



## C. Brooks

April 22, 1911 - August 11, 2013

### Obituary of C. Brooks

Leonard Brooks, 102, of Bushnell, Florida went to be with the Lord on August 11, 2013. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Virginia Rambo Brooks, and his precious daughter, Sarah "Sally" Brooks Harris. Leonard is survived by his two daughters, Marjorie Brooks Gatley and Johnnie Brooks Amato (Chauncey); one son, Stephen Rambo Brooks, Sr. (Gayle), and son-in-law, Wayne Harris. He also leaves seven grandchildren-Celeste Amato, Dion Amato (Jackie), Julie Stobbs (Marty), Stephen Brooks, Jr. "Bo" (Erica), David Harris (Wanda), Susan Black (Steve), and Holly Harris; and eight great grandchildren-Alec Stobbs, Cameron Brooks, Dominic Brooks, Ryu Harris, Jackson Brooks, Carter Brooks, Julianna Amato, and Brooks Black.

Leonard was born in his Aunt Sarah Leonard's house April 22, 1911 in District 22 outside Greeneville, TN. He was the son of Charlie S. Brooks and Etta Ricker Brooks and the grandson of Nathaniel Ricker and Ama Bowman Ricker and Frank Brooks and Alice Leonard Brooks. He played football at East Tennessee State University where he met and married Virginia. After graduating, he held coaching and teaching positions until he was recruited to work as an operations foreman on the Manhattan Project at Oak Ridge, TN. He and his fellow workers had no idea what they were developing until the

U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb. After the war, Leonard moved his family to Scuba, MS where he coached several sports at East Mississippi Junior College. Many of his students/players had just returned from the war and were his age. He completed his Master's Degree during the summers while he worked as a coach and principal at schools in small South Georgia towns (Blakely, Jakin, Climax). He graduated from the University of Alabama with a Master's Degree in Education. While he was coaching in South Georgia, Leonard took his girls' basketball team nine years to the state tournament. Many times these teams included his daughters. He was very proud of his daughters' talents on the basketball court. Leonard accepted a job at Climax with the understanding that Steve could attend school in Bainbridge where he could play football.

He was principal of South Sumter High School from 1962 until his retirement. Thanks to the devotion and support of Dale Gray and Gayle Hunt, Leonard faithfully attended South Sumter High School football games, home and away. It did not matter if it was raining (he'd sit under an umbrella) or if the game was in Jacksonville and he didn't get home until 1 am. He wanted to be there. For many years Leonard and Virginia spent several weeks in Idaho hunting with the "Florida Boys." Leonard would roam the mountains during the day and sit by the fire at night listening to hunting tales. His real passion, however, was quail hunting. He loved walking through the woods with Wayne and Steve and with his dogs Bob and Pat. Steve would say that if Daddy took one apple, they'd be gone about five hours. But if he took a few oranges, they'd be gone all day! To Leonard, bagging quail was secondary to those times spent in the Florida woods. Steve said that Daddy could out walk him and Wayne.

Leonard belonged to a few organizations. He was previously a member of the National Education Association, Florida Education Association, Sumter

County Retired Teachers Association, Ducks Unlimited, and Turkeys Unlimited. Leonard Brooks has been a member of the First United Methodist Church in Bushnell since 1962. More recently he had enjoyed attending retired teachers' luncheons and many class reunions in Georgia and Florida.

#### Visitation

Family will greet friends from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Purcell Funeral Home Chapel in Bushnell, Friday August 16, 2013.

#### Services

A Celebration of his life will be held Saturday, August 17, 2013 at 11 am at the First United Methodist Church in Bushnell.

# Tribute Wall



“ *C. Brooks*

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Brooks was more than a principal to me and all his students at Jakin High School, Jakin, GA. Mr. Brooks was a friend in so many ways over the few years he was principal. I am proud to say, Mr. C. L. remained a friend until this day. May God continue to bless his family in this time of sorrow.*

**Jake Cannon** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I will always remember the Brooks family. Especially Margie since I graduated with her. One of the three musketeers. Ha. Mr. Brooks was like a Dad to all of us. We loved him dearly. May God be with you all.*

**Virginia (Mc) Frith** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Brooks was a wonderful principal and coach to all who attended Jakin High. He was always there for his students if they needed advice and someone to talk to. I remember going to his house on ball nights and he would make us all take a nap and eat that baked potato and poached egg before the game. No junk food. Even though we were just cheerleaders we did the same thing the players did. But I had a great time every time we met there. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Love to the family*

**Faye Cannon Chesnut** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

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“ I was sorry to hear about your loss. Not many folks get to live that long. He was a strong individual and a good principal at Jakin.

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**Ottis Chandler** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am not sure that I remember Mr. Brooks but my older sister, Ann Wright Pace, sure did. She spoke very highly of Mr. Brooks as Principal and Basketball Coaach. Blessings to his family and RIP Mr. Brooks.

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**Gloria Wright Law** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM