



## David Wayne Ward

August 3, 1945 - March 25, 2023

David Wayne Ward, 77, longtime educator, coach, sports official passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Integris Grove Hospital. Dave was born on August 3, 1945 in Ramona, Oklahoma to Wayne and Kathryn (Holly) Ward. Mr. Ward was a Veteran of the United States Army National Guard. He married his love of forty-two years Nyta Willis on July 3, 1980. From 1969 until 1999 David Ward has taught and coached high school students throughout Oklahoma in Baseball, Softball, Basketball, track and cross country. While coaching David was very accomplished, with many wins, championships and honors including, Coach of the Year in the Oklahoma High School Coaches Association in 1989, and was inducted into the Oklahoma Girls Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. David served on the Oklahoma Girls Basketball Coaches Association Board of Directors for 7 years, prior to serving as that groups President for 10 years. He also served as the Oklahoma Girls Track Coach Association President from 1980-1983 and was named Track Coach of the Year in 1980, 1981 & 1985. David stayed active in sports even after retirement with a decorated career in officiating. Dave was still currently active in the Northeastern Oklahoma Officials Association which he led for years. David's life involved him heavily in sports, but in retirement he would take some time for traveling with Nyta and made several trips to watch and be a part of his grandchildren's teams.

David was preceded in passing by his parents Wayne and Kathryn Ward, a

brother Ben Ward, sisters Nancy Cloud and Kay Scott.

Those left to share Dave's memory are his wife Nyta Ward of the home, his children Jeff Ward of Tulsa, Dana Hughes and her husband Aaron of Cherokee, John Ward and his wife Janene of Grove, his Brother Richard Ward of Ramona, his grandchildren Miles Ward, Drake Williams, Zoe Ward, Aubree Hughes and Bronc Ward along with his many relatives, friends and sports officiating family.

There will be a time of Visitation from noon until 1:30 PM on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at the First Baptist Church in Grove, Oklahoma.

David's Celebration of Life will be at 2:00 PM, Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at First Baptist Church in Grove with Reverend Gary Bishop and Reverend Jim Paslay officiating. Services have been placed in the care of Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Fairland.

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Dave's Tribute Page at [www.brown-winters.com](http://www.brown-winters.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 29. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church-Grove  
501 East 13th  
Grove, OK 74344  
<http://www.grovefbc.org>

## Celebration of Life

MAR 29. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church-Grove  
501 East 13th  
Grove, OK 74344  
<http://www.grovefbc.org>

# Tribute Wall

TH

“ Deepest sympathy to the family. Many good memories and fun times with David on our tournament weekends with his "All Star" family.  
*Jeff & Tami Higgins*

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**Tami Higgins** - April 01, 2023 at 02:09 PM

HW

“ I did not know him very well, but my condolences to the family.

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**Holly Ward** - March 30, 2023 at 09:11 PM

MF

“ I worked Crazy Dave's basketball camps in Wynnewood for years. And I did work but that's what he taught me as a young coach, is how to work and work hard. I admired what he did as a coach and as a person. You will be missed.  
*Mike Fitts.*

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**Mike Fitts** - March 30, 2023 at 11:26 AM

RJ

“ Coach award came to Wynnewood my senior year. He totally turned our basketball program around in one year. We worked hard and learned all we could. We made it to the area tournament and the entire town rallied around our girls team. I have awesome memories of that season and will always appreciate Coach Ward. Robin  
*(Russell) Jolly*

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**Robin (Russell) Jolly** - March 29, 2023 at 07:31 PM

GE

“ We are so thankful for Dave’s Christian life and all he did for our congregation and church! He made everyone feel welcome! Our love and sympathy to our dear friend Nyta & family.

Gayle Eisenhauer - March 29, 2023 at 12:15 PM

LW

“ I met Coach Ward as a very young coach and was drawn to him immediately. He is one of my hero's !!! I used to love listening to anything and everything he had to say !!! May the Good Lord bless his family. We lost a legend !!!

Lance Weeks - March 29, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.



March 28, 2023 at 03:33 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.



March 28, 2023 at 02:14 PM

DE

“ *DONNA EASTIN lit a candle in memory of David Wayne Ward*



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**DONNA EASTIN** - March 28, 2023 at 01:13 PM

DE

*Thanks for the memories Coach. You took us; AHS girls' basketball to the 1980 state playoffs for the first time. You impacted many lives. Godspeed.*

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**DONNA EASTIN** - March 28, 2023 at 01:22 PM

SB

*Nyta and family, may God be with you during this difficult time, giving you strength and comfort as family and friends share in your grief.*

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**Sherri Batson** - March 28, 2023 at 07:12 PM

CE

*I just learned of David's death. I also grew up in Ramona and knew some of David's family. The last time I saw him was in the early 60's. I'm not surprised that he is loved by so many and had such a successful life. He was a wonderful person--everyone loved David.. RIP*

*Cookie (Sears) Eddings*

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**Cookie. (Sears) Eddings** - April 30, 2023 at 10:24 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.*



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March 28, 2023 at 11:48 AM

PW

“ 3 files added to the album *David in Israel*



Pearl Walters - March 27, 2023 at 09:56 PM

RO

“ 1 file added to the album *Dave Ward*



Ron - March 27, 2023 at 09:44 PM

SK

“ *I could go on forever instead I'm very grateful to have known Dave since '06. We had many good memories on the football field. He Loved his family and friends*

scott kennedy - March 27, 2023 at 09:41 PM

SL

“ *So many memories; playing cowboys & Indians, big family gatherings for all the holidays when we were kids, going to state basketball tournament where he jumped over parking meters, and so much more. Loved him dearly, just like my brother. Will miss him dearly.*

Susie (Ward) Lillie - March 27, 2023 at 08:28 PM

KG

“ So sorry...thought so much of Dave and his smile. Had wonderful times at Cayuga Church. Love, Karen Graham

Karen L. Graham - March 27, 2023 at 07:37 PM

CC

“ He was really good for my special brother. Bill really liked him. Charlotte Gagan Colby

Charlotte Gagan Colby - March 27, 2023 at 06:18 PM

RH

“ Rowland & Diane Higginbotham purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of David Wayne Ward.



Rowland & Diane Higginbotham - March 27, 2023 at 03:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.



March 27, 2023 at 02:58 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.



March 27, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.*



March 27, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.*



March 27, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.*



March 27, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.*



March 27, 2023 at 08:42 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.*



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March 26, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Wayne Ward.*



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March 26, 2023 at 09:51 PM