



## Dr. James H. Hinson, Jr.

April 3, 1925 - January 25, 2022

Dr. James H. Hinson, Jr. went to be with the Lord on January 25, 2022, at the age of 96 in Tallahassee, Florida. A follower of Christ, loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, friend, professional educator, coach and mentor, Jim's legacy is one of a life well lived. Jim was a man of monumental character, compassion, and humility. He was a role model to many, a friend to all, and he left a positive impact on everything he did.

Born in Dayton, Tennessee on April 3, 1925, "Jimmy" was the oldest child of Mary Baird Hinson and James Harry Hinson, Sr. He grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee and played basketball and baseball throughout his youth. After Jim's family moved to Atlanta, he was drafted to serve in World War II as an 18-year-old high school senior, and had to apply for a deferment to complete his high school diploma from Atlanta's Tech High. He served in the U.S. Army in the 10th Armored Division, and was immediately deployed to Europe. His unit landed on the beaches of Normandy the day after D-Day only because of a delay of their munitions ship having to dodge German U-boats. They saw extensive action with Patton's 3rd Army all along the front prior to the Battle of the Bulge. Jim received the Bronze Star Medal for Bravery for shooting down a German fighter plane that was attacking a 24-vehicle convoy unit returning from R & R to the front. As the Germans were finally retreating, Jim was in the lead tank that liberated the Dachau concentration camp. He witnessed a

warehouse with row after row of piles of naked, malnourished dead bodies that the Germans had not had time to bury or cremate. This memory never left him, and he spoke to many school classes at every opportunity to describe the reality of the Holocaust.

While in the service, Jim made the Division All-Star Baseball Team, and as the war was coming to an end, his team entertained the troops playing baseball all over Europe, concluding with an exhibition game against the NY Yankees. He was 1 for 3 in the game, and Jim was very fond of saying he had a lifetime batting average against the Yankees of .333.

After the war, Jim came home and attended Oglethorpe University, where he graduated with honors with an undergraduate degree in Political Science, followed by Emory University for his master's degree in Economics and the University of Georgia for his doctorate in Educational Administration. On the first day at Oglethorpe University, Jim met the love of his life, Doris Pickens, at a "Meet & Greet" Welcome Party for new students. After graduation, they were married on March 6, 1952 at the First Baptist Church of Decatur. Both Jim and Dot chose education as a career and became elementary school teachers. They welcomed their daughter Debra Sharon in 1956, daughter Jan Valerie in 1958, and son, James Harrison, III in 1960. Throughout his life, Jim enthusiastically recounts his early job as a teacher and coach at O'Keefe High School in Atlanta from 1949 to 1957 as his most memorable and rewarding. He assisted many of his athletes in attaining college scholarships, mentored numerous young men from broken home, and made a tremendous difference in the lives of these young people. For almost 65 years, he has attended an annual O'Keefe golf reunion at Helen, Georgia with his former students, and is still affectionately known as "coach."

Jim quickly rose through the ranks of education to become a high school principal, Superintendent of Georgia's largest school system, DeKalb County Schools, President of DeKalb College - later to become known as Georgia Perimeter College and now merged with Georgia State University, Chancellor of Virginia's Community College System of 25 colleges, and finally, President of Tallahassee Community College from 1983 until his retirement in 1995. Even after he retired, the State of Florida enlisted his help as Interim President of Central Florida Community College in Ocala to shore up the finances and administration of that college. His genuine love of teaching and his driving force to improve the lives of students never wavered. Fiscal efficiency, improving academic programming for students – including the addition of a nursing program at both Dekalb and TCC, increasing salaries for faculty, and expanding facilities were hallmarks of his administrative talents.

Jim was never seen without a book in his hand, reading at least a book a day. He was an avid golfer, proudly shooting under his age until the age of 94. One of his greatest pleasures was playing golf with his buddies at the Capital City Club. He loved his church, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, serving as an Elder and Clerk of the Session. Later he attended First Baptist Church of Tallahassee, and looked forward to the stimulating theological teachings and discussions in the Empty Nester Sunday School Class. Jim was an active Rotarian for over 60 years, beginning as a member of the Decatur Rotary in Atlanta and later the Tallahassee Rotary. He also enjoyed being the handyman in the almost 100-year-old Los Robles home he shared with his wife, Dot. Jim never met a plumbing, electrical, or mechanical challenge he could not fix, in part because he almost singlehandedly built the family's first home in Atlanta.

Jim is survived by his best friend and loving wife of 69 years, Dot, whom he adored and often said “was as beautiful now as she was the day he met her” and that it was impossible for him to fully express his admiration and respect for her impeccable values. He is also survived by his 3 children, to whom he demonstrated great devotion: daughter Debra Clymer, son-in-law David Clymer, daughter Jan Hinson, son, James Harrison Hinson, III; and was “G Daddy” to 8 grandchildren: Kimberly Tucker and husband Clint Tucker, Will Pitts and wife Emily Pitts, Courtney Goodrich and husband Dave Goodrich, Jeffrey Caughey, Jordan Caughey and wife Charity Caughey, Hannah Clymer Thompson and husband Cameron Thompson, Harrison Clymer and wife Courtney Clymer, Reid Clymer and wife Lauren Clymer; and 11 great grandchildren: Haley, Claire, and Audrey Tucker; Austin, Aiden, and Asher Goodrich; Will and Brittan Pitts, Lila and Hunt Clymer, and James Clymer.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, James Harry Hinson, Sr., mother, Mary Baird Hinson, sister, Sarah Patricia Hinson Quigley, and brother, Eugene Hinson.

A service celebrating Dr. Hinson’s life will be held at the First Baptist Church of Tallahassee on Saturday, January 29, at 3:00 pm. Visitation with the family will be held in the sanctuary preceding the service at 2:00 pm. A second service will be held for Dr. Hinson in two weeks at Perimeter Church in Duluth, GA, as the Greater Atlanta area was his former hometown and the current home of his children, followed by a traditional military burial at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA.

Rocky Bevis and Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfuneralhome.com](http://www.bevisfuneralhome.com)).

bevisfh.com) are assisting the Hinson family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## The Family Will Receive Friends

JAN 29. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
108 W. College Ave.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

## Funeral Service

JAN 29. 3:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
108 W. College Ave.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

## The Family Will Receive Friends

FEB 11. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Perimeter Church  
9500 Medlock Bridge Road  
Johns Creek, GA 30097

## Funeral Service

FEB 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Perimeter Church  
9500 Medlock Bridge Road  
Johns Creek, GA 30097

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. James H. Hinson, Jr..*



---

February 08, 2022 at 03:13 PM



“ *Our community owes a debt of gratitude to the family of this wonderful man. What he did for our community by taking TCC to the next level will be felt forever. Thank you Dr. Hinson and prayers and thoughts to your family. You were one special person who left us better off than you found us..*

*Louis Erwin*

---

**Louis Erwin** - January 29, 2022 at 07:21 PM



“ *I was passing by the street and felt like praying when I saw this church. I entered and realized it was a ceremony dedicated to this honored man, so I stayed. I have been in Tallahassee for one week, for the first time in my life. I am from Brazil and came to Tallahassee so that my two sons could study at TCC. Furthermore, I felt very touched by all the speeches in his honor, it was a warm and thrilling ceremony. I lost my dear father less than a year ago, and the words spoken to honor Dr. James Hinson were reassuring to me in a deep way. God bless him and his family. Grateful for the great TCC school that he helped to build. My deep sorrow to all the family.*

*Denise Dupas*

---

**Denise Dupas** - January 29, 2022 at 07:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. James H. Hinson, Jr..*



---

January 28, 2022 at 09:39 AM



“ *Dr. Jim Hinson was my "big boss" for 12 years. He was past special, and one of the most significant and most appreciated people in my now pretty long life. He blessed so many of us. True condolences to his special people.*

---

**Gene Walton** - January 28, 2022 at 08:44 AM



*Coach Hinson was my favorite teacher and coach in my high school years he would always take time for you played football under his leadership he was truly a blessing to me my prayers to the family will miss you*

*Donald Cofield*

---

**Donald Cofield** - January 30, 2022 at 07:18 PM



*I worked with Dr. Hinson at DeKalb Community College. He always encouraged the faculty members to be creative with their ideas. He encourage my husband Dr. Seaborn A Thompson to be Executive Director of two of the DeKalb College campuses. He was such a find outstanding person and educator...He will be missed not only by his family, but also by his many friends.*

---

**JEAN A. THOMPSON** - November 11, 2025 at 11:46 AM