



Henry Jackson

May 23, 1937 - May 7, 2025

Funeral services for Henry Jackson, 87, of Gilmer, Texas, will be held at 12:00 pm, Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Redemption Worship Center with Pastor Gabriel A. Griffin, Sr. officiating. Interment to follow at Zion Hill Cemetery. The family will receive family and friends 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Friday, May 16th at McWhorter Funeral Home.

Henry Jackson was born May 23, 1937, in Marksville, Louisiana. He was the fifth child of Rogers and Lee Elder Williams Jackson. He passed from this life on May 7, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Henry, who was the youngest of his siblings, grew up in Algiers, a suburb of New Orleans, Louisiana. At an early age, he accepted Christ as his Savior and was baptized into the fellowship of Greater Providence Baptist Church of Algiers.

He attended New Orleans public schools and earned his high school diploma from L. B. Landry High School in 1954. Nicknamed “Sweet Peas,” by his friends, Henry’s athletic prowess on the football field earned him “All-City” and “All-State” honors and scholarship offers from several Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). After weighing his options, he decided to leave his beloved “N’awlins” and head to Texas.

In the fall of 1954, Henry enrolled as a student-athlete at Texas College in Tyler, Texas. There, “Sweet Peas” continued to shine both on and off the field. His talents as both an offensive and defensive end earned him small college “All-America” and All-SWAC (Southwestern Athletic Conference) honors.

Additionally, he lettered in basketball and was initiated into the Sigma Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1955. Following his passion for coaching and teaching, Henry received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education with a minor in General Science. After graduating, Henry was presented with an opportunity to play football professionally; however, he elected to serve his country during wartime and enlisted in the United States Army. Following basic training, he was assigned to "Special Armed Services," in Fort Sheridan, Illinois, where in 1960, Private First Class (E-3) Henry Jackson was awarded the Good Conduct Medal for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity. In 1961, he was honorably discharged from the military upon completion of his tour of duty.

That same year, Henry returned to Texas to marry his college sweetheart, Shirley Faye Hargest Jackson and begin his teaching/coaching career at Ralph J. Bunche High School in Crockett, Texas.

After serving for eight years at Bunche, Henry went to work at Emmett J. Scott High School in Tyler, Texas. Then, when schools integrated, and Emmett Scott High School closed, Henry was assigned to work at Robert E. Lee High School (now Texas Legacy High School) in Tyler, Texas. During this time, Henry and Shirley celebrated the birth of their first child, Karen, which fueled his desire to work a little closer to his home. So, when the opportunity to teach PE and coach in Gilmer presented itself, Henry became a Gilmer Buckeye. He and Shirley welcomed their second child, Henry Kendall, and Henry enrolled in graduate school at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas. There, he earned his master's degree in education and his principal certification. Subsequently, he served as an assistant principal at the junior high and high school campuses, respectively, and coached his junior high Buckeye teams to numerous championships while working as a position coach with the high school teams. The only person who could coax Henry away from Gilmer was his best friend and coaching buddy, Ed Kendall, who'd become the superintendent at Pittsburg ISD. In Pittsburg, Henry initially served as the high school principal and years later, concluded his 40+ year

career in education by teaching students how to pass the math portion of the state-mandated exams.

When Henry was not teaching and coaching, he was working in the community and in his church, Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where he was ordained as a deacon in 1979. Over the years, he served as the church treasurer, Men's class Sunday School teacher, and layman's ministry chairman. He was on the board of the Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative (URECC), president of Eta Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and chairman of the Northeast Texas Layman's Movement.

Henry was preceded in death by his parents, Rogers and Lee Elder Jackson, brothers Joseph (Delores) and Rogers (Rebia), and sister Emma Jackson Thompson (Perry). Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Shirley Jackson; daughter, Dr. Karen Jackson Bradberry; son, Coach Henry Kendall Jackson (Shovette); sister, Elizabeth Jackson Baldwin (Benjamin); grandchildren, Coach Ryan Bradberry (Morgan), China, Kendall Jakarius, and Keegan Henry; great-grandchildren, Phoenix, Raedyn, Arie, Kaison and Royalty; and many nieces, nephews, and other family members.

Please visit Henry's online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Cemetery Details

Zion Hill Cemetery

2354 Poppy Rd.
Gilmer, TX 75644

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Service

MAY 17. 12:00 PM (CT)

Redemption Worship Center
1088 US Hwy 271 N
Gilmer, TX 75644

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Henry Jackson Funeral Service



McWhorter Funeral Home - May 17, 2025 at 05:40 PM

JW

“ My name is Jon white, and me and Henry had our issues because I wasn't in the best place while he was my principal, but over the years I grew to respect and love the man and understand why it was hugs wst of showing God's love to me, his wife was my music teacher and I have nothing but respect for his family

Jon White - May 16, 2025 at 06:35 PM

PM

“ I have many memories of the Jackson family — working with Shirley, watching Karen and Kendall grow up, and working along side Coach for several years at Gilmer Junior High. He was always a pleasure to be around, and I knew I could call on him for anything I needed. When I think of him, I think of the positive influence he had on so many children (and his fellow educators) during his long career in education. He definitely left his mark on the lives of many. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.
Peggy Moughon

Peggy Moughon - May 16, 2025 at 03:40 PM

JS

“ Whether as a phenomenal teacher/coach, an upright member and role model in the community; or whether for his bigger than life laugh, low key sense of humor or his N'awlins cuisine; my family and I remember Henry Jackson and celebrate the impact of his amazing life. To Shirley, Karen, Kendall (aka my other son), all the grands, great-grands and family, we send our love and prayers for comfort and peace.

Joyce Sloan - May 16, 2025 at 02:38 PM

JF

“ Joyce Sloan and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Henry Jackson.



Joyce Sloan and Family - May 16, 2025 at 02:03 PM



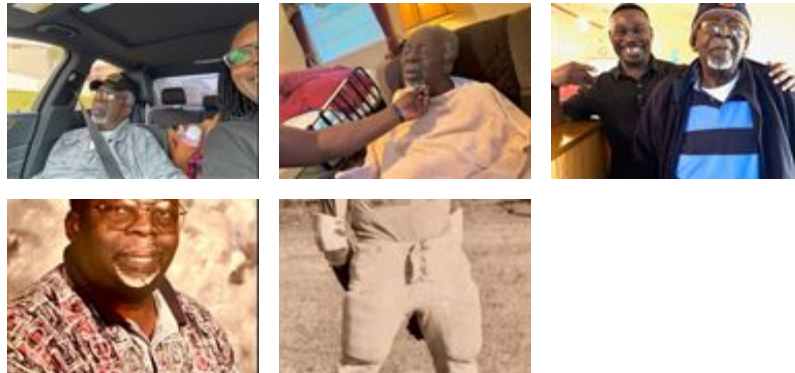
“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Henry Jackson.



May 16, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ 111 files added to the album *Life Tributes*

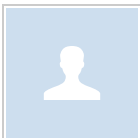


McWhorter Funeral Home - May 16, 2025 at 11:10 AM



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

May 16, 2025 at 08:12 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Henry Jackson.



May 16, 2025 at 08:12 AM



“ 157 files added to the album LifeTributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - May 15, 2025 at 06:17 PM

IF

“ Ian & Bill from the Brewer Foundation planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Jackson.

Ian & Bill from the Brewer Foundation - May 15, 2025 at 02:33 PM

IF

“ Ian & Bill from the Brewer Foundation purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Henry Jackson.



Ian & Bill from the Brewer Foundation - May 15, 2025 at 02:33 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Henry Jackson.



May 15, 2025 at 02:33 PM



“ Elder Mart & Pastor Yvette DeVine purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Henry Jackson.



Elder Mart & Pastor Yvette DeVine - May 15, 2025 at 10:08 AM



“ Coach was one amazing man. Always there to correct us if we needed it but also right there to help us too. I will never forget him walking the halls with his board in his back pocket. The new kids were always scared of him at first. The ones of us who had grown up around him just looked at him as a big teddy bear. No one ever wondered if he cared about his students because he made sure to tell us how much he did. Love you Mrs. Jackson and Kendall

Amanda Dugger (Crabtree) class of 1995 - May 15, 2025 at 12:47 AM



“ It was a great honor to have worked with and known Henry. His wonderful care for others and his typically gentle but directive coaching, I will always remember.

Robert Walker - May 14, 2025 at 11:42 AM

FM

“ Uncle Henry was a beast with a road map! Uncle Henry sat down with me and mapped out a specific route from Long Pine back to Aurora Colorado. In his Uncle Henry voice he said Leesh call us suga and let us (Aunt Shirley) know when you make it back home. I got home in record time! What would have taken me 14 hours easily but I made it home in 12! He was better than GPS!!!

Felicia McArthur - May 14, 2025 at 07:34 AM

FW

“ Felicia Wilks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Jackson.

Felicia Wilks - May 14, 2025 at 07:21 AM

FW

“ Felicia Wilks purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Henry Jackson.



Felicia Wilks - May 14, 2025 at 07:21 AM

SW

“ It was an honor to know Henry Jackson. May his family feel God's love and care.

Sandy Wilson - May 13, 2025 at 03:37 PM

RW

“ Coach Jackson was a wonderful man of God. He married one of my favorite cousins, Shirley. His memories will live on in my family. May God give the family strength, peace and comfort during this difficult time. RIP and fly high.

Remona Verner Wayne - May 13, 2025 at 01:24 PM



“ I have many memories with Uncle Henry.
We use to go fishing a lot when I spent the summer in Long Pine.
He taught me a lot about being the man I am today.
He always had a story to tell.
I will miss him very much but not forget the man he was.
Love
Jug a syrup!!!

Duran Hargest - May 13, 2025 at 12:20 PM

PO

“ I have fond memories of meeting Uncle Henry. So friendly and a great personality. He will be missed. My condolences to the family, may God comfort you through this difficult time.

Patricia H Oliver - May 13, 2025 at 08:55 AM

DF

“ Dakin Boyd Hargest & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Jackson.

Dakin Boyd Hargest & Family - May 13, 2025 at 07:41 AM

DF

“ Dakin Boyd Hargest & Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Henry Jackson.



Dakin Boyd Hargest & Family - May 13, 2025 at 07:41 AM



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

May 13, 2025 at 06:33 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Henry Jackson.



May 13, 2025 at 06:33 AM

WB

“ May God through Jesus grant to each of you what only He knows is needed and what only He has the Power to give during this Season of Life. Love and Prayers Willie Pearl & Bubba Brown 🙏🙏🙏



Willie Pearl Brown - May 12, 2025 at 03:12 PM

KB

Thank you! Karen & Family

Karen Jacksom Bradberry - May 13, 2025 at 02:14 AM

AP

“ Coach Jackson was a good man and a great leader. He was always fair and I respected that. Rest Well!

Allen Puckett - May 12, 2025 at 03:06 PM

DA

I Had The Privilege Of Knowing Coach Henry Jackson In The Junior High And In The High School. Henry Was A Good Man. Henry Was A God Fearing Man. I Had A Respect For Henry Jackson. I Give My Condolences To Shirley And To The Rest Of The Jackson Family. I Will Keep The Jackson Family In My Prayers. Your Friend. Dagoberto Pena.

Dagoberto - May 16, 2025 at 09:46 PM