



## Richard Wayne Foster

June 1, 1946 - June 10, 2025

Richard Wayne Foster of Beech Bluff, Tennessee passed away on June 10, 2025 at his home surrounded by family and friends at the age of 79. He was a dedicated teacher, fierce coach, life-long athlete, and loyal friend for so many. His passions in life were his family, sportsmanship through hunting and fishing, and playing cards with friends. He loved a good joke and a good story. He dedicated his life to the education and enrichment of the youth in the communities where he lived through mentorship and being a role model to them. Over the years, many of his former basketball and football players have shared with his family how much he meant to them...some even crediting him as a significant father figure in their lives.

Coach Foster was born on June 1, 1946 in Milan, Tennessee. He grew up in Trezevant, Tennessee as the only child of Jamie and Fannie Foster. His true passion was basketball, and he was a star in high school, scoring over 1,300 career points, was named to All-District, All-Region, and Third-Team All-State teams. His dedication earned him a basketball scholarship to Bethel College, where he played and earned his B.S. in education. At Bethel, he also met and fell in love with his wife and soul mate, Kaye Carter. They married during their senior year in college. He subsequently obtained his master's degree in education from The University of Tennessee-Martin.

His first position out of college was at Lexington High School, where he coached and taught for 22 years, serving as the girls' head basketball coach as well as an assistant football coach. Subsequently, he took the head girls'

basketball coaching position at Jackson Northside where he continued and then completed his career as a coach and educator, leading the girls' varsity basketball team to the state tournament in 1992. He was voted Coach of the Year by the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association in 1984 and 1986, The Jackson Sun Coach of the year 1983-1984, and District Coach of the Year 1984, 1987, and 1988.

Richard and Kaye retired from coaching/teaching the same year and began their next phase of life together. Their priorities were mainly spending time with family, including their four grandchildren, friends, and traveling as much as they could. Their favorite trips were spent on Royal Caribbean cruises sharing meals at the captain's table and visiting new coastal destinations, making new friends along the way. Richard was a fiercely loyal friend and confidant to those that knew him well; a man of the highest integrity.

Richard was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Kaye, in October 2024. He is survived by his daughter, Charity Elizabeth Foster (Bill) McConnell of Brentwood, Tennessee, his son Richard Ryan (April) Foster of Jackson, Tennessee, four grandchildren Foster McConnell, Nolan Foster, Logan Foster, and Lila Kate Foster.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, June 15th, 3:00pm at First Baptist Church in Lexington, Tennessee. Visitations will be held on Thursday, June 12th from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at Reed's Chapel and Sunday, June 15th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at First Baptist Church. In addition, Coach Foster always told his children that he wanted an "Irish wake" at the end of his life. His children would like to honor this wish with a celebration of life for Coach. Please join us Thursday, June 12th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Pine Tree Country Club in Lexington, Tennessee after the visitation to tell your favorite Kaye and Richard stories and toast to an exemplary life well-lived.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

# Tribute Wall

PF

“ *Peggy Fitzpatrick lit a candle in memory of Richard Wayne Foster*



Peggy Fitzpatrick - October 20, 2025 at 01:27 PM

MT

“ *Melinda Thurmond lit a candle in memory of Richard Wayne Foster*



Melinda Thurmond - June 19, 2025 at 11:43 AM

MT

*He was the best study hall teacher. He will be missed. Prayers and sympathy for the family.*

Melinda Thurmond - June 19, 2025 at 11:44 AM

JG

“ *We worked with Richard and Kaye in education at Lexington. We loved them both dearly. Did not know about Richard until today. We love you both Elizabeth and Richard. Sincerely, Bill & Joan Gateley*

Joan Gateley - June 19, 2025 at 10:59 AM

KR

“ Coach, Not many days go by that I am not reminded of the life lessons you contributed to me during those LHS mid-seventies days. You weren't so good at catching us throwing pennies in study hall but I swear your ears could pick out a pin drop of us talking and to the book room we went for a paddling. Breaking us in to high school freshman football and then leading our football secondary players are some of my fondest memories, well, at least when we got to our senior season. I always looked up to you and especially how you coached with a tough love which at the time was irritating but now I realize necessary for the task at hand. RIP Coach from myself and the Class of 77 Big Red Tigers!

Kim Reeves - June 14, 2025 at 12:52 PM

JP

“ As one of six first cousins, Richard was a much loved member of our little tribe. I looked up to him my entire life and was thrilled when he introduced Kaye to our family and then married her! They were a perfect couple and always made me feel loved by them. Miss them both. My deepest condolences to Elizabeth and Ryan.



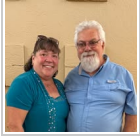
Jane Presson - June 13, 2025 at 05:41 PM

BP

“ Bill Cunningham & Kelly Pitalo purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard Wayne Foster.



Bill Cunningham & Kelly Pitalo - June 13, 2025 at 11:41 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss  
RIP Coach you will surely be missed!!!!*



---

**Debra Cummings Little** - June 12, 2025 at 06:56 PM



“ *Cotton Rhodes lit a candle in memory of  
Richard Wayne Foster*



---

**Cotton Rhodes** - June 12, 2025 at 01:48 PM



“ *One of the best positive influences I had as a youth. Always  
encouraging and taught responsibility. My condolences.*

---

**Greg Henderson** - June 12, 2025 at 12:41 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss!! Praying for the family.*



---

**Donna Dickey** - June 12, 2025 at 12:35 AM

JW

“ A lot of fond memories of Coach Foster as my freshman year football coach. Rest in peace. From "Preacher".



Jeff Wood - June 11, 2025 at 10:44 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Wayne Foster.



June 11, 2025 at 09:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Wayne Foster.

June 11, 2025 at 09:17 PM

JW

“ Joy Britt Williams lit a candle in memory of Richard Wayne Foster



Joy Britt Williams - June 11, 2025 at 08:09 PM

YT

“ Coach Foster will truly be missed. Wonderful person, teacher, mentor, and coach. So many fond memories and basketball stories of Coach Foster from LHS. 🙏🙏🙏



Yolanda Timberlake - June 11, 2025 at 04:00 PM

JS

“ Jerry Stegall lit a candle in memory of Richard Wayne Foster



Jerry Stegall - June 11, 2025 at 03:17 PM

DD

“ Donna Darrough lit a candle in memory of Richard Wayne Foster



Donna Darrough - June 11, 2025 at 11:39 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Wayne Foster.



June 11, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Wayne Foster.

June 11, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ Linda Elam lit a candle in memory of Richard Wayne Foster



Linda Elam - June 11, 2025 at 09:28 AM



“ Leslie Patton-powers lit a candle in memory of Richard Wayne Foster



Leslie Patton-powers - June 11, 2025 at 07:31 AM



“ Mr. Foster was always one of my favorite teachers. Carried a smile, always had time for his students maybe with the exception of study hall. My prayers go out to the family and friends.

Leslie Patton-powers - June 11, 2025 at 07:29 AM

VF

“Deepest condolences to you and your family for your loss.” coach Foster was my coach in 1975-76 freshmen girl team at Lexington High school and My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family. May God give you the peace that you seek.

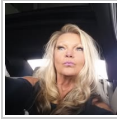
Vivian Fry - June 11, 2025 at 01:32 AM

AF

“ Amy Flowers sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard Wayne Foster



Amy Flowers - June 10, 2025 at 11:11 PM



He was a good one had him for study hall

Gayna Anderson - June 10, 2025 at 11:40 PM

DB

“ Danny &Shelia Beecham lit a candle in memory of Richard Wayne Foster



Danny &Shelia Beecham - June 10, 2025 at 10:36 PM

EA

“ *Eddie & Lori Akins lit a candle in memory of  
Richard Wayne Foster*



---

**Eddie & Lori Akins** - June 10, 2025 at 10:05 PM