



## Coach Leon McCoy

June 1, 1928 - May 27, 2017

Coach Leon McCoy, 88, of Scott Depot passed away on May 27, 2017.

He was born to the late Wava Sue Webb McCoy Toney in Jeffrey, Boone Co., WV, on June 1, 1928. Coach was an All-State football player at Charleston High School. Afterwards, he went to the University of Tennessee on a football scholarship and then finished up at Morris Harvey where he was an All-American football player in 1950. Leon was also a United States heavyweight boxing champion of the South in 1950.

Leon started his coaching/teaching career at Charleston High School, then went to Cocoa High School in Florida to coach/teach for 7 years. In 1969 he arrived at Winfield High School to teach, coach, and mentor the many athletes, students and co-workers where he lead from the front with his notorious weight lifting program.

Leon was a lifetime member at Winfield Baptist Church where he served and lived his life as a deacon and was an inspiration to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was famous for his favorite lines of "If I could pray...." at graduation and leading the cheer "Give me a W" at many sporting events.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 64 years, Betty L. Stewart McCoy, their children, Cathy Bailey (David) of Scott Depot and Bill Hughes (Linda) of

Winfield; grandchildren, Brooke Smolder (Eddie) of Ripley and their children Braylie and Eddric, Brittany Harper (Dave) of Scott Depot and their children Betley and Cassidy, Amy Artrip (Brent) of Raleigh and their children Eric and Ian, and John Grass (Kristi) of Raleigh and his children Tori, Sera, and Jack; and many people who were loved like family.

A celebration of Coach McCoy's life will be at 6:00pm Wednesday at Winfield High School's football stadium with Pastor David Johns officiating. A reception will follow in the High School's commons area.

A private family burial will be in Sunset Memorial Park, South Charleston at a later date.

The family strongly suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made in Coach McCoy's name to: Leon McCoy Scholarship Fund or Winfield High School Athletic Department, c/o Winfield High School, 11268 Winfield Road, Winfield, WV 25213.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Randy Hodges, Dr. Tom Rittinger and the Intensive Care Nurses at CAMC Teays Valley Hospital.

Coach Leon McCoy has now scored his Eternal Touchdown!

Chapman Funeral Home, 3941 Teays Valley Road Hurricane WV is honored to assist Coach McCoy's family.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Park

4301 MacCorkle Avenue  
South Charleston, WV 25309

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 31. 6:00 PM (ET)

Winfield High School  
Winfield Road  
Winfield, WV 25213

## Reception

MAY 31. 7:00 PM (ET)

Winfield High School  
Winfield Road  
Winfield, WV 25213

# Tribute Wall



“ *Coach Leon McCoy*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *As a Christian Leon was a lion. A man's man who was strong physically and in his faith. A man who led by example and who had a big heart. A football legend, I think knowing the thousands of lives his Christian testimony touched would mean more to him than the winning games and championships. He was such a cornerstone of why Winfield was such a special place.*

*Personally Leon was a close family friend for four decades and I dearly loved the man. Such a great hero and role model. He had a great sense of humor too.*

*Although a few critics may have halted his Graduation speech and prayer in recent years, he was able to touch countless lives in the five previous decades and the seeds he has sown for Christ will continue to bear fruit and touch lives in a positive way. I smile when I think of the impact he had on my life and many of my friends. And every single time I step in front of an audience part of my message was influenced by Leon McCoy. Thanks Coach.*

frank addington - June 08, 2017 at 04:32 PM



“ *Your family has been such a blessing to my parents, Okey and Carol. They can not say enough wonderful things of all of you. I love hearing all of the stories from my father, of he and Leon growing up. Sending prayers and love,*  
*Amy Landers*

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**Amy Landers** - June 04, 2017 at 06:10 PM



“ *A friend,a mentor, a brother in Christ who will greatly missed by me.*  
*Your friend Jim Brewer*



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**Jim Brewer** - June 03, 2017 at 08:32 AM



“ *You are in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you all.*  
*Terri Stricklen*

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**Terri Stricklen** - June 02, 2017 at 08:26 PM

 Susan Jackson

“ *I don't think I have ever met another person who so lived life to always point to Christ. In so many ways his words, hugs, and smiles brought God's touch to me in my darkest hours. His continued care through the years was a blessing beyond measure. I can only imagine the celebration when God, accompanied by Jesus, met Coach at the gate and greeted him with "Well done, my son!" Coach "thank you for giving to the Lord" I am blessed because you did!*

*Betty, my prayers are for God's presence to surround you, comfort you and strengthen you for the days ahead. May your every need be met by His grace and provision!*

*Love,  
Susan Jackson*

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**Susan Jackson** - June 02, 2017 at 09:07 AM

BR

“ *My condolences to the family. It's not often you can call someone a legend. Coach Leon McCoy was a legend in every sense of the word. Other than my parents, he had more influence on my life than anyone I have ever known. My choice to pursue a career in health & fitness was in large part guided by my experiences working with Coach on the football field and in the weight room. He is a special person who will be greatly missed but certainly never forgotten. He lives on through the thousands of students that he guided and inspired over the years!*

*-Brett Rice*

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**Brett Rice** - June 01, 2017 at 09:41 AM

JK

“ Coach McCoy was a part of many peoples lives in Putnam County, we lived on the same road. He always made it a point to wave as he went by or stop and ask how the family was doing if we happened to be outside. I always looked forward to him stopping for a chit chat. The Lord had that plan well thought out when he put Coach McCoy in Putnam County. Great influence, and always positive. His presence will be missed surely.

*My condolences and kindest regards to his family,*

*Jerry Kent*

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**Jerry L. Kent** - June 01, 2017 at 04:43 AM

DT

*Coach Leon McCoy was a great man great teacher will sadly be missed he was a great influenced very positive man god bless him prayer goes for his family Deborah Saunders Tyree*

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**Deborah Tyree** - June 01, 2017 at 09:22 PM

MM

*Coach McCoy was my coach and Physical Education teacher at Cocoa High in Cocoa, Florida. He was a strong and imposing man but had a good heart and was always fair. He was only here for a few years, but left an impact on us all. We were sorry to hear of his passing, but happy to hear the positive impact he had on his students and others in West Virginia. Mitch Morgan, Merritt Island, Florida*

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**Mitch Morgan** - September 03, 2018 at 06:58 PM

SF

“ Our love and condolences go out to the family and our hearts break for the loss of a great mentor, counselor, coach, and father in Coach Mccoy. The loss is felt far and wide and the tributes will never match his legacy which lives on beyond the football field and beyond this life. We are blessed to be among the many whose lives were touched by the life and faith of Coach. Much love to the family. Steve, Deanna, Cody, and Colt Farmer



Steve, Deanna, Cody, & Colt Farmer - June 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Prayers to the family of a great man/ coach , fly high coach !



Sandra Call - May 31, 2017 at 07:03 PM



Venessia Jividen

“ Coach McCoy was one of the finest men I ever knew. Our son had him all 4 yrs of high school and we worshipped at WBC with him. Our son wouldn't be the man he is today, living for God and preaching God's Word, without men like Coach. He was one of a kind and left a legacy that can never be duplicated. Proud to say we knew him and Miss Betty and send her our love.

Venessia Jividen - May 31, 2017 at 03:29 PM

BM

“ I will never forget the first time that I met coach. July 4, 1957 @ Holliday Park. I had just finished the 9th grade at another school and he ask me if I played football. I said no sir that they say I am to small. He said I wish that you was @ Winfield because I always need more blocking dummies. So I changed to Winfield and became one of his dummies.  
He was a great inspiration in my life. Coach, rest in peace. Brad Morgan class of 1960.

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**Brad Morgan** - May 31, 2017 at 01:55 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Coach Leon McCoy.



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May 31, 2017 at 01:44 PM

MZ

“ My brother, Fred Zegeer, considered Leon McCoy his very good friend as strong young and verile men. These good men shared many escapades together. Both are gone now, but their memories remain in our hearts. God bless Leon and Fred.

*Moses Zegeer*

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**Moses Zegeer** - May 31, 2017 at 11:53 AM

J?

“ John And Debbie Brown Family ?? lit a candle in memory of Coach Leon McCoy



John and Debbie Brown family ?? - May 31, 2017 at 09:49 AM

AF

“ Coach McCoy, my brother in Christ, my hero, my friend, my coach, my teacher. Like the thousands of others that knew him, he was my second father, I loved him! I was always proud to be recognized years later as one of "McCoy's boys". The tears are flowing, not because I miss him for I'll see him soon, but for all those souls that are aching. My heart aches for Betty, Linda, Coach Hughes, Cathy, Coach Bailey and all the family and friends! Coach McCoy reminded me of Saul of Tarsus, (a Roman soldier) that met God and became Paul (one of the greatest Apostles) Coach would tell me about when he was younger growing up...he'd bust parking meters and heads. He'd say the Lord has a mighty plan for all our lives- if we let Him! Oh the many memories we share - I'll cry for a while and then the Spirit will have me rejoicing! Art Dolin & family



Art & Debi Dolin & family - May 31, 2017 at 09:47 AM



“ Coach McCoy was one of those people who you only meet once in a lifetime. From the first time I met him and a young boy while he was coaching at Charleston High, until we became reacquainted after we both moved to Putnam County. I realized how much of a blessing it was to have known him. He was a great individual that hurt you with his hugs. No finer person a real role model.

Joseph Tyree - May 31, 2017 at 07:51 AM

CF

“ *Corrine Hall & Family lit a candle in memory of Coach Leon McCoy*



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**Corrine Hall & family** - May 30, 2017 at 08:59 PM

AF

“ My eyes weep, as Christ wept for Mary and those friends of Lazarus. Because they were stricken with grief. My eyes tear not because of the passing of Coach but in compassion for those family and friends whose hearts are aching. The tears come, even though my faith is strong and steadfast in the blessed assurance of eternal life in paradise! Betty, Linda, Coach Hughes, Cathy, and Coach Bailey and all the family - Me and my family feel for your loss! -- Tears come again when I think of the thousands of souls over several generations aching from Winfield and surrounding towns, from WV and surrounding states- for Coach's passing. Jesus has surely prepared a special place for Coach. His favorite verse was Phil. 4:13, mine too. Also Ephesians 6:11-18 putting on the Armour of God- to be ready for battle against the Devil - as we would suit-up for battle on the football field. Coach not only prepared and made me a better athlete, He prepared me for Life and made me the person I am today. I think back to hot August 2 a days, dust bowl, 3 mile runs, 100 wind sprints, lifting, agility training, gym class, free-for-all dodge ball, locker room talks, etc... hard times but very rewarding. Other memories- He taught me morning devotionals(quite time for me and my maker), to care for my body because it is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Sunday school classes at Winfield Baptist Church, fellowship, Life is Service!, fun at Sleepy Hollow Pool, FCA. He did scare a few of us on the way to Jackson's Mill for the state FCA conferences. He and other supporters raised money for me to go to the National FCA conference too where I met other Christians like Paul Anderson( once the strongest man in the world) and ate dinner with Johnny Bench of the Reds and many more. Remember working on basement of his house, helping build the metal bleachers on the weekends at the old high school, world culture class. Coach McCoy reminded me of Saul of Tarsus, the Roman soldier that God blinded, filled with the Spirit and converted into Paul one of the greatest apostles. I always looked forward to the wonderful Christmas cards Coach sent me each year! Let us know if we can do anything! All my love, Art Dolin & family

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Art Dolin & family - May 30, 2017 at 06:04 PM



“ *Woody Woodrum lit a candle in memory of Coach Leon McCoy*



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**Woody Woodrum** - May 30, 2017 at 05:21 PM

GS

“ *Coach McCoy was my friend he help to teach me to be a father a grandfather a man , I will never forget him,we lost a good man but jesus got a good soul he is Head Coach in Heaven Now. George Scragg  
And Family*

*May God be with and ease your pain*

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**george scragg** - May 30, 2017 at 04:13 PM

JS

“ *Coach McCoy was one of those people who you only meet once in a lifetime. He made you feel special no matter who you were. Whether he was your coach, teacher, mentor or friend. There will never be another Coach McCoy and I am thankful that he crossed my path in life.*

*Judy Jones Steele*

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**Judy Jones Steele** - May 30, 2017 at 10:54 AM

PS

*Totally agree! Our lives are collectively richer because of him. What a flood of wonderful memories! He was like a second father to me. Am laughing now as I recall an incident of tobacco juice on the windshield...*

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**Paul Joe Sparks** - August 11, 2018 at 08:16 AM

PT

“ Coach McCoy was my favorite teacher at Winfield High School. He never failed to show each of us how much he cared. I had so much respect for him and he made a difference in so many lives. A lasting impression. There is no doubt this man has a place in Heaven. Thank you Coach McCoy for the differences you made. Many could learn from you.

*Patty Snyder Taylor class of 1981*

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**Patricia. Taylor** - May 30, 2017 at 10:47 AM

LS

“ Sorry for your loss. Love and prayers, Loretta Sowards

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**Loretta Sowards** - May 30, 2017 at 10:46 AM



“ My name is Gail Spurlock My husband was Alan Spurlock. He played for Coach McCoy 1955-1959. We lost Alan in June, 2016. He always loved Coach McCoy and there was no finer man or Christian man. We always visited Bill Bryant when we were in WV and he made a point to go down to see Coach McCoy. I know they are all having a weight lifting class in heaven right now. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

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**Gail Spurlock** - May 30, 2017 at 09:41 AM

MH

“ My name is Mary Hansberry. I was Mr. Jack Coyner's secretary at the Putnam County Board of Education's Central Office. Coach McCoy often visited our office. He was a wonderful man. A gentleman, but more importantly, a Christian Man. He will always hold a special place in my heart. Just the other day, I ran across a poem he sent me one Christmas after we moved to Bridgeport. Each time I read it, I receive such a special blessing. I am looking forward to seeing him when my journey is ended on earth. I know he will be in Heaven with that wonderful smile on his face, the firm handshake, and a kind word. He truly was a great man and a Man of God. My life is much better having known him. He will be greatly missed. God bless his family.

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**Mary Hansberry** - May 30, 2017 at 08:29 AM

MC

“ I'm heartbroken, Coach McCoy had more influence on my life than any other man. The number of people Coach made an impact on their lives is unimaginable. I loved him and will miss him. I have heard it said a good Coach will make you a better player but a Great Coach will make you a better person, Coach McCoy was a Great Coach. The impact he made on our community is beyond measure. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Thank you Coach  
Marty Chapman

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**Marty Chapman** - May 30, 2017 at 01:41 AM

RM

“ Coach Mccoy was a great Christian coach teacher and mentor and will be truly missed



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**Rachel Mynes** - May 29, 2017 at 09:58 PM

LH

“ Coach Mccoy was a great person and will truly be missed



Leigh Haught - May 29, 2017 at 09:54 PM



“ Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Coach Leon McCoy.



May 29, 2017 at 09:07 PM

EH

“ Coach McCoy was an inspiration to me. He gave me a card one day at WHS that had Col. 3: 2,3 written on it. I carried it in my billfold for over 20 years. It was a treasure to me. His example of faith, strength, and love will always be remembered.

Elizabeth Harrison - May 29, 2017 at 07:52 PM

LM

“ Laura Moul lit a candle in memory of Coach Leon McCoy



Laura Moul - May 29, 2017 at 06:07 PM

SP

“ So Sorry will be missed he helped our kids a lot Sam Pauley and Family

Sam Pauley - May 29, 2017 at 05:37 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Coach Leon McCoy.



May 29, 2017 at 05:30 PM

MM

“ Mark Mulholland sent a virtual gift in memory of Coach Leon McCoy



Mark mulholland - May 29, 2017 at 05:18 PM

KH

“ We are gonna miss him a lot!! Winfield high school gonna be same without him.. not even town Winfield is fell the same.. we love you coach McCoy!! Gimme a W.. keep bring Winfield cheer on!!

kelly haynes - May 29, 2017 at 04:10 PM

DH

“ Coach meant everything to me and led me to Christ. I don't know where I may of ended up without him in my life. He was like a second father to me. I will forever remember the good times and him greeting me as "Dinko". Love to the family. RIP with the father above. I hope to see you again someday. Love. Dink Harless

Dewayne Harless - May 29, 2017 at 03:12 PM

DA

“ We send our sincerest sympathy and love to Betty, Cathy, David and Billy. Leon was like a brother and best friend to me. We have shared many fond memories together. He may be gone but his spirit will always be with us. We love you all! Dr. Robert 'Bob' Anderson and Nancy Anderson-Hanshaw Hanshaw and family.



Dr. Bob Anderson - May 29, 2017 at 03:11 PM

MI

“ We are sorry to hear about Coach McCoy. We had him in swimming lessons for at least 5 years (2 kids). He was tough but an amazing caring man. He will be missed. We are sorry for your loss.



Mindy - May 29, 2017 at 02:40 PM

EH

“ Coach mccooy was a great coach and teacher he will be truly missed



Elizabeth Haught - May 29, 2017 at 01:43 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Coach Leon McCoy.*



May 29, 2017 at 01:40 PM



“ *Coach mccooy was a great Christian man great teacher and coach and will be truly missed*



**Joe Haught** - May 29, 2017 at 01:36 PM



“ *Coach mccooy was a great coach and teacher and will be truly missed*



**Elizabeth Haught** - May 29, 2017 at 01:30 PM



“ *We send our sincerest sympathy and love to Betty, Cathy, David and Billy. Leon was like a brother to me and we made a lot of fond memories together. He will be missed but his spirit will live forever. We love you! Dr. Bob Anderson and Nancy Anderson-Hanshaw*



**Dr. Robert A Anderson** - May 29, 2017 at 12:25 PM

GA

“ It was my privilege to know Coach McCoy beginning in 1976. My family purchased he and Betty's home in Shawnee Estates. While waiting for the closing to occur, they invited me to come and live with them so I could begin football practice at Winfield. That began a close relationship that had a deep impact on my life and my faith. Through the disciplines necessary for athletics and the faith in Christ that we shared, Coach McCoy helped shape in me the basic understandings of what it meant to be a man. Next to my own father, Coach McCoy was the most strategic influencer of my life. I will never outlive the effects of his impact on me as a person, nor would I want to. I stand in a long line of people who were made better by knowing him. My hope is that I may influence others for the good as he did. Soli Deo Gloria.

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**Greg Alderman** - May 29, 2017 at 09:32 AM



“ Deana Keefer-Shoemaker lit a candle in memory of Coach Leon McCoy



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**Deana Keefer-Shoemaker** - May 29, 2017 at 09:22 AM

LE

“ Dale and I appreciated so much Coach's Christian influence and mentoring of our son's, Jim and Tom. Their lives continue to reflect on that legacy. The Elswicks

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**Lori Elswick** - May 29, 2017 at 09:13 AM

DN

“ He was a great teacher in school but he was an even better Sunday School teacher! Will always remember his shoulder squeezes!

Debee Dooley Noffsinger - May 29, 2017 at 08:57 AM



“ Great man , teacher and coach . Still remember the time at Winfield High 1981-1984 and the pride Coach McCOY gave to the school and students. Terry Carter

Terry Carter - May 29, 2017 at 08:50 AM

MS

Coach McCoy was my tenth grade civics teacher at Winfield high. Very good teacher & football coach. That was in 1955.

Mary Handley Shirakawa - May 29, 2017 at 12:10 PM

JH

“ When I was first considering running for Putnam County Commission back in 2004, Coach came to me, took me by the lapels and said, "I'm hearing good things about you." That meant so much to me. His opinion of me and his support through the election was monumental. I also periodically received boosts from him and assurances that he was proud of me. It really mattered to me that I make him proud. I hope I always did. What a legacy this man leaves behind. He meant so much to so many.

Joe Haynes - May 29, 2017 at 08:19 AM

JP

I still hurt from all the punches he gave as I get older I thank him everytime I saw him for making me the man I am now coach you are a great man and I will miss that give me a W rest now coach your work hear is done you have made us all into good people at WHS class of 1982

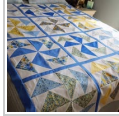
julian poe - May 29, 2017 at 12:32 PM

SH

*A great man. Big  
Influence on a lot  
Of lives. He always  
Stood up for what  
He believed.*

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**Scott Henderson** - May 29, 2017 at 06:10 PM



*My husband, my three children and one of my grandchildren had the  
great privilege of having the inspiration of a great man like Coach Leon  
McCoy in their lives. We Praise God for him, He will be greatly missed  
in this whole State, and then some! I loved the IF I COULD PRAY.*

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**Glenna Childers** - May 29, 2017 at 10:05 PM