



## James Fredric Toner

February 11, 1935 - December 12, 2007

James Fredric Toner, age 72, of Bolivar, Missouri passed away at 9:30am, Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at Citizens Memorial Hospital.

He was born on February 11, 1935 in Kansas City, MO. to Fred Arvil and Ruth Esther (Mathews) Toner.

Jim was born and raised in Kansas City, graduating from Northeast High School in 1954. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Missouri and a master's degree from Lincoln University.

He was a basketball and baseball coach and teacher from 1957-1966 at Dixon High School in Dixon, MO. Jim developed the second middle school in the state of Missouri, Dixon Middle School, and was principal there from 1966-1982. From 1982-1997 Jim taught social sciences at Fairhill High School in Dallas, Texas.

At 6' 7" tall, Jim was an athlete who became a coach and educator. He dedicated 40 years to education and believed first and foremost in educating the whole child. He touched countless lives in his career. Jim was quite a presence and impacted those around him with his intelligence and humor. He was a special husband, father, grandfather, mentor and friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Ruth, and one sister, Nancy Toner Smith.

Jim was extremely proud of his two daughters and five grandchildren. He is survived by his wife Jan of Bolivar, MO; two daughters, Lisa Doyle and her husband Bradley, of Bolivar, MO; and Michele Youmans and her husband John of Atlanta, GA. His five grandchildren are Lieren Doyle and Colin Doyle, of Bolivar, MO; and Stephanie Youmans, Michael Youmans, and Brandon Youmans, of Atlanta, GA. He is also survived by one brother Jerry Toner of Kansas City, Missouri.

Funeral services will be held at a later date under the direction of the Butler Funeral Home of Bolivar.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, Office of Development, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa FL 33607-1460, or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Friends may sign the guest book or send private condolences at [www.butlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.butlerfuneralhome.com)

PDF Printable Version

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Fredric Toner*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *James Fredric Toner*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Many positive moments and great memories were made and left for those of us who were touched by "Mr. Toner's" life. Our memory of his good deeds as well as his positive demeanor live on with us. His character and unique philosophies continue to provide an inspiration within me. This is triggered by daily reminders of events that I would share with him if he were still with us. I have enjoyed reading the memories and condolences written in this guest book my those who had the good fortune to know him.*

*After reading the guest book the memory that comes to my mind is one he'd tell about the golfer{Bobby Jones}and his philosophy on life. Mr. Toner never let himself or others be discouraged with this reminder would say we have got to play like Bobby Jones "play it as it lies." Well, my great friend did just that like a champion - which he will always be to those of us that were touched by his life.*

Chris Hunt - December 30, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ I was shocked to read of Jim's death in the Dixon paper. I had heard nothing about him being in poor health. Jim was my coach until I graduated in 61, and I remember him as being a very fair man with the welfare of his pupils always first and foremost in his mind. I feel that the world has lost someone who did nothing except try to make it a better place. I should have stayed in contact, but as usual in our lives we always have regrets about our short comings.

*I wish to offer my condolences to Jim's family along with a prayer for peace. Howard W. Clark*

---

**Howard W. Clark** - December 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Please accept my heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Toner. He was my principal in the early 80's at Dixon Middle School. I have always remembered his sincere approach to helping students become better people. He is an inspiration to his many students as well as his peers. God bless you.

---

**Sherry Stoner-Branson** - December 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ We were so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

---

**Michael and Jamie Fink** - December 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Jan and family we send our heartfelt condolences to you and we are saddened by the news of Jim's death. He was a special man who gave so much back to the world and his life will continue to be effective in all the seeds of wisdom, caring and educating that he devoted himself to. We will keep you and your family in our prayers in this time of sorrow. Doyle & Donna

---

**Doyle & Donna Fink** - December 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ My hear felt condolences to all the family and friends of this wonderful human being. I had the honor of knowing this very wise man for a short period of time in the late 80s and 90s and am a better person for these experiences.

*Mr. Toner through his extremely high character, integrity and easy going demeanor taught me much about what it is to be a man in today's world. I could never hope to achieve his high standard, but because of him I know it is truly possible if one tries hard enough.*

*Many of his life lessons I still hold close and dear. He taught me much about life and also a lot about tools. "A man can never have enough tools." (J. Toner 1989)*

*God Bless Jim in his next Journey and God be with the family and hold them close in this very difficult time.*

*Love and God Bless,*

*Bryan*

---

**Bryan Banks** - December 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ Jan, Michelle, Lisa and Chris,  
*I was so shocked to hear of Jim's passing. It was a pleasure to have played basketball and baseball for him at DHS. He was admired by all who knew him and will be greatly missed.*

---

**Troy R. Porter** - December 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

D(

“ *To Whom It May Concern:*

*Sorry to hear about the loss of your husband, father, father-in-law, etc. He will always be remembered in my heart as one of the best individuals i know growing up and going to school in Dixon.*

*Again, my sympathies to you and your families.*

*Debbie Cross (Nichelson)*

---

**Debbie Cross (Nichelson)** - December 18, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *We wanted you to know we share in your sadness. Our prayers are with your family. Elisabeth expressed our feelings the best. When I told Elisabeth about Mr. Toner's death Elisabeth started crying and said, "I just can't image life without Mr. Toner." Our lives have been touched by a great man and his presence with be missed for years to come.*

---

**Joyce, Rob and Elisabeth Wilson** - December 17, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *Mr. Toner genuinely cared for students who crossed his path. I consider myself fortunate that we had such a thoughtful, gentle, caring, intelligent man in our Dixon school system. Mr. Toner was a great believer in people. He taught us how to help ourselves. He taught us how to help each other. He taught us life lessons, and in all this, he taught us how to be compassionate. Mr. Toner truly touched countless lives. Jan, Lisa and Michele, I treasure the memories I have of him. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

---

**Hylan Beydler** - December 16, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family and close friends of Jim Toner. I would like tell his family that there are few people that have the ability to make a huge difference in the life of others.

*Being that I had Jim as a teacher for all 4 years of high school, I can proudly say that he is one of them.*

*Who I am today, is greatly due to Jim's teachings. He taught me many lessons in life that are invaluable to me. He changed the way I thought and forced me to better understanding. Mr. Toner , thank you for all your knowledge and wisdom, you were a great man and will always have a strong presence in my life. My prayers are with your family.*

---

**Adam Secore** - December 16, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Jim was a good friend and neighbor. He will be sadly missed by all of us.

---

**Kermit & Veda Hargis** - December 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Even though it has been 17 years since I last saw Jim, hearing of his death was such a shock. I was a first year teacher in 1984 at Fairhill and Jim quickly became my friend and mentor. I learned more about teaching and loving students during my six years there than in my entire life. To this day I credit him for helping me to be a teacher who never gives up on a student..even when they have given up on themselves. To the family I send my greatest sympathy. The void he will leave for you is great. What a blessing that you can be comforted by the thousands of students and teachers he blessed over the years. Heaven smiled when Big Jim walked through its gates on Wednesday.

---

**Connie Roberson** - December 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ For those of us who grew up with him, Mr. Toner was everything you expected a principal to be, and then some.

*I count myself as privileged to have known him, to have learned from him, to have shared laughter with him. Our thoughts are certainly with Mrs. Toner, Lisa and Michelle; each of you know that when we think of him, we can't help but smile.*

---

**Billy Beydler** - December 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Just before passing out the very final exam of my highschool years, Mr. Toner reflected that where ever one goes in life, there will be people who will be smarter than you, better looking, with more money....something. But with the skills you have acquired here, you can compete against anyone. In a few words he electrified his students with confidence and, not unknowingly, summarized his own life work. Though today he has passed into that good night, his work, his influence, his confidence touches the hearts and minds of students, colleagues, and members of his family and reverberates across time through the centuries in the lives we touch. He believed firmly in the inexhaustible strength of any person, insisting that one could learn at least one thing from any human being. What greater expression of hope in the human condition can be expressed? That determination, confidence, and strength he exhibited will sustain those who miss him most.

---

**Nathaniel Means** - December 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ Jim was one of the first teachers I met at Fairhill School in Dallas, Texas. After moving to Texas from Canada, fresh out of college, Jim provided the guidance and support I needed. I will never forget the times we spent chatting in his classroom before school, and even sitting in his living room at home. He was an inspiration, a mentor, and a true friend. He will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathies go out to Jan, their children, and grandchildren.

---

**Wade Mercer** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ Jim was a great motivator and inspiration on my life. As a teacher there was no question he had an impact on the lives of others. I will miss you Jim and keep you in my prayers.

*God bless and my condolences go out to the family.*

---

**Mark VanderLinden** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ It has been over ten years since I last saw Mr. Toner but I will most definitely never forget him.  
He was a wonderful teacher and a good man. I hope my sons some day have the pleasure of being taught by a man like Jim.  
God bless you Mr. Toner

---

**Brian Shahan** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ James Fredric Toner

---

**Cris Bennett** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Thanks Coach for some great days of basketball at Dixon . You were a great coach and great person

---

**steve amick** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Jan,

*Please consider the jon-boat idea. I somehow think Mr. Toner might appreciate that.*

*We may see you over the holidays.*

*Jane*

---

**Bob & Jane Shear** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Mr. Toner will always have a place in my heart as one of the most influential people in my life. From the first time he towered over me in 1987 (at thirteen years old), to this day, he helped shape the person I am today. Thank you Mr. Toner for all the wisdom you shared, you were so much more than a teacher to me. My deepest condolences to the family, you are all in my prayers.*

---

**Collin Flynn** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Dearest Toner Loved Ones,

*I was one of the privileged to have worked with Jim at Fairhill in Dallas. He was always such a loving man and teacher. I have always thought of him as a "Big Teddy Bear". I'm so sorry for your loss and know that you must be comforted knowing he's in a better place watching over you.*

---

**Kathleen Gilliland** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *I would like to express my condolences to the family oh Jim Toner. I had the pleasure of knowing him when I attended Dixon Middle School in the early 70's. He will be sadly missed. He was an inspiration to those of us that knew him through those growing years.*

---

**James F. Cox** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Jan, Lisa and Michelle we just heard about Jim from our son Van and want to send our condolences at this very sad time for each of you. We feel so close to you (after all those years at Dixon) especially since our children had such close friendships with yours Jan. Our children always loved "Mr. Toner" and likewise Bill and I had great respect for Jim.*

---

**Bill and Georgia Beydler** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of Jim's death. I have always had the upmost respect for him, although when we were in school I also feared of ever getting sent to his office. I truly believe he instilled in me the desire to stay out of trouble. I will never forget the 'band trip' we took to Florida when he was one of the sponsors - we had a blast with him and it was the turning point of where he became a friend. He will be missed - you have my deepest sympathy. Trish

---

**Tricia McCray** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Mr Toner was my history teacher at Fairhill. He was a wonderful man and taught us so much more than just history. I am forever blessed to have had him grace my life. Thank you Mr. Toner for everything.

---

**Melissa Murphy** - December 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Even though it has been 30 years since I have seen him, Mr. Toner, (never Jim, he was too great a man to call by his first name) remains in my heart as the best Principal, Mentor, and friend. He has truly touched many lives in very positive ways, and mine is one of them. He has made the world a better place to live, and will be greatly missed.

---

**Sharon Smithson Burgess** - December 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Jan, Michelle, and Lisa, I was so sorry to hear about Mr. Toner. I want you all to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

---

**Lori (Prater) Baker** - December 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *To all the Toner Family:  
You are certainly being prayed for and remembered at this very sad time. There are so many who cared for Jim, and they are remembering all the good things he has done. While we were in Dixon the stories and examples of his unselfish service were always quoted to us.  
You will continue to be in our prayers.  
The Whites*

---

**Martin and Georgia White** - December 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *I offer my heartfelt condolences to the Family of Jim Toner. I have many fond memories of Jim as a High School Coach in my days at Dixon High School. He had a ready wit and wise words for his charges . I know we must have tried his patience greatly at times. But because of teachers like him who had much encouragement for his "kids". I went on to become a teacher as well. I carried many lessons learned from the Gym floor and Jim Toner. May God Bless and Hold all of your family in his arms at this time and always.  
Sincerely,  
Paula Amick Bryan Class of 1963*

---

**Paula Amick Bryan** - December 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *May God's presence be felt near to you.*

---

**Russ, Judi and Abby Wall** - December 13, 2007 at 12:00 AM