



Thomas Preston Blake

December 30, 1933 - July 20, 2021

Thomas P. Blake, coach, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather departed this life on July 20, 2021 at the age of 87 after a short illness. He was born on December 30, 1933 in Tampa, Florida, the youngest of three children to the late Hawley D. and Virginia S. Blake. He graduated from Plant High School in 1952 and then went to college at the University of Florida, where he graduated in 1956 with a degree in Physical Education.

Following graduation, he started his career as a Teacher at Skeen Elementary and then at Leesburg High School in Leesburg, Florida. He also continued his passion for swimming as a swim coach for many years. After retirement from teaching, he was a car salesman. He enjoyed sailing, Gator sports, and traveling. He was a resident of Leesburg since 1956 and a long-time member of St. James Episcopal Church of Leesburg, FL.

He is survived by his children Robert T. Blake (Deborah) of Woodbridge, VA; Debra B. Semmler of Charlotte, NC, and Scott A. Blake of Eustis, FL. Also, his grandchildren, Jamie-Leigh R. Blake (Tara) of Edmonds, WA, Michael T. Blake (Mandy) of Woodbridge, VA; David L. Blake of Pittsburgh, PA, Kimberly Beeker (Anthony) of Charlotte, NC, Katie Nelson (Daniel) of Charlotte, NC, and Emily Semmler of Charlotte, NC. And his nine great-grandchildren, Krista, Lily, and Madison Blake of Edmonds, WA; Sean, Lilly, and Tyler of Woodbridge, VA; AJ and Andrew Beeker of Charlotte, NC; Gracie Nelson of

Charlotte, NC.

He was predeceased by his wife of nearly 60 years, Nancy D. Blake and his daughter Beth A. Blake.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, with services to be held at St. James Episcopal Church on Saturday July 24, 2021 at 3:00 PM. Since Coach Blake did not like to get dressed up, family requests that funeral attendees dress comfortably, shorts and polo shirts in Gator colors are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Tribute Wall

GS

“ Our deepest Sympathy to your family at this difficult time, we are very sorry for your loss.

I have been flying with Tom weekly for over 25 years on the airline that he started SAL (Senior Airlines). Tom and I were the last two pilots left, he would always be proud to let the controller know that SAL was the oldest airline still flying.

On our flights we shared stories of our families and everyday events and I will miss our time together. I will continue to fly with the SAL Airline in memory of a Wonderful man.

He will always be my copilot...Fly with the Angels SAL 1233....

Greg and Barbara Sciacca - July 24, 2021 at 09:31 PM

JW

“ Bobby and Debbie, I was so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He was such a great neighbor, coach and teacher. Bob and I still live in the area, so I would see him and Nancy sometimes in various stores, etc. Tom attended every reunion to which he was invited, and seemed to just relish getting together with his former students. I never really thought he had changed!

I loved living next door to you! I think about y'all often, and wish you the best. I'm so sorry about Beth.... Wasn't her nickname "Bethie Booboo?" ❤️ What a beautiful little girl.

Anyway, I'm rambling now. I love you both, and want you to know that he will live on in our memories. He was a big personality, and made an impact on so many students.

Julie Weaver Williams - July 24, 2021 at 06:47 PM

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Julie Weaver Williams - July 24, 2021 at 06:46 PM

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Greg and Barbara Sciacca - July 24, 2021 at 09:52 AM

GM

“ Thanks for the guidance and the memories, Coach. You inspired and motivated and always with a smile. Prayers for your family.

Gary and Cindi McClain - July 23, 2021 at 03:22 PM