



## James Charles Oswald aka "Big O"

August 25, 1941 - May 31, 2022

James "Charles" Oswald aka "Big O", 80, of Bushnell, Florida passed away on May 31, 2022 in Dade City, Florida. He was born in Greenville, Alabama on August 25, 1941. He taught at South Sumter High School for 33 years and was the head baseball coach from 1971 until 1997. During that time he was 1978 Florida Head Coach of the Year. After his time at SSHS, he taught at Greenville Academy in Alabama. He was the head football and baseball coach and the assistant softball coach. He was the assistant baseball coach at Greenville High School. He concluded his career as a high school assistant baseball coach at Fort Dale Academy. He also taught at LBW College until 2017. When he did officially retire after 53 years, he coached his grandson in the Dixie Youth and Cal Ripken League. He enjoyed cheering on the Yankees and the University of Alabama Football team. He loved spending time with his family and playing baseball with his grandson, JJ. He is survived by his daughter: Magan (Jason) Holt of Bushnell, Florida; grandson: Jason Holt, Jr. of Bushnell, Florida; sister: Betty (William) Love of Greenville, Alabama; sister-in-law: Sarah Oswald of Greenville, Alabama; niece: Kimberly Oswald of Birmingham, Alabama; nephews: Jeff (Lisa) Bush of Mackenzie, Alabama; Kenneth Oswald, Jr. (Jennifer) of Montevallo, Alabama; honorary son and coaching partner: Josh Beverly of Greenville, Alabama; many loving great nieces, nephews and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents: Arthur and Laura Oswald; brother: Kenneth Oswald, and daughter: Sandra Kay Oswald. A service will be held on Saturday, June 18,

2022 at Purcell Funeral Home Chapel at 4pm (with visitation from 2-4pm) with Pastor Tracy Taylor officiating.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 18. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory - Purcell Chapel  
114 W Noble Ave  
Bushnell, FL 33513  
(352) 793-4531

## Service

JUN 18. 4:00 PM.

Purcell Funeral Home Chapel

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Charles Oswald aka "Big O"*



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**Beyers Funeral Home** - June 16, 2022 at 03:09 PM

JK

“ *We are often blessed with influential people in our lives. People that direct us, guide us, I was fortunate enough for “Big O” to be one of those people in mine. He would come and watch us play baseball before we ever got to high school, showing us how much he cared about our community and his program. A tradition, I, as a football coach, continue to carry on myself. So many life lessons were learned by him both on and off the field. I’m very thankful he gave this little red headed croom kid a chance. He believed in me, I wouldn’t be the man I am today without some of the lessons he taught me. Big O, you will be missed. So many are better because they knew you. To the Oswald family, we are so sorry for your loss. God Speed, Big O.*

*- John Kinley and family*

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**John Kinley** - June 12, 2022 at 04:24 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Charles Oswald aka "Big O".



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June 12, 2022 at 10:07 AM



“ "Big O" was my teacher for 4 years in high school, (68-71) AND a key reason I became a teacher. His sense of humor, his dedication to his students, his ability to take a difficult task -explaining math- to a NON-MATH person (me) and made me feel like I could accomplish any task if I tried hard enough and the fact he believed in me....well, I hope I was half the teacher to my students as he was to me.

*I still see banana "BB Bats" at a store and think of him (yes, I was not above trying to buy an extra point to make sure I got that A!) And the times my first year in college at Andrew, when I would come home to a football game, sit in the stands beside Big O with my college Algebra Book for him to explain using "BIG O math terms"..so I could pass, no doubt making the college teacher wonder how I made a B!*

*THANK YOU BIG O.....your love of teaching will live forever in those who follow you and those you taught!*

*Karen Davis Cloud*

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**Karen Davis Cloud** - June 09, 2022 at 05:23 AM

BD

*"Big O" was an incredible teacher who truly cared for his students. As mentioned by my sister, Karen Cloud, he was able to explain math to anyone willing to learn- even those with mathematical learning disabilities. I will never forget Big O volunteering to tutor me after my graduation in a futile attempt to improve my math portion of my SAT score. Although I made little improvement (my problem, not the instruction), it caused me to consider a career in which I could survive without Algebra or Calculus: the legal profession. Big O inspired me to always try to make the world a little better today than yesterday. Thanks, Big O. Rest in Peace.*

*Bill Davis*

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**Bill Davis** - June 09, 2022 at 11:46 AM

JS

*“ I am not sure how Mr. Oswald got the nickname "Big O", but it had to be back in the 70's when he became the baseball coach at South Sumter. I never had Big O as a teacher, but he coached my younger brother David, both of my boys, Mike and Brian in baseball. Both Boys though the world of him, as did I. I had the pleasure of coaching alongside Big O during summer baseball one summer and even going on some golfing trips with him, Mike and Harry. Of course, I did see him throw his golf clubs a few times, LOL. He has made a positive impact on the students he taught, the men he coached, and the community of Bushnell. Very sad to see him go but its' a journey we all must make one day! May the family have peace and comfort in this time of loss! God speed, Big O.*

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**James Guy Simmons** - June 08, 2022 at 07:36 PM

BB

*Thought the world of Coach Oswald, prayers going out for the family RIP Big "O".*

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**Billie Simmons Brillhart** - June 08, 2022 at 08:11 PM

MW

*With deepest sympathy. My first teaching and coaching job was in 1973 at South Sumter High, and I am proud to have had the chance to work with Big O. I was impressed with how easy going he was, how he could get the best out of players and students, and how much students and teachers liked him. He was also a key member of the teachers union for his entire teaching career. I'm glad that he had a chance to coach his grandson in youth league baseball. There will only be one Big O.*

*Sincerely, Mike and Peggy Wood*

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**mike wood** - June 08, 2022 at 10:15 PM

HO

“*Big "O" was a father figure to me. I met him in 1979 as a freshman in High School. He was a Blessing from God. He loved all us kids. We are better kids because of his care and love. Love and prayers* ❤️ 🙏💕



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**Hopekurth1@gmail.com** - June 08, 2022 at 06:43 PM

RM

“*My deepest condolences. He was a great teacher. Prayers for his family.*

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**Ruby McCullough** - June 08, 2022 at 06:40 PM