



## Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs

January 28, 1941 - January 18, 2024

"Coach" Weldon LaVerne "Jake" Gibbs, 82, passed from this life at his home on Thursday, January 18th, 2024. The family will receive friends on Saturday, January 27th, at Austin and Bell Funeral Home in Springfield from 2-6pm, and again on Sunday, January 28th, from 1-3pm with a Celebration of Life service beginning at 3 pm.

Jake was born January 28th, 1941, to the late Willie Norris and Mildred Alva "Ted" Gibbs in Ashland City, TN. He was a graduate of Cheatham County Central High School where he played football and basketball. He continued his basketball career at Tennessee Tech for 1 year before entering the United States Air Force where he proudly served for several years. Following his service he finished his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Austin Peay State University.

Jake married the love of his life, Barbara Eckert Gibbs, on June 5th, 1965. They raised three beautiful daughters Becky, Hillary, and Amber.

He was known as an avid hunter, fisherman, and sportsman who served as a game warden before pursuing a career in education. Jake taught Hunter Safety Courses for many years at Greenbrier High School. He was also an educator, administrator, and coach for many years with tenures at Jo Byrns High School, Houston County High School, and both Greenbrier High and

Middle School. Jake earned the nickname “Coach” by mentoring hundreds of young ladies and men in various sports during his career, with his longest tenure being 1979-1993 coaching Girls Basketball while garnering a record of 322 wins and 99 losses. The highlight of his career was coaching his three daughters during this time. In 2016 Jake was inducted into the Greenbrier Athletics Hall of Fame both as coach and administrator.

Jake was an exceptional storyteller and conversationalist. His favorite topic was his family. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. He passed down his many interests by teaching and coaching them. He was their biggest supporter and could always be found bragging about them in the checkout lane of any grocery store.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Eckert Gibbs, his brother, DV Albritton, and his grandchild Samuel Crockett Holman.

Coach Gibbs is survived by his brother, Gary (Becky) Scott, daughters and sons-in-law, Becky and Kevin LeGate of Nashville, Hillary and Joe Craig of Greenbrier, and Amber and Joe Seeley of Russellville, KY, by his grandchildren, Taylor (Blake) Hollis, Faith (Jacob) Lisemby, Savannah LeGate, Anna Beth Craig, Laura Seeley, Jessie Seeley, Caleb Craig, Ridge Holman, and Hank Seeley, and great grandchild, Banks Hollis, as well as honorary grandchildren, Cecilia Crutcher Quintero, Thomas “Bubba” Crutcher, and Adam Crutcher.

In Lieu of flowers If so desired, memorial contributions may be made to:  
Greenbrier High School Sports Hall of Fame, Greenbrier High School,  
Attention Clint Mason, 126 Cuniff Drive, Greenbrier, TN 37073

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 27. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield  
509 Walnut St.  
Springfield, TN 37172  
(615) 384-1000  
<https://austinandbell.com>

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 28. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield  
509 Walnut St.  
Springfield, TN 37172  
(615) 384-1000  
<https://austinandbell.com>

## Memorial Service

JAN 28. 3:00 PM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield  
509 Walnut St.  
Springfield, TN 37172  
(615) 384-1000  
<https://austinandbell.com>

# Tribute Wall

KC

“ Coach I always looked forward to our talks at the Center. You were a gifted story teller of your many and varied experiences. You were most definitely a giver to those whom you met. You leave wonderful legacy for your family.

Ken Cherry - January 29, 2024 at 12:24 PM

CZ

“ Carol Zeck lit a candle in memory of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs



carol zeck - January 28, 2024 at 04:47 PM

CZ

Will never forget our years at Jo Byrns high school together, and the lunches we shared together after retirement, and the Good conversation you told some mighty good stories. You're with the love of your life now I hope you're dancing in the sky.

carol zeck - January 28, 2024 at 04:49 PM

CC

“ Cecilia C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.

Cecilia C. - January 27, 2024 at 10:30 AM

YF

“ Your SHBC Small Group Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.



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**Your SHBC Small Group Family** - January 26, 2024 at 10:39 PM

CC

“ Chris and Jana Carrington planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.

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**Chris and Jana Carrington** - January 25, 2024 at 06:23 PM

CC

“ Chris and Jana Carrington purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.



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**Chris and Jana Carrington** - January 25, 2024 at 06:23 PM



“ 99 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Austin & Bell Funeral Home - January 25, 2024 at 04:25 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.



January 25, 2024 at 11:21 AM



“ Scott Garrett's family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.



Scott Garrett's family - January 25, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.*



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January 23, 2024 at 05:01 PM



“ *Amy J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.*

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**Amy J.** - January 23, 2024 at 02:30 PM



“ *Jon W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.*

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**Jon W.** - January 23, 2024 at 10:37 AM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.*



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January 23, 2024 at 10:37 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs.*



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January 23, 2024 at 09:44 AM



“ *The Dowlen's lit a candle in memory of Weldon LaVerne "Coach" Gibbs*



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**The Dowlen's** - January 22, 2024 at 04:21 PM



“ *Uncle Jake, I wanted to tell you I love you. I know you are having a blast with Aunt Barbara and Nana as I write this. My prayers are with you and the family. May you rest in peace.*

*Sincerely, with love  
Tommy Eckert.*

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**Thomas Eckert** - January 22, 2024 at 11:53 AM



“ *Prayers to the family. Coach was a wonderful man a friend to all.  
God Bless,  
Bobby, Joanna Riley and Family  
Bessie Bryant*

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**Joanna** - January 21, 2024 at 08:31 PM