



Virgil Douglas 'Doug' Potts

February 12, 1938 - April 4, 2017

Celebration of life: 3 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at Mabee Chapel Pike Auditorium on the Southwest Baptist University Campus, with services under the direction of Butler Funeral Home, Bolivar.

Coach Doug Potts died Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar after a four-month struggle with melanoma cancer.

Doug was born Feb. 12, 1938, in Lawton, Okla., the son of Virgil and Elwee "Dollie" Brown Potts.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ann Mitchell Potts; his son, Brett Douglas Potts and his wife, Paula Potts; his daughter, Jennifer Potts Randolph and her husband, Jack Randolph. Coach had four grandchildren, Cooper Douglas Potts, Peyton Wesley Potts, Lindsay Glenda Randolph and Landry Douglas Randolph.

Coach Potts graduated from Neosho High School in 1956, entering the U.S. Navy that summer and serving on the minesweeper USS Dominant. In 1961 he attended Pittsburg State University where he received his B.S. and M.S. in education and had a successful football career.

Upon graduating, he went back to his alma mater as an assistant coach with his mentor, Coach Calvin Lane. He started his career in Bolivar in 1966. Doug also coached track and basketball. He enjoyed teaching PE, especially the year he taught kindergarten and fifth-graders at the elementary school.

He loved the fine arts. He was always so proud of the high school choirs and

bands and was named an honorary choir member. He was a senior class sponsor and loved being a part in taking the seniors to Washington, D.C., for 12 years.

Coach Potts was active in the Missouri Football Coaches Association, as well as the Missouri Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association. He received numerous honors and recognitions, including inductions into the Missouri Football Coaches Hall of Fame and the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. He loved starting track meets in the spring and enjoyed camaraderie with other track officials and the athletes. Doug also developed cherished friendships with coaches, officials and athletic directors across the state. He was an active member of the Bolivar United Methodist Church for 50 years, serving on committees, washing dishes and, most importantly, singing in the choir.

Doug and Annie loved to travel. They took Brett and Jennifer on long vacations out west to the Rockies, the Tetons and Yellowstone, camping in a pop-up camper. Later in life, they loved traveling with precious friends to Scotland, Ireland, Greece, Italy, the Danube, and all over the U.S.

Upon retirement, he joined Silo Ridge Golf and Country Club. He loved playing with great friends and always enjoyed meeting new members. He loved hearing the bagpipes, "Moonlight Sonata," choir music sung in Latin, "Shenandoah" and anything by Don Williams.

He floated 50 miles on the Buffalo and walked 50 miles with the Boy Scouts at Philmont with his friend, Dr. Ben Koon.

He and his wife, Annie, were madly in love, and he loved his children and grandchildren beyond measure.

In lieu of visitation, Silo Ridge is hosting "Tee time with Doug" from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday. Everyone is welcome.

His Celebration of Life is at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 9, in the Mabee Chapel - Pike Auditorium on the campus of Southwest Baptist University.

Coach always dreamed of building a BHS football field.

In lieu of flowers, a tax-deductible gift can be made to the Doug Potts BHS

Athletic Facility Fund c/o Butler Funeral Home or a charity of your choice.
Family and friends may share memories or leave online condolences at
butlerfuneralhome.com.

Services are under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home in
Bolivar.

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life

APR 9. 3:00 PM (CT)

Mabee Chapel
1600 University Ave
Bolivar, MO 65613
<http://www.sbuniv.edu>

Tribute Wall



“ Virgil Douglas 'Doug' Potts

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ Virgil Douglas 'Doug' Potts

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ I was a senior on Coach Potts 1966 BHS football team. My brother Johnny, who had graduated the previous year, was fighting melanoma cancer and Coach Potts had all the players sign the game ball from our 40-0 win over Buffalo. He then gave me the ball and told me to give it to Johnny. Johnny had played offensive tackle for the liberators and it made his day when I gave the ball to him. Later in October, my brother Johnny lost his battle with melanoma cancer at the age of 18. We had a game that night against Reed Springs and when I showed up at the gym to gather my equipment and get on the bus Coach Potts came up to me and put his arms around me and gave me a huge hug. He told me that I didn't have to play and that it was okay. I told Coach that if it was okay with him, I wanted to play; that I wanted to dedicate my game to Johnny. Coach let me play that night and I ran for 156 yards as we beat Reed springs 19-6. I had never felt so cared about as Coach Potts made me feel. He hardly knew me and had never met Johnny and yet he cared deeply for us. He made people feel important, more important than the game and I have never forgot that. Now, 50 years later, Coach has lost his battle with melanoma cancer. Johnny's autographed football sets on my mantle now. I don't know why these two beautiful people were taken away from us by the same disease. I love them both and miss them and always will.

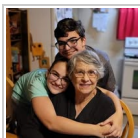
Michael Douglas Brewer - April 13, 2017 at 04:26 PM

KM

“ *Kathy Branstetter Mauck lit a candle in memory of Virgil Douglas 'Doug' Potts*



Kathy branstetter mauck - April 10, 2017 at 09:19 PM



“ *Johnnie Branstetter*



Shirley Hodges Branstetter - April 10, 2017 at 05:18 PM

JW

“ *I think a man's true character always shows more during adversity than during the good times. My son was a senior with the class of '90, the year Bolivar did not win a game. I will never forget Doug's handling of that situation. Every week my son left for the game saying, "Mom, tonight is the night. We are going to win tonight." And he had such confidence. And although it never happened, I watched as a parent how Doug handled the boys, and I will always be grateful for how he changed these boys into men, teaching courage and perseverance and never giving up. We were just a little deficient in size that year, but Doug made the boys feel like they were winners in more important ways than the final score of the game. Thank you, Doug, for what you did for so many of our youth through the years. To Annie and the family: I am so sorry for your tremendous loss and praying you will find comfort and peace in the days ahead, knowing how many people love all of you.*

Joan Woods - April 09, 2017 at 07:51 AM

LR

“ Dear Annie,

Doug has been one of my lifelong heroes. I have so many memories of him: of the first time I met him out in my family's driveway while he was visiting with my dad; of watching him lead our high school football games; of the love and kindness he showed me and my brother when my father died; of my early days of coaching under his mentorship; of singing with him in the BUMC choir; of volunteering with him with the Friends of the Library; and so many, many more. I can't begin to express how much I admire this man--and how much I'll miss him. Annie, you and Doug and your beautiful family have been role models for our entire community. I have always felt so very amazed and unworthy of the love you have shown me personally for the past 50-plus years--and I count the two of you among my greatest blessings. I will be thinking about all of you in the difficult days ahead. May your memories of Doug and the love of those whose lives you've touched bring you much peace and comfort.

*Much love,
Linda Roller*

Linda Roller - April 08, 2017 at 10:22 PM

BS

“ *Family of Coach Potts. I'm sorry for your loss of a great leader, person, football coach, the time. I was in Bolivar High School. 1986-1989 Then graduation. He's in Gods hands with all angel. God bless. BRENDA Salkil and Family!*

Brenda (Spry) Salkil - April 08, 2017 at 02:59 PM

JP

“ Dear Ann, Brett and Jennifer, I am so sorry about your loss. I was fortunate to play on Doug's first and second football teams and his first track team and have many fond memories of those times. I will never forget running the "hill" at the end of those 2-a-day practices in August, what we thought was "conditioning torture" was really Coach's character building, which has proven valuable going through life's experiences. While he was a rookie head coach that fall of '66, you would never know it, he seemed like a seasoned pro, he knew what he wanted to accomplish and exactly how to get there. You bought your first house behind my Mom's house and were back yard neighbors. She would tell me in her later years how you and Doug were there if she needed anything after my Dad died and how you kept an eye on my 3 brothers after I moved away from Bolivar. You and Doug raised two awesome kids that have continued with the values you taught them with their families. My oldest daughter Ali was born with Down Syndrome and attended Shawnee Mission South H.S., where Brett was the head football coach and science teacher. It was important to us that she was in regular classes and Brett was her Biology teacher. He worked with us in providing a modified curriculum and went out of his way to help her. He didn't have to do that, he had plenty of other responsibilities at South but Brett is a lot like Doug, he cares for people and has his priorities and values in order. Very few people go through life with the ability and desire to positively influence others as much as Doug has, while he will be greatly missed, we have all benefited from knowing him and we will always remember him as The Coach. May God Bless you and your family.

Joe Pirkle, class of '68

Joe Pirkle - April 08, 2017 at 09:16 AM

HS

“ Dear Annie & Family,

My brother, Chris Strack & I were very saddened to learn of Doug's death. Chris is currently at Recovery Village Palmer Lake, CO with limited access to media. Chris & I have talked many times about him playing football & the 2-a-days lead by Coach. I have fond memories of Coach as a Royal Rooter & being at all the games, as well as working with both of you at UMW Chili/Soup Day. Several years back when Chris was visiting Mom (LaurNell Strack) & we went with her to church, I recall a conversation between Chris & Coach after the service: Coach, "I wouldn't have know who you were; you use to have long hair." Chris responded, "I grew up to look like you, Coach". We all had a good laugh about that brief conversation.



Doug will be missed by all who knew him, yet I know he's still Coaching from Heaven!

*Our Prayers & Thoughts are with all of you.
Chris Strack & Helen Ann Strack*

Helen Strack - April 07, 2017 at 06:32 PM

GB

“ Dear Anne, I send you my condolences and a sweet memory of the time Jane invited me to watch Doug play football for Pittsburg State. Your parents, Jane and I sat with you that night. You were so proud of Doug and so much in love. My heart goes out to you at this time.
Sincerely, Gay Leader Bess

gay bess - April 07, 2017 at 04:09 PM

ML

“ Although I never played a sport under his direction, Coach Potts was a presence at nearly all Bolivar Liberator sporting events. As a softball and volleyball player I remember seeing him attend many of our games. One of my fondest memories of him happened one summer after I had already graduated high school. I was home from college and had sprained my ankle but wanted desperately to go water skiing, so I went down to the field house where Coach Potts was conducting two-a-days for the football guys. He taped my ankle up nice and strong so I could go to the lake and enjoy a day of skiing even with a bad ankle. I'll never forget the kindness he showed me that day.

Much love and sympathy to Annie and the rest of Doug's family. We will all miss him.

Meleah (Stephens) Larroca

Meleah Larroca - April 07, 2017 at 01:45 PM

SH

“ Steve and Marti Hancock purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Virgil Douglas 'Doug' Potts.



Steve and Marti Hancock - April 07, 2017 at 12:46 PM

JE

“ *Ann & Family: Jim & I always enjoyed seeing you and Doug when you showed up in Mac County for an event. Jim is having some medical problems right now but hopefully on the way to recovery and is in rehab here in Anderson. You will be in my thoughts and prayers in the difficult days ahead and I'll keep you in my prayers. Our Roark family is slipping away and we have to celebrate the ones that are still around. Love, Margie*



Jim & Margie Edmonds - April 07, 2017 at 10:40 AM

CB

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Carl Baron - April 07, 2017 at 08:32 AM

CB

2002 back in the good ole days

Carl Baron - April 07, 2017 at 08:37 AM

DB

“ *Coach Potts was my driving instructor and an amazing man. He was patient but stern. I respected him very much. I am so very sorry for your loss. He will be dearly missed.*



Donna Binns - April 06, 2017 at 10:44 PM

JH

“ *Jim and Dawn Hall purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Virgil Douglas 'Doug' Potts.*



Jim and Dawn Hall - April 06, 2017 at 09:31 PM

JH

“ *Anne, Brett & Paula, Jennifer & Jack,
We are so sorry for your loss. Coach Potts touched my life at an early age and I have felt his influence ever since. My respect and high regard for Coach was only surpassed in my life by my own father I will always be grateful for the impact he had on my life and for the impact he had on many others.*

Jim and Dawn Hall

Jim and Dawn Hall - April 06, 2017 at 08:38 PM

TA

“ *The Missouri Football Coaches Association purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Virgil Douglas 'Doug' Potts.*



The Missouri Football Coaches Association - April 06, 2017 at 11:35 AM

NG

“ Anne and family you are in our thoughts and prayers. Doug influenced lots of lives over the years so his memory will live on. Nancy and Harlie



Nancy and Harlie Gallatin - April 06, 2017 at 11:18 AM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Virgil Douglas 'Doug' Potts.



April 05, 2017 at 08:45 PM

MH

“ Our deepest sympathy we extend to you. Doug was an incredible man and will always hold a dear place in our hearts. Our love, Steve and Marti Hancock

Marti Hancock - April 05, 2017 at 02:58 PM

RW

“ Sorry for your loss. Class mate Ruth Whitlock Wester.

Ruth Whitlock Wester - April 05, 2017 at 01:26 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Virgil Douglas 'Doug' Potts.



April 05, 2017 at 11:47 AM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Jim Murray - April 05, 2017 at 09:14 AM



Pictures were taken at class reunion (Neosho Class of 1956). Doug is visiting with Coach Lane who was a coaching legend at Neosho, just as Doug was to Bolivar. The other picture is Doug and a classmate enjoying life with a great smile.

Jim Murray - April 05, 2017 at 09:32 AM



“ My family and I had the privilege of living next door to the Potts for many years. Doug and Annie are great people. Prayers going out to the entire Potts family during this sad time.

The Waldo's

Allen Waldo - April 05, 2017 at 09:09 AM

LF

“ *My heart is broken. I feel like having Coach Potts in my life helped mold me into the person I am today. Being in and out of their house, riding to school in his "Thing" and him being the brace man to teach me how to drive along with so many other kids from BHS. Coach Potts also molded so many other kids from BHS. He will be truly missed by so many! Thanks Coach for your dedication to all the student at BHS!*

Prays for Annie, Brett and Jennifer and all the family. Sending my love!

Libby Friend Farrell - April 04, 2017 at 07:17 PM