedication, his impact will continue to live on through the lives he touched and the values he instilled—forever defined by class, character, and clout.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Thursday, January 08, 2026 at 12:00PM in the chapel of Perry Funeral Home, the family will receive friends from 11:00AM till the hour of service at the funeral home.

He is survived by his wife; Rita Ann Cothran Knapp, sons: Brian Scott (Tashia) Knapp, Brady Keith Knapp, stepson; Jonathan Allen Roberts, step-daughter; Aimee Nicole Macmahon, grandchildren; Gracie Allen (Cash), Bristol Knapp, Emerson Knapp, Theodore Knapp, special friends; The Mighty Ballers, John Hill, Larry Bing, Knowlin Wood, George Scroggins, Ricky Tollison. The family request no flowers and donations be made to Centre First Baptist Church Building Fund or The Gaylesville High School Booster Club.

Perry Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements

[www.perryfuneral.net](http://www.perryfuneral.net)

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Friends

JAN 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Perry Funeral Home  
1611 Clarence E Chesnut Jr Bypass  
Centre, AL 35960  
(256) 927-3222

## Celebration of Life

JAN 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Perry Funeral Home  
1611 Clarence E Chesnut Jr Bypass  
Centre, AL 35960  
(256) 927-3222

# Tribute Wall



“ 140 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Perry Funeral Home Inc.** - January 08 at 10:18 AM

RY

“ No words can explain how much Coach sewed into my life, both as a player and young man. His support continued throughout my life and was a constant, especially after my father passed. I wish all young people could experience the influence of such a special person. RIP Coach, you played a great game! Ron Young CHS '82

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**Ron Young** - January 07 at 12:59 PM

EW

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Knapp Family. I am a former student of Notasulga High School.  
*Elaine Robinson Whatley*

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**Elaine Robinson Whatley** - January 07 at 12:20 PM

OD

“ I had Coach Knapp as a teacher in the early 1990's & one thing that stood out to me later in life was his willingness to talk to his players about God. I was a band student so we often heard his talks to his team after the game. This was something most teachers/ coaches wouldn't do.He was a witness to many & I'm sure his seeds are still being sown today. Prayers for the family. Orlando Bowman Driver

Orlando Bowman Driver - January 06 at 09:20 PM

WR

“ Rita & Family: Our condolences to each of you in the passing of Bro Buddy. Met him some years ago when we attended the FBC in Centre, Al. Buddy and I become friends and I always enjoyed talking to Buddy. We served as ushers there .at FBC. Nice person and was a class act person . May God bless and comfort each of his family. Wendell O. Rakestraw, Centre, Al

Wendell O Rakestraw - January 06 at 07:45 AM

VI

“ So sorry for your loss. Buddy was such a kind man. His family will be in my thoughts and prayers.  
Vickie Moon

vickie - January 06 at 07:31 AM

CM

“ Chris, Brandi & Jenna Mosley purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of "Buddy" Roy Knapp Jr..



Chris, Brandi & Jenna Mosley - January 06 at 06:02 AM



“ *A truly great man who made a difference in the lives of many people including my own. I love you Coach Knapp!*

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**Jamey Williams** - January 05 at 11:52 PM

CE

“ *Charles E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of "Buddy" Roy Knapp Jr..*

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**Charles E.** - January 05 at 04:44 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of "Buddy" Roy Knapp Jr..*



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January 05 at 04:44 PM

BF

“ *Sending my condolences rest in peace Coach Knapp*

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**Bruce Farmer** - January 05 at 01:39 PM

DW

“ *I met Buddy when I first started teaching at Central High School through the work I did with our athletic program. Buddy was always nice to me. He was truly a class act! He will be missed.*



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**Denise Walker** - January 05 at 11:54 AM

KH

“Buddy coached our Carrollton Trojans during the years our son Ron played. He was an inspiration and a model of character and class. We send love to Brady, Brian, and all other family members. Prayers for peace. Kathy (Young) Howell, Carrollton

Kathy Howell - January 05 at 11:04 AM

SC

“Coach Knapp was great coach and person! As a competitor he would do everything in his power to win, then turn around and do everything in his power to help those he competed against. He was the ultimate gentleman who believed in the goodness of others. His legacy of integrity, passion and positivity impacted countless people across his years of service!

Scott Cowart - January 05 at 10:41 AM

DT

I was fortunate enough to meet Coach Knapp in 1994 when I began my career in Carroll County in 1994 when I was a first year teacher and coach. Coach Knapp was a total class act and served as not just an outstanding coach to his athletes but a great mentor to young coaches even those that weren't part of his staff. He was a rare combination of being a fierce competitor and a true gentleman and his athletes and teams were a true reflection of his leadership. My thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family and RIP Coach

David Thrower - January 05 at 10:17 PM

JB

Condolences to his family. I graduated from Notasulga High School Class of 1979; Coach Knapp was a very positive influence on my life. He pushed me out of my comfort zone which made me a better person and leader. He made a difference in the lives of so many others. "A Good Coach can change a game; A Great Coach can change a life" (John Wooden).

Joerle B. Blackman  
Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army

Joerle Blackman - January 06 at 11:00 AM

ES

*TO RITA & FAMILY, My heartfelt condolences to all of you. I am just now, hearing of Buddy's passing. Sorry I was unable to attend his services.*

*He was a good man & much like his Dad Roy, who was a great Coach, Teacher & Mentor for so many years.*

*Buddy was all those things & more. He was a good friend, down through the years, & will be missed by all who knew him. May God give you comfort & Bless each of you is my prayer.*

*Lovingly, Elaine, Kenneth & Family*

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**ELAINE CALLAWAY(BROOKS) SINGLETON** - January 13 at 12:48 PM

JB

*Buddy was a true Christian gentleman. We met at Mount Zion High School. I was a substitute teacher and he befriended me.,I will always be thankful for our friendship.I am blessed to claim Brian as a friend from those days. God bless each family member. Jimmy Bryan*

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**Jimmy Bryan** - April 17 at 07:36 PM