



Mr. Herman Boone

October 28, 1935 - December 18, 2019

Remembering Our Beloved Titan

Herman Boone was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, educator, mentor, coach, and true symbol of social justice.

Affectionately known as 'Ike,' he was the tenth of twelve children born to the union of the late William and Daisy Boone on October 28, 1935.

Herman graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Rocky Mount, N.C., in 1954. His never-ending quest for knowledge led him to pursue his post-secondary education at North Carolina College, where he majored in physical education and biology. In the spring of 1958, Herman was initiated into the Tau Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. before graduating with both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree.

In 1958, Herman eagerly took on the privilege of nurturing young minds by accepting his first teaching job at Luther H. Foster High School in Blackstone, Virginia, where he taught physical education and coached football, baseball, and basketball. His teams excelled on the field, earning three district championships. While at Foster HS, Herman met the love of his life, Carol Luck. He fondly recalls the first day he heard her high heels clicking as she walked down the hallway with purpose. He instantly proclaimed, "That will be the mother of my children." They were married on July 21, 1962, in New York

City.

Herman returned to North Carolina to accept a teaching and coaching position at E.J. Hayes High School in Williamston. During a nine year period, his football teams achieved an admirable record of 99 wins and 8 losses. The 1966 E.J. Hayes Tigers, under his leadership, were recognized as “The Number One Football Team in America” by Scholastic Coach Magazine.

In 1971, Herman was appointed head coach of the T.C. Williams High School football team in Alexandria, Va., the same year all three high schools in Alexandria were consolidated. Herman and his coaching staff were able to solidify a group of unfocused young men and lead them to become the most powerful football team in the state of Virginia in 1971. They finished their season with an unblemished 13-0 record, won the state championship, and advanced to the national championship, resulting in their status as the number two team in the nation.

The willingness of these young men to overcome racial tension by learning to talk to each other, along with their determination to win, brought together a city torn apart by prejudice and hatred. In December 1971, President Richard M. Nixon was quoted as saying, “The team saved the city of Alexandria.” The accomplishments of this great team were memorialized in the Disney film Remember the Titans in 2000 where Herman was portrayed by Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington in the movie. Herman often joked that he was the only person better looking than Denzel.

Herman was a relentless advocate for students and social justice. For more than 40 years he gave his time and efforts to serve various civil rights organizations such as the Urban League of Northern Virginia and the NAACP, in turn becoming a key figure for the civil rights movement in Alexandria and fulfilling his goal, “To be an agent of change for all people.” He worked

alongside some of Alexandria's great Civil Rights leaders such as Ferdinand Day, Nelson Green, Sr., Ira Robinson, and Melvin Miller, to name a few.

His talents and interests were many, including boating as a member of the Washington Yacht Club, golfing, watching his beloved Redskins, and sharing laughs with friends and family. After his time in education, and boosted by the success of Remember the Titans, Herman traveled the country for years, inspiring countless audiences as a highly sought-after public speaker by addressing topics such as leadership, teamwork, diversity, communication, and respect.

Thanks to his influence and inspiration, Herman earned a number of honors and awards, including the 2011 Washington Football Legends Award, the 2016 Living Legends of Alexandria Award and induction into both the North Carolina Central University and Alexandria City Public Schools Athletic Halls of Fame. In 2008, the U.S. Army All-American Bowl asked Herman to serve as an honorary coach for the game and — to further recognize his legacy as a high school football coach — announced that the winning team would be presented with the Herman Boone Trophy.

Herman fell asleep in death on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. Herman was preceded in death by his parents, William and Daisy Boone; his beautiful wife of 57 years, Carol L. Boone, his loving daughter, Donna Maria Dulany; eight brothers: William Boone (Edith), Roland Boone, Frank Boone (Yvonne), Frederick D. Boone (Beatrice), James Milton Boone, Herbert Boone, Thurman Boone; Rudolph Boone; three sisters: Barbara Boone (Kurt), Mary Boone Lewis (Scott), Alice Boone Cole and a special cousin, Annie Mae Lucas.

Herman leaves to cherish his memory two daughters: Sharon Henderson (Anthony), Monica Merritt (Darron); six grandchildren: Camri Pearson

(Raynan), Kiara Johnson, Mackenzie Merritt, Lauren Dulany, Myles Merritt and William Dulany; two great-granddaughters: Kh'ayr and Raiva; five sisters-in-law, one brother-in-law, special grandchildren, and a multitude of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and a host of loving friends.

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 27. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Nannie J. Lee Center Auditorium
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Viewing

DEC 28. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Oakland Baptist Church
3408 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

Memorial Service

DEC 28. 1:00 PM (ET)

T.C. Williams High School-King Street Campus
3330 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

Interment Private

DEC 28.

Private

Tribute Wall

MP

“ Herman was always concern about other here in Rocky Mount his home town He was a champ for our Warm Program helping people with utilities bills He even got Denzel to make a contribution

Mae Parker - January 23, 2020 at 06:08 PM

EE

“ Our prayers go out to his family. What a wonderful human being. He was our Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. keynote speaker a few years back and people still talk of his visit. I know he will be missed.
Evelynn M. Ellis
Dartmouth College

Evelynn Ellis - January 02, 2020 at 01:25 PM

MR

Thank you for your kind words Ms Ellis.Im Herman's niece Shelly Boone my Mom was Alice C Boone they called her Bootsie she was the baby of the Boone siblings.I cried when you stated he was y'all's MLK.He will never be forgotten.

Michelle Boone Rameau - September 25, 2021 at 09:14 AM

TW

“ In 2011 I was honoured to meet Coach Boone in Goldsboro NC . As of today this art portrait by Brenda Behr hangs in my business.



Thomas Washington - December 28, 2019 at 05:52 PM

MJ

“ *The 1971-72. Remember the Titans Cheerleaders, TCW High School, Alexandria VA*

Maria Johnson-Turner - December 27, 2019 at 08:16 PM

MJ

“ *To the family of Coach Boone. Praying you will find comfort knowing that Coach is in the arms of our Lord. He was a great man and expressed great integrity; He was the strength of TCW High in Alexandria. Gone but never forgotten. Know that we SHALL see him again. Maria JOHNSON-Turner. 1971-1972 Remember the Titans Cheerleader. From the cheerleading team of 1971-72.*

Maria Johnson-Turner - December 27, 2019 at 08:11 PM

MR

Absolutely beautiful

Michelle Boone Rameau - September 25, 2021 at 09:15 AM

BM

“ *The world lost a great man today and I lost a great friend. Rest In Peace Coach. Thanks for everything.*
Bob Milloy

bob milloy - December 27, 2019 at 05:52 PM

RB

“ *Rest In Peace Coach Boone. A great coach but a better man. The Bass Family's thoughts and prayers are with the Boone family this week.*
Ron and Susan Bass

Ron Bass - December 27, 2019 at 05:02 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Mr. Herman Boone.*



December 27, 2019 at 12:12 PM



“ *Coach Boone was a Life Coach for many of us as students. His words of wisdom and his confidence influenced me. He never allowed me to make excuses for failure but to keep moving forward. My prayers and condolence to the family. May God bless you with His Peace and Comfort.*

*Melvne Murphy Lanier
Class of 78*

Melvne Lanier - December 27, 2019 at 07:30 AM



“ *183 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrisette- - December 26, 2019 at 11:11 PM

HM

“ Sincere condolences to the Boone Family and our Titan Family. Coach Boone was a mentor and great teacher to us all. Throughout my life Coach Boone has provided his unwavering wisdom. Coach Boone and I would frequently see each other at Andrews Air Force Base at the Club for lunch or the golf course. He always greeted us all with open arms as if we were one of his children. He never forgot any of us. He would always call my name and share with everyone around him that I was John Stantons grandson. He and my grandfather were great friends. Rest in Paradise. You all protected us, made a way for us and provided a strong foundation for us to become and maintain to be successful members of society. Your love will always radiate thru us and with us forever.

Harold S. Miner - December 26, 2019 at 04:55 PM

AT

“ There’s no one word to describe Mr. Herman Boone, however the closest word that describes his legacy is “Phenomenal.” Mr. Boone was my driver’s ed instructor, gym teacher and golf mentor. His lessons to me transcended to my womb without our knowledge, as while I attended a golf lesson with him I advised him that I was pregnant and he blatantly stated, “Pregnancy is the same as when you’re driving and you approach a yellow light, you just yield but don’t stop completely, now take that club and make your best shot.” From that moment, I did just that, I kept going and eventually gave birth to a baby boy who is now a grown man that is a golf enthusiast and an astute long standing employee of a very notable country club in the area. Each time Mr. Boone spoke you knew there would be a moment of wisdom bestowed upon you, so there was no doubt he had your full attention. That same attention is what allowed him to break barriers, overcome hurdles and prove that he was a force to be reckoned with during some of the most difficult times in the history of this country. Because of this, Mr. Herman Boone will forever have a place in history in every community he touched and the country as a whole. Rather than be sad, we shall rejoice in the hard work he did to pave a way for each of us and know that in GOD we must trust that Mr. Boone has certainly earned his wings and his rightful place of rest along side the best!!!

May the Boone family be comforted by the mercifulness and comfort of GOD’s grace and know that Mr. Boone is in a better place, but forever his spirit will be amongst them in every way, every day.

Sincerely,

Ashia Tucker

a. tucker - December 26, 2019 at 03:03 PM



“ *Sandra Whitley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Herman Boone*



Sandra Whitley - December 25, 2019 at 02:22 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Herman Boone.*



December 25, 2019 at 09:18 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family of the late Herman Boone. Many young students received his tutelage throughout the years. Ike and I graduated from NCCU in the Class of 1958. We also had some classes together. Our paths crossed many times as we returned to the campus for Homecoming games. I also saw him at times at Langston Golf Course in DC. My prayers go out to the family members.*

Harold M. Harris

Harold Harris - December 24, 2019 at 12:54 PM

NB

“ *Norcott Erie Bell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Herman Boone*



Norcott Erie Bell - December 24, 2019 at 12:03 PM

JW

“ *Coach Boone was my gym teacher for a few years at E.J. Hayes High School and my Driver's Ed Instructor. I never played on his team but sis tryout for his team but quit after a heated discussion. He was stern but fair to all his students and genuinely seemed to like and care for all he was responsible for. He will be sorely missed by us all and I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.*
John "TrekCmdr" Williams

John T Williams - December 24, 2019 at 04:20 AM

S(

My heart sank when I heard about Mr Boone passing, he was my gym teacher @ EJ Hayes High School many years ago he will always be in my memory

Sandra Clark Turner (Faye) - December 24, 2019 at 08:47 PM

CA

“ *Carlotta Banks Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Mr. Herman Boone*



Carlotta Banks Armstrong - December 24, 2019 at 12:42 AM

MC

“ I am saddened to hear about Herman's passing and he will surely be missed by so many of his friends in South Florida. There's not a day that passes that someone is always asking me about Boone and they were hurt to hear the news. We all send our prayers and condolences to his daughters and family because it has been traumatic and heartbreaking ordeal. Thinking and praying for you always South Florida Golfing Friends.

Melvin Clark - December 22, 2019 at 11:55 PM

DL

“ I am so sorry to hear about your loss. May God's strength and peace be with your family.

*Sincerely,
Darlene Lipscomb*

Darlene Lipscomb - December 22, 2019 at 08:03 PM

DW

“ On behalf of the Campbell Family and our Beloved Julius #81, We would like to extend our deepest condolences and prayers on the passing of your Beloved Coach Boone. We would like to thank you for sharing your Beloved with not only the City of Alexandria, T.C. Williams High School but, with the whole world.

I was first saddened by the news, then I began to smile. I began to think about Gerry Bertier #42 he had been waiting, Wayne (Wool) Hilton #83 was waiting; Brad (Bubba) Smith #82 was waiting and Darryl (Blue) Stanton #80 was also waiting. Coach Yoast (Offensive Coach) had joined them and was waiting, Julius (Big Ju) Campbell #81 had joined them and was waiting, then Petey Jones #40 join them and they were ready to play “Some Football”. Only one thing was missing their Defensive Coach. Coach Bone was ready to go, they were all waiting for him. We don’t know the names of all of the Titans who have passed on, those are just a few that we knew. We want to pay our respect to all of them and their families.

Giving thanks again to the Boone Family, for sharing a Very Special Coach, Mentor, Man and Father with the world.

Coach Boone is coaching his defensive and Coach Yoast is on offensive and they’re playing football In Heaven.

*Sincerely,
The Campbell Family*

Darlene Wyatt - December 21, 2019 at 05:15 PM

AO

“ It is with sadness that I received the news of Coach Boone's death. I have many fond memories of our days at TC and the excitement of the 1971 Titans. Several opportunities have arisen over the past 49 years to visit with Coach Boone, staff and students. One of the highlights was U.S. Army All-American game when the coaches and team were invited to San Antonio as guest of the Army. Coach Boone and Coach Yoast were invited to Tyler, Texas where I now reside to speak to coaches and players. I am proud of all the Titans ability to stay in contact with each other. I am blessed to have known so many wonderful people in Alexandria which has been a one of my professional life experiences.

God Bless Coach Boone's family during this trying time.

Arnold Oates, Principal

T.C. Williams High School (1970-73)

Arnold Oates - December 21, 2019 at 01:10 PM

T1

“ Coach Boone made a great impact on all of our lives at TC. He will always be remembered and missed. Our condolences to his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. RIP Coach Boone.



TC WilliamsClass of 1973 - December 21, 2019 at 10:43 AM

DH

May God bless COACH BOON A GREAT MAN PEACE AND LOVE TO HIS FAMILY

DEACON JAMES THOMAS HALEY - December 21, 2019 at 10:50 AM

TB

“ *He was the man that brought all of Alexandria cultural together to win not only a championship but to win as humans, rip mr boone, condolence to the family. We lost a great one.*

Terance Boggan - December 20, 2019 at 09:13 AM

RD

“ *Reese Dean lit a candle in memory of Mr. Herman Boone*



Reese Dean - December 20, 2019 at 04:51 AM

CG

“ *RIP Coach Respect a true football Coach for all.*

Chet Grimsley - December 19, 2019 at 09:37 PM

SH

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Coach Herman Boone family, friends and Titan family. I will never forget Coach Boone contribution to T.C. Williams High School and the community. Always a Titan, T.C. Williams High School Alumnae.*

Sherrill Hankins - December 19, 2019 at 07:11 PM

MG

Prayers to Coach Herman Boone family, friends and Titan family. I will never forget Coach Boone and all he did while at T.C. Williams High School and the community. Loved and respected by many. Titan Pride



Martha Jordan Grim - December 20, 2019 at 07:44 AM

MM

This is a sad time for our Titan family! We all understand how precious life is and how our time spent together celebrating and reminiscing with everyone is no longer as we grieve another loss. As a cheerleader for the Titans I was invited to speak with the group on important issues that faced us as high schoolers and to hopefully inform and bring about small thoughtful change. I was not at all the talks but when I joined in I was welcomed with open arms and Coach Boone recognized that the cheerleaders were also a part of the experience! Coach Boone seemed to enjoy the get togethers and I enjoyed getting to know him. I am so very sorry for his family and may the wonderful memories with him bring you much comfort in the following months and years. It is difficult to fathom his absence! Love to all! Marilyn Buckner Martin

Marilyn Martin - December 21, 2019 at 04:18 PM

JT

Prayers to Coach Boone's family from all of us at T.C. Williams.

John F. Tucker - December 21, 2019 at 04:20 PM



“ *R.I.P you have great advice*

Michael Flanagan - December 19, 2019 at 06:11 PM

TT

“ *RIP coach! You have served as a mentor and friend to so many people who also consider you family. Job well done! Peace and Love to you.*

Terry Thompson (#96 - '71 Original Titans)

Terry Thompson - December 19, 2019 at 05:05 PM

T7

“ *RIP coach, you were an inspiration to a lot of people. Thank you for all you did for us!*

Theresa Petitt (Class 76) - December 19, 2019 at 04:48 PM

TG

“ *Mr Boone was a great man he will be deeply miss .I hope the family finds peace and comfort in the Lord.*

Tawanna Graham - December 19, 2019 at 04:14 PM

MN

“ *I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Coach Boone (my home boy). My sincere condolences and prayers go out his family and may his soul Rest In Peace.*

Martha Norwood & Family

Martha Norwood - December 19, 2019 at 04:12 PM

DH

Mr. Boone was a great PE teacher. He didn't play and he had a witty sense of humor. He would tell us young girls we were going to participate through all our girl issues and that has always stuck with me. Make no excuses for things that a healthy you can do that the unfortunate wished they could do. Prayers and condolences to his family, friends and the TC Titans family. #Titans4ever

Denise Hopkins - December 19, 2019 at 05:56 PM

VT

My sincere condolence to Coach Boone's family. Coach paved the way for many and broke the chain of segregation at T.C. Williams High school, Alexandria, Virginia. RIP Coach Boone.

Verna Tynes - December 22, 2019 at 02:47 AM

JF

*Rest in Peace. I am proud of your teachings and inspiration to make me the man that I am today.
Jasper Freeman Class of '73 and a member of the '71 Original Titans.*

Jasper Freeman - December 22, 2019 at 05:24 AM