



Johnie Fred Givens

December 27, 1933 - April 28, 2013

Johnie Fred Givens passed away at his home in Havana, Florida on April 28, 2013. He was born December 27, 1933 in Dothan, Alabama to Johnny M. Givens and Opal Holman Givens, the middle son, among 5 boys. At six weeks old, his family moved to Tallahassee. He remained in Tallahassee throughout his life, until his retirement in 1995. At that time he and his wife, Maxine Givens moved to Havana, Florida where they resided until his passing. Fred is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Maxine Hall Givens; one daughter, Deni Clayton (Ed); one son, Greg Givens; one granddaughter, Amy Cook (the light of his life), all of Tallahassee; one grandson, Jess Cook (Jackie); four great-grandchildren, Dylan Cook; Brandon Cook; Lauren Cook; and Layla Cook of Crawfordville, FL. Also, surviving him are four brothers, Billy Givens; Jimmy Givens (Hilda); Jack Givens, (Margie) and Bobby Givens (Yolanda); all of Tallahassee. Additional survivors include, one sister-in-law, Kaye Hall of Havana, FL and one brother-in law, Daryl Hall (Janet) of Orlando. Additional special family members include Judy and Carlei Atkinson of Tallahassee and numerous nieces and nephews.

Fred graduated from Leon High School in 1952 where he proved himself to be quite the athlete, on the football field and basketball court, earning letters in both. Soon after graduation from high school, he joined the U.S. Air Force and served during the Korean War. He was assigned to McClellan Air Force Base in California where he flew on a Super Constellation Air Craft. There he flew off the west coast of the United States performing early warning missions

under the program Warning Star. He was honorably discharged in 1957. Upon his discharge, he enrolled at Florida State University, and graduated in 1961 with a BA degree in Finance. He began his career shortly after graduation, with the FDIC. After eight years of extensive travel as a Federal Bank Examiner, and wanting to be at home with his family, he took a position with the Florida Department of Education, in Tallahassee. He remained with the Department of Education until his retirement in 1995.

Fred had a love of all sports, which began as a young boy while playing at the Doug Burnett Park in Tallahassee. He made many friends there, and has remained friends with many of them, throughout the years. He and his four brothers played fast pitch baseball during the late 1950's and early 1960's with the various City League teams. He always had a very competitive spirit and determined attitude, whether playing a ball game or just living life.

His intense love of sports and the Florida State Seminoles led him to become a member of the Seminole Boosters in 1964. He remained a loyal member and fan until his passing.

Fred was beloved by many and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A Visitation will be held Wednesday, May 1, 2012 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at Bevis Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 11:00 am at Bevis Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Oakland Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lighthouse Children's Home or Big Bend Hospice. Bevis Funeral Home (850) 385-2193, www.bevisfh.com, is in charge of the arrangements

Cemetery Details

Oakland Cemetery

838 N Bronough St
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Service

MAY 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Johnie Fred Givens*



Bevis Funeral Home - April 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

“ January 12, 2013

Fred:

Your former sister-in-law, Kay Batchelor, told me in an email the other day that you have been ill and the chances you will return to good health are not good. It is always distressing to hear such news about someone we know, particularly if that person is someone we have admired throughout our lives.

Fred, you may not remember me from school because of our age difference. I believe you graduated from Leon in 1952 and my class was '55. But I remember you very well. In fact, you were one of my heroes.

As an athlete wannabe myself, I can recognize athletic skill when I see it. And Fred, you had outstanding talent in whatever sport you played, a rare ability which lasted far beyond your high school days. I can remember watching you and your brothers playing fast pitch softball at Ben Bridges Park. What a thrill that was for me and all my friends.

Not only were you a superb and fearless player, you were always a quiet, respectful gentleman, as well, on and off the field. You never boasted nor did you belittle those who could only aspire to be as good as you. Your teammates looked up to you and admired you, just as we all did. You always played to win but you always played fairly and within the rules.

I will always remember you, Fred, and the excellent example you set, maybe without your knowing it, for me, my friends and countless others, as both a player, a human being and as a man. You were a gifted athlete, Fred, but you were so much more than that. Had I a son, it would be my wish he would be just like you, in the game of sport and in the game of life. And, Fred, you were a winner in both.

I hope you are today at peace with yourself, your loved ones and your many friends and admirers. And I also hope that when your day comes to leave this world you will do so without pain or remorse, with your head held high.

You will be in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Ferrell Elliott, LHS Class of 1955

Ferrell Elliott - December 21, 2023 at 03:01 PM

DK

“ *Maxine and family, I am so sorry to learn of Fred's passing. I have been thinking of all the fun times we had at your home. You and Fred were our "home away from home" many days and nights and please know that Fred will be missed but will always be in our hearts. Much love to you all.*

Dona Kerce

Dona Kerce - April 30, 2013 at 10:52 AM

UM

“ *Maxine, I am so sorry to learn of your loss. My prayers will be with you and your family.*

Una McConnell

Una McConnell - April 30, 2013 at 07:07 AM