



## Marvin "Craig" Leonard

January 16, 1946 - August 25, 2019

Marvin "Craig" Leonard age 73, of Rossville, Georgia went home to be with The Lord Sunday morning – August 25, 2019. He was born in Paducah, Kentucky to the late Marvin and Ladine Leonard. He was a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University where he earned his teaching degree. He enjoyed teaching Social Studies and coaching basketball for many area schools. During his thirty-three years of teaching and coaching he worked at Valley Head High School, Osborn Elementary, Rossville High and Middle Schools, Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School, Gordon Lee High and Middle Schools. Coach Leonard was respected and loved by many of his former students. He was a member of the Rossville Masonic Lodge – F&AM and enjoying fishing whenever he could. He was an active member of McFarland United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Walker County Retired Educators Association and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coaching Association. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters: Charlene Hardy and Marva Dene Carroll. He is survived by his wife of forty-six years: Barbara Jean Haire Leonard, their son: Ben Leonard both of Rossville, GA, niece: Laura Carroll, nephews: Doug Carroll, Darryl and Gary Hardy. The family will receive friends Wednesday from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Thursday morning prior to the service. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm – Thursday – August 29, 2019 at McFarland United Methodist Church with ministers: Wayne Cook and Gary Grogg officiating. Burial will follow in Tennessee-Georgia Memorial Park – Rossville, Georgia. In lieu of flowers the

family request donations are made to McFarland United Methodist Church for Rossville School Ministries. Arrangements by W.L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Homes – Fort Oglethorpe Chapel. Online register book at [www.wilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Tennessee/Georgia Memorial Park

724 Hogan Rd.  
Rossville, GA 30741  
(706) 866-5533

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 28.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel  
555 West Cloud Springs Road  
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742  
(706) 866-5555  
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

**AUG 29.** 2:00 PM (ET)

McFarland United Methodist Church  
101 E Gordon Ave  
Rossville, GA 30741

# Tribute Wall

KL

“ He was nothing short of “Impactful”. The kindness in his guidance of us highschoolers was spectacular. I can still hear his voice to this day in the common areas talking to us as if we were his own...

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**klefler** - August 30, 2019 at 11:35 PM

PM

“ Coach Leonard, who I fondly remember calling me “Pat” because he said it was easier to yell "Pat" than "Patrick", was one of the handful of individuals God put in my life to help mold me as a teenager. He helped instill the drive in me to succeed, and by doing so, made me believe I could accomplish anything I put my mind to. He was an intense, tough, disciplinarian coach who expected his players to give 100%. As a result, his players did not want to let him down. He touched immeasurable lives during his time with us. He will be greatly missed by the community, but I can gladly proclaim I will see him again one day! Thoughts and prayers to his family.

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**Patrick McBride** - August 29, 2019 at 10:15 AM

GM

“ Coach Leonard was a Great Example to our young people. He had a Loving and giving heart. He really cared about his players and his students. He was a GOOD MAN. And we all will miss him. Prayers!

*Gary Miller and Family*

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**Gary Miller** - August 27, 2019 at 05:52 PM

TP

“ Coach took over my senior year at Gordon Lee. Good coach and good man. He taught me more about being a leader than anyone else that I called coach. I loved his no nonsense attitude while he was still able to get across how much he cared. Thinking about his family at this time. Live and prayers.

Thomas Pickard - August 26, 2019 at 05:50 PM

DL

“ Craig (Big Daddy) as we in the coaching world called him was a great teacher, coach, and friend. He meant a lot to a lot of people and will be missed very much. Love ya coach. ❤️

donna lewis - August 26, 2019 at 03:56 PM

Sharon Cordell

“ I remember the coach. He was a good man. Was good to everyone who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Sharon Cordell - August 26, 2019 at 09:48 AM

Lamar Fine

“ I'm so sorry... I always enjoyed visiting with Craig when Mom and I spoke at McFarland UMC... My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Lamar Fine - August 25, 2019 at 10:53 PM

GS

“ So thankful that I was able to reconnect with Coach Leonard over the past few years! When God spared his life through a liver transplant, it ignited a huge desire in him to do all he could for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was on fire organizing prayer walks at the Rossville area schools, assisting with community outreaches, volunteering with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, teaching Sunday School, and impacting some additional young lives by coaching again at Rossville Middle School. He was so determined to utilize his second chance to share the love of Christ! At the monthly FCA Retired Coaches Huddle at Park Place Restaurant he would share devotions and tell us about his latest venture for the Lord. I will miss him dearly. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Thanks Coach for being a great example of how to "live like you are dying"!!! -Greg Spradlin



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**Greg Spradlin** - August 25, 2019 at 10:07 PM

MC

“ As a mom and teacher, I knew I had to make an abrupt change for my 8th grader, Mike, to help him. He started Rossville Middle in November right at beginning of 🏀 Bulldogs Basketball two years ago. God put Coach Leonard and Coach Harris in Mike's life and truly changed the direction of his life and gave him new confidence. Coach Leonard is the definition of coach helping Mike in the game of life and winning some games wasn't so bad either. May God bless your family and keep them close. Many many thanks from Meg and Mike Carpenter.

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**Meg Carpenter** - August 25, 2019 at 09:18 PM

BM

“ Coach Leonard was one of those people that you meet and they have an impact on your life. He was my football coach in 1976 and a friend for life. He was a true educator who was sincere in his love and passion for both teaching and coaching. Above all he was one of those rare individuals who "bled blue". You will be missed by many Coach, may you rest in peace.

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**Bobby McNabb** - August 25, 2019 at 08:53 PM

PW

“ I remember playing for him like it was yesterday! No one coached harder and loved his kids more. I loved Coach Leonard and I'm sad today to hear of his passing. He was an awesome teacher and a great basketball coach! He touched uncountable lives in his many years! I can truly say that I am a better person today for knowing and playing for him! They just don't make them like him anymore! Coach Leonard you will be truly missed! RIP! GO DOGS!

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**Paul Wilson** - August 25, 2019 at 08:51 PM

CL

“ I met Coach Leonard in the fall of 1982, at LFO High School. Craig was the new boy's basketball coach. He coached hard and his boys played hard. I saw him years later at several FCA events. Coach Leonard was a good man and many people are going to miss him. RIP Coach.



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**Chip Liner** - August 25, 2019 at 08:26 PM

JW

“ Coach, I will always take many things from you that I learned, from the index card in your front pocket to watching you jump while coaching...many good memories, laughs and lessons. RIP Coach, and prayers for the family.



Jan Wright - August 25, 2019 at 06:11 PM

JD

Seen him around the first of March this year and almost let him slip away without stopping him to reminisce and make sure he was who I thought he was, He remembered me and was a pleasure to talk to for a short time we had, he testified for our Savior and was pleased to know I was a Christian also, very important was Jesus to Coach, and great for me to know that side of him. Don't ever let a chance pass by without finding out if someone you encounter today was one who helped mold you to who you are today and keep you from slipping into eternity without Jesus... See you again some day Coach, Former Student Jimmy Dean,... front porch market

jimmy dean - August 25, 2019 at 09:57 PM

CT

I am saddened to hear the news and will keep all of you in our prayers. As a lil boy being the water boy for the Rossville Bulldogs High School football team meant something special. Coach Leonard always made me and my brothers and other coaches sons feel special. I remember that He was very intense and those players getting fired up when he would give a speech and get that quiver in his voice. My dad (Ike Torbett) loved Coach Leonard. I still remember him and my dad and me and his son Ben going to a UTC game or two together. He will be greatly missed and was extremely loved by all who knew him. R.I.P

Charley and the other Torbett boys

Charley Torbett - August 26, 2019 at 01:55 PM