



Ronald Lee Skeen

February 25, 1935 - October 16, 2024

Ronald Lee Skeen, age 89, of Ewing, Virginia passed away surrounded by his family on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. He was born on February 25, 1935 in Harrogate, TN.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Carol Penn Skeen, Ewing, VA; grandson, Collin Alexander Skeen and wife Diana Jean Skeen, of Lafayette, CA; granddaughter, Hunter Katherine King and husband Air Force Captain Bradley Wayne King, and great-grandchildren Oaklyn, Odin, and Tilian King of Mustang, OK. His son, Jerry Ronald Skeen, passed away in 2009.

Ronald graduated from Powell Valley High School in Tennessee then went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Lincoln Memorial University, where he met his life-long partner Carol, in 1956. He later earned a Master's Degree from Union College.

He devoted 35 years of his life to education, spending most of his career as a teacher, coach, and athletic director at Thomas Walker High School in Ewing, VA. While he coached a number of sports including cross country and baseball, his success with basketball brought considerable attention to Southwest Virginia and he finished his career with the title of Virginia's winningest basketball coach with a 528-232 record.

Ronald was a man committed to both his family and community. As a devoted son, he cared for his mother, Nora Owen Skeen, until her death in 2005. In addition to the influence he had on his students and athletes, much of his legacy came from his kind interactions with others. A stranger to no one, you could often find him post-retirement loafing around the Tri-State area with a smile on his face—always happy to talk about local sports, University of Tennessee athletics, and his interest in classic cars and Mustangs.

If there was one thing that meant more to him than anything else, it was his wife Carol. As committed and loving partners, they spent their many decades together teaching at Thomas Walker, traveling across the south for car shows, and raising their family. Until the very end, they stood side-by-side, never wavering in their love for one another. He will be greatly missed by his family and all those he impacted.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 6 until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at Thomas Walker High School.

Online condolences may be viewed or sent by visiting our website, www.RobinetteFuneralHomes.com. Robinette Funeral Home of Rose Hill is serving the Skeen family.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thomas Walker High School
126 Blue Gray Road
Ewing, VA 24248

Tribute Wall



“ Coach Skeen was a true Pioneer in both contexts of the word: he was a true Blue and Grey, and also for a while a red, white, and blue, Thomas Walker Pioneer, and a legendary, multi-sport coaching pioneer. I remember with great pride being the statistician for the boys’ basketball team my senior year in 1979, when we played in the state championship in Charlottesville. I can see him now in my mind’s eye aggressively chewing athletic tape during an intense basketball game, while his mind was multi-tasking about the current action on the court and the next play to call. But his legacy is not limited to coaching. Coach Skeen was also a great role model, mentor, and gentleman. He and Carol positively touched so many lives over the years, with their exemplary teaching, care, influence, and grace. And we are ALL the better for having been blessed with them in our lives. — If all of us who cannot be there for his celebration of life this evening—but desperately would like to be—you’d need three gymnasiums with standing room only. — Godspeed Coach Skeen, you are one in a million. I pray that you, Jerry, and Nora are in the wings observing the celebration of your life. ❤️ — Proud TWHS Pioneer of the Class of 1979.

Cindy Saylor - October 19, 2024 at 06:30 PM

KC

“ Condolences to Mrs. Skeen and family members. Many of my family members played basketball for him through the years. Coach Skeen was certainly an Icon for the ages.
Kathy Thomas Cheek

Kathy Thomas Cheek - October 19, 2024 at 02:42 PM

JC

“ It was a pleasure and honor knowing Coach Skeen, especially during the 70's during the Pennington and Thomas Walker basketball season, wonderful memories. Prayers with Love for the Family

Jan and Jeff Copeland - October 19, 2024 at 11:28 AM

JE

“ Skeens' Family, So sorry to hear of Coach Skeens' passing. He sure was a great basketball coach. He had a lot of great teams that played against Pennington High. All the family will be in our thoughts and prayers during this sad time.

Joe & Tracy Ely - October 18, 2024 at 07:26 PM

LW

Just now saw the sad news of Ron Skeens passing. I attended LMU and was a roommate of his wife Carol. I send late condolences to my roommate and dear friend. Sincerely,
Linda Pendleton Williams

Linda Pendleton Williams - May 27, 2025 at 03:12 AM

JL

“ Coach Skeen was our neighbor when we lived in Ewing. He and his wife were such nice people. My boys especially loved Coach Skeen when they were at Thomas Walker. He will be missed by all who knew him. Love and prayers for the family.

Judith Littrell - October 18, 2024 at 03:34 PM

AR

“ Coach Skeen was one of a kind. I didn't have the privilege of playing on one of his teams, but I played against several of them. His teams were always expertly coached and very talented. I enjoyed talking with him over the years, reminiscing about the old Pennington- Thomas Walker rivalry. He will be missed.

Anthony Carson Robbins - October 18, 2024 at 02:22 PM

LL

Coach Skeen coached me in baseball and basketball, my brothers Don and Bobby in baseball and basketball, and my wife, Brenda Brooks Lee and my sister, Lois Lee Bailey in basketball. I have always had great respect for him as a coach, but more so as a kind and great man who taught more about life than sports. RIP!

Lewey Lee - October 20, 2024 at 10:10 PM

LC

“ Coach had the best personality, it did not matter where I saw him he always greeted me with a smile and friendly conversation. He will be missed. Leisa Faye Littrell Class of 1987

Leisa Faye Littrell Colinger - October 18, 2024 at 01:18 PM

JL

“ What an inspiration to so many. His knowledge, strategy, compassion and leadership created the “Legend!” Coach was always available to talk with anyone seeking advice on coaching or just friendly conversation. It was an honor and privilege to play basketball for a Thomas Walker team coached by Ron Skeen. Carol, my prayers are with you. May God comfort you during this time. Love you guys.
Jerry Dale Loftice

Jerry Dale Loftice - October 18, 2024 at 12:07 PM

SG

“ Coach was one of the best. I have tried to work with students the way he worked with us. He made a difference in a lot of lives. You will be missed. Shannon Grabeel class of 84.

Shannon Grabeel - October 18, 2024 at 12:06 PM

SL

“ So sorry for your lose.



Shelby Long - October 18, 2024 at 11:39 AM

PF

“ Coach Skeen was the embodiment of TW basketball. He made such an impact on tge lives of the athletes who played for him as well as many others who knew him. He will be greatly missed. Paulette Jones Fultz - Class of '68

Paulette Fultz - October 18, 2024 at 10:26 AM

CL

“Legend” cannot begin to describe Coach Skeen. He led by example not only in his professional career but also in his personal life. He impacted so many lives in a positive way and cared about his students on past their graduation from high school. Always had a smile when you met him on the street and always said, “it’s good seeing you again.” While this community is saddened by his passing, we know we have been blessed by his life here. Many prayers to you, Carol, Collin and Hunter and your families.

Candy Jones Lowe
Class of '76

Candy Jones Lowe - October 21, 2024 at 11:21 AM

BO

“ My wife and I met Ronald and Carol decades ago through our church, we can not say enough about Ronald and how great of a person he was. His advice and knowledge will be sorely missed. He loved his mustangs and we could talk about cars all day. We will miss him dearly.

bob and Vickie Oakes - October 18, 2024 at 10:07 AM

GH

“ Gloria, Cindy, Laura, Tammy, Pat & Hugh purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ronald Lee Skeen.



Gloria, Cindy, Laura, Tammy, Pat & Hugh - October 18, 2024 at 09:32 AM

DH

“ Coach Skeen touched and molded so many lives at Thomas Walker HS. He will always be in my fondest memories of that time. Class of '76

Debbi Manning Hooper

Debra Hooper - October 17, 2024 at 10:04 PM

JR

John and I are so sorry for your loss . We will always remember him and you and love ❤️ you forever !

John & Geri Ravnum - October 18, 2024 at 10:04 PM