



Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford

May 17, 1941 - March 18, 2026

Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford, 84, passed away on March 18, 2026, in Greenville, S.C.

Born in Asheville, N.C., Tom was the son of Mr. and Mrs. George and Audrie Stanford. He graduated from Lee Edwards High School and earned degrees from Mars Hill College (A.A.) and Western Carolina University (B.S., M.A.).

Coach is remembered for his love of Jesus Christ, devotion to his family, and service to his church, students, and community. He served in a variety of volunteer ministry positions including deacon and Sunday School teacher over a period of more than 50 years at Washington Avenue Baptist Church, Bethel Baptist Church, and most recently Marietta First Baptist Church.

Coach Stanford served the students, staff, and families of Greenville County for 45 years as a teacher, coach, athletic director, and assistant principal. He worked at Monaview Jr. High, JL Mann High, Slater-Marietta High, Travelers Rest High, Eastside High, and Riverside High. The SC Athletic Coaches Association recognized his 30-year coaching career with teams in football, basketball, baseball, and track. He led teams to conference championships at multiple schools, earned multiple conference Coach of the Year honors, and won a S.C State Basketball Championship in 1971 at Slater-Marietta High School. Coach was inducted into the Eastside High School Athletic Hall of Fame (2010) and the S.C. Basketball Officials Hall of Fame (2012).

Tom is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joyce Stanford; his children, Candi Boone (Rick) and Scott Stanford (Chrissy); his six grandchildren, Greyson, Sydney, Cole, Alexandra, Lily, and Gabrielle; and his sister Elaine Deaner.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, George Stanford III.

A visitation will be held at The Howze Mortuary, 6714 State Park Road in Travelers Rest, SC on Friday, March 20, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held

at Marietta First Baptist Church, 2936 Geer Hwy, Marietta, SC on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Coleman Memorial Cemetery in Travelers Rest.

Memorials may be made to Marietta First Baptist Church, 2936 Geer Highway, Marietta, SC, 29661, <https://www.mfbc-sc.org/give>.

Cemetery Details

Coleman Memorial Cemetery

1599 Geer Hwy
Travelers Rest, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **20**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (est)

The Howze Mortuary, Inc.
6714 State Park Road
P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
(864) 834-8051
thehowzemortuary@yahoo.com
<https://www.thehowzemortuary.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR **21**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (est)

Marietta First Baptist Church
2936 Geer Hwy
Marietta, SC 29661

Burial

MAR **21**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (est)

Coleman Memorial Cemetery
1599 Geer Hwy
Travelers Rest, SC

Tribute Wall

RM

“ I was fortunate to have worked alongside Tom when he was at Mann. He was an excellent coach and a great friend. Tom served the Riverside community well as an administrator. He will certainly be missed.

Ron Moore - March 24 at 04:57 PM

SA

“ We are so sorry about Coach Stanford's passing. Your family will be in our prayers in the coming days.

Scott & Teri Ayers - March 24 at 12:19 PM

AB

“ I sad to hear about the passing of my friend Tom. Tom and I refereed many High School basketball games together. He was such a gentleman on and off the court and a joy to be around. Tom and I share many enjoyable times together while serving in the District One Basketball Association of the Upstate. He will truly be missed.

AL Banister - March 23 at 10:52 PM

TC

“ Candi,

So sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. You are in our prayers.

Todd and Stephanie Capps

Todd Capps - March 23 at 02:31 PM

PH

“ Pat Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Thomas L. Stanford



Pat Hawkins - March 22 at 09:05 PM

PA

“ I met Tom about 10 years ago when we started playing golf together. You get to know quite a bit about the character of a person as you endure the ups and downs of golf. We both chunked lots of balls into the water hazards on the courses we played on. Tom never let a bad shot ruin his day. He just enjoyed being out among God's creations. I also learned a lot about his family. He was so proud of them all. It was an honor to get to call Tom a friend.

Pete Audette

Pete Audette - March 20 at 10:29 PM

SC

“ Mrs. Stanford,

*I have fond memories of Coach Stanford and the times we came over to your home after football games while you lived in Westcliff. It's funny, at the time I didn't realize the life lessons that Coach was teaching me during my high school career. Some of those teachings I use each day of my life!
I wish you peace during your time of transition. Sorry I am out of town and will not return until after the funeral*

*Scott Carpenter
Class of 1983*

Scott Carpenter - March 20 at 04:23 PM

RE

“ Condolences to the family.

R. Keith East - March 20 at 10:38 AM

PG

“ I've enjoyed knowing and working with Tom and his family for years! He was a great and special educator. Pat Grills

Pat Grills - March 20 at 09:35 AM

AG

“ Andrew & Kim Gray planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford.

Andrew & Kim Gray - March 19 at 09:40 PM

AG

“ Andrew & Kim Gray purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford.



Andrew & Kim Gray - March 19 at 09:40 PM

JT

“ Janet and Amy Turk purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford.



Janet and Amy Turk - March 19 at 08:26 PM

JG

“ Joe and Dianna Garren purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford.



Joe and Dianna Garren - March 19 at 07:42 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford.



March 19 at 06:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford.

March 19 at 06:58 PM

BT

“ Billy, Donna, Johnny, & Brenda Tripp purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford.



Billy, Donna, Johnny, & Brenda Tripp - March 19 at 06:35 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford.



March 19 at 05:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas L. "Coach" Stanford.

March 19 at 05:40 PM

D(

“ So very sorry for your family's loss. May you feel God's love close around you.
Deborah Johnson Reynolds

Deborah Reynolds (Roy) - March 19 at 05:31 PM