



Jerry D Hatfield

March 27, 1946 - November 11, 2022

Jerry Dolan Hatfield

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Longtime educator and community leader Jerry Dolan Hatfield died unexpectedly November 11. Born in Eustis, Jerry was a lifelong Umatilla resident. He was the son of the late Franklin P. “Doc” Hatfield and Adelaide Dolan Hatfield. He was married to Sharon McAlonen Hatfield and devoted father to Morgan A. Hatfield.

A lifelong Gators fan, Jerry earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education and administration from the University of Florida. Jerry’s care for others was well-known, but many were unaware that while a student at UF he risked his own life to save another. For his heroism, he was awarded the Carnegie Hero Medal in 1967 and was the first recipient of the Stephen O’Connell Medal.

Jerry dedicated his life to serving his community. He was a longtime member of the Umatilla Kiwanis Club, served in the YMCA Indian Guides with Morgan in the Indian Princess Program, and was a member of the 2005 Leadership Lake County class. He was also active in the community of citrus growers. Heavily involved in civic affairs he was a SECO Board Member for 21 years, serving multiple leadership roles, including president, vice-president, and

secretary/treasurer.

As a principal and educator, Jerry led innovative education practices that put schools at the center of the community. He was a beloved principal and spent many years leading Altoona and Spring Creek Elementary Schools in his native North Lake County. He also played a significant role in the 4-H Programs at both schools. Jerry was at the forefront of the charter school movement starting the first charter conversion schools in Florida and serving as a charter school consultant across the state.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Jerry shared his love for the outdoors with friends and family. Fishing trips with Jerry meant a guaranteed story which he would artfully share with rapt audiences.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Sharon, daughter Morgan (Shawn McNew); brothers F.P. "Tim" Hatfield (Ruth) and Michael H. Hatfield; and nieces and nephews, Heidi Hatfield Edwards (Ric), Franklin "Trey" Hatfield, T. Shanley Hatfield (Lesley), Adria Hatfield Rhoads (Steven), and Frankie Hatfield Martin (Nelson).

Please join the family in celebrating the life of Jerry Hatfield Saturday November 26, 2022 from 1-4:30 pm at 42840 Boy Scout Rd. Paisley, FL 32767. He loved tie dye so if you have anything tie dye please wear it. Please bring a side dish, tea and water will be provided, but if you prefer anything stronger, feel free to bring it. A large tent and chairs will be set up. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Altoona School or to Spring Creek Charter School's Mac Owney Fund:

- Altoona School (put Jerry Hatfield in the memo line), 42630 SR 19, Altoona, FL 32702.
- Spring Creek Charter School Mac Owney Fund, 44440 Spring Creek Road, Paisley, FL 32767. (Created during Jerry's time as principal of the school, the

funds aid students and families of Spring Creek Charter School when they need special assistance)

Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Umatilla was entrusted with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **26**. 1:00 AM - 4:30 AM (ET)

Jerry's Celebration of life
42840 Boy Scout Rd.
Paisley, FL 32767

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Blessings and condolences to the family. I worked with Jerry Hatfield for many years while serving as a principal and working in Human Resources. He was an innovator in the field of education.

Carolyn Samuel

Carolyn Samuel - November 26, 2022 at 08:47 AM

BG

“ Jerry was loved by so many. Teachers, parents, students bus drivers, and all who knew him. He was a very caring, kind, and friendly man. He will be missed

Becky Foster Gullion - November 18, 2022 at 02:47 PM

DD

“ Very sorry for your loss, I know my daddy Dillard Boyatt truly liked Mr. Hatfield and spoke of him often. Prayers for your family.
DarLinda Boyatt Duteua

DarLinda Duteau - November 18, 2022 at 12:23 PM

KG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Sharon & Morgan and family. I worked under Jerry at Altoona & Spring Creek and he came by the house in Altoona when I lived there and I had made chocolate pie and he loved it so when I made it I had to take him some. He did so much for the students and they will never forget him

Kathy LaBar Godwin - November 17, 2022 at 03:24 PM

SF

“ All my kids had him as a principal and loved him. Every time we would run into him at Haystacks it was a big smile and a wave. He will be deeply missed.

Snowberger Family - November 17, 2022 at 11:40 AM



“ We grew up with Jerry and have many memories of some interesting events with him. Many of those events ended with his mischievous grin which implied “not me.” May his family’s memories be a comfort in the days ahead.

Tom and Paula Harris

Paula Harris - November 15, 2022 at 04:55 PM

PT

“ I have known Jerry along with the entire Hatfield Family all my life. All are fine examples of good Southern People. Jerry is already missed, so now he's chasin' Doc's beagles in Heaven.
On behalf of the Turner Family, carry on Jerry

Perry Albie Turner - November 15, 2022 at 01:16 PM

LJ

“ John and I would like to send our deepest sympathies to the entire family. We were classmates with him, and he was always smiling and enjoying himself at school. Blessings to you all. Linda and John Johnston

Linda Lewis Johnston - November 15, 2022 at 11:40 AM

AL

“ I knew Jerry in high school. He was one of the funniest guys there. He was always laughing and seemed to be in a hurry. Everybody liked Jerry and he was a good friend to everybody he met. He will be missed.

Al Lewis - November 15, 2022 at 11:01 AM

CS

“ When we were trying to keep control in the cafeteria on Fridays and he would come in and yell "Guess what day it is? It's FRIDAY" All control was lost, but it was still fun. He was the best principal I ever worked for and that includes 4 in Miami. Jerry Hatfield was a loved leader.

Clara Settle - November 14, 2022 at 08:53 PM



“ I was so fortunate to get to see my Uncle Jerry at school regularly as a child, and have memories of him in that setting. I would have to say one of my favorite memories, though, is the gift exchange we used to do when we our families would gather to celebrate Christmas. This was a joyful time, and he would be laughing, smiling, and “stealing” his most desired gift. Those memories of him and our family are ones I will cherish and hold dear to my heart forever.

Frankie Martin - November 14, 2022 at 06:47 PM