



## Coach Barbara Jean Jacket

December 26, 1934 - January 6, 2022

### Life Reflections of the Legend “Barbara Jacket”

Coach Barbara Jean Jacket, the oldest of three children, was born December 26, 1934 in Port Arthur, Texas to the late Eva Pickney and Raymond Jaquet. As a youth, she competed in several sports and was very active in social activities. She was loved by teachers, close friends, and teammates, namely Arreada P. Guidry.

In 1958, Barbara received a Bachelor of Science from the Tuskegee University and in 1968 earned a Master of Education from Prairie View A&M University. Coach Jacket began her career as a basketball coach in Eufaula, Alabama before joining Prairie View A&M University as a swim instructor in 1964.

Her love ones were precious to her. Pouring into nieces, nephews, cousins, and track girls was done with every breath she took in efforts to frame their lives for success. In 1977, Coach Jacket surrendered her life to Christ. She was a faithful and active member of First Peter Missionary Baptist Church, Hempstead, Texas for more than 35 years. From 2012 until her passing, Coach Jacket was a beloved Church Mother of New Faith Ministries, Hempstead, Texas. Because of her love and devotion for Christ, many of her students, friends and loved ones also gave their lives to Christ Jesus. Coach

Jacket was a soul winner; her declaration to life was Jesus, family, education, and athletics. She was a faithful tither, committed servant and dedicated congregant. She is most remembered for starting her day by giving God thanks and for ending each day on her knees in prayer!

Coach Jacket loved the Lord so much, she often spoke of this day and how she would finally unite with baby brother “Johnny” and mother “Eva Pickney” for a heavenly family reunion. She even planned out every detail of her Home-going celebration still hopeful to touch lives.

Coach Jacket is also known for her world-famous Sunday dinners, Thanksgiving dinners, birthday parties, delicious cornbread dressing, and seafood gumbo. If you were ever hungry, her doors were always open for anyone to stop by to get a home-cooked meal. She loved getting together with friends to play cards, dominoes, backgammon, and Pokeno. Fishing and crabbing were hobbies that she enjoyed most with her Port Arthur love ones.

During her coaching tenure with Prairie View A&M until 1991, Jacket was the winning coach of ten National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championships and fourteen Southwestern Athletic Conference titles in track and field. Outside of college athletics, Jacket was the head coach of the United States national track and field team in multiple events from the 1970s to 1980s, which included the 1979 Pan American Games, 1987 World Championships in Athletics and 1992 Summer Olympics. Her Olympic appointment made Jacket the second ever African-American woman Olympic head coach for the United States in history. Apart from coaching, Jacket was the athletic director for Prairie View A&M from 1990 to 1995 and taught health for the university during the 2000s. Jacket ended her career with Prairie View A&M in 2010 upon retirement.

Coach Jacket is preceded in death by her mother Eva Pickney, a younger

brother, Van James Ratcliff and, her dear sister-in-law Clara Ratcliff. She leaves to cherish her memory, sister Doris Caddell, and nieces: Brenda Caddell, Tracy Caddell, Phyllis Caddell, and Dana Caddell, of Los Angeles, California, Pastor Eva Phagan (Pastor Ben Phagan), Portia Harrison (Tajwar Ali), Carlotta Allen (Lawrence Allen, Jr.), and nephew Van James Ratcliff II. Great nieces: Pastor Tyalian Fontenot and Porshe Jenkins. Great nephews: Timothy Woods II (Angelita Woods), Akil Harrison, Jahi Harrison, Malik Alaka, Taymir Harrison (Elizabeth Harrison), and Terrell Jenkins. Great-great nieces: Brooklyn Fontenot, Paisley Williams, and Zemirah Woods and three great-great nephew Clarence Williams IV, Zori Woods, and Cairo Harrison. Also left to cherish her memory, the Getwood Family and a host of special relatives, church members, former track athletes, students, and special friends.

Coach Jacket will always be remembered as a trailblazer, a trendsetter, an educator, and a fantastic mentor. She was a true legend and we will forever celebrate her legacy.

Coach Jacket's family sincerely thank every one of you for your love, support, prayers, and attendance. We ask that you keep us in prayer for God's comfort and strength during our time of remembrance and celebration of her life!

# Cemetery Details

## Prairie View Cemetery

Prairie View, TX 77446

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 14. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Singleton & Sons Funeral Home  
627 New Orleans  
Hempstead, TX 77445  
(979) 826-2425  
info@singletonandsonsfh.com  
<https://www.singletonandsonsfh.com>

## Funeral Service

JAN 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr. Building  
Campus of Prairie View A&M University  
Prairie View, TX 77446

# Tribute Wall



“ *Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*

January 28, 2023 at 11:58 AM



“ *Praying for the family. A great woman will truly be missed!*



**Briana Woodard** - January 15, 2022 at 01:40 PM

RW

“ *Reba Wells Williams lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



**Reba Wells Williams** - January 15, 2022 at 12:45 PM

SA

“ *Praying for strength, peace and comfort to the family of Coach Barbara Jacket. Rest In Peace 🙏 your legend will live on!*



**Shelia Austin** - January 15, 2022 at 11:33 AM

TA

“ *TONJA Avery lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**TONJA Avery** - January 15, 2022 at 06:48 AM

TA

“ *Lifting the family in prayer! May God provide peace and comfort. Rest in peace and thanks for being a Legend and a Icon!* 🙏



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**TONJA Avery** - January 15, 2022 at 06:46 AM

CG

“ *Charlene Gindratt lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Charlene Gindratt** - January 15, 2022 at 02:14 AM

JG

“ I am so grateful that Coach Jacket gave me, a young girl from Knoxville, TN., an opportunity to run for her, whom I would later discover was the greatest Coach of all time. Coach Jacket made you want to do your best. She was no-nonsense but caring. She was inspirational, a motivator, and a second mom to many. Although there will never be another Coach Jacket, she will forever live through the many people she touched, including me. God entrusted Coach Jacket with many and she did not disappoint. Job well done Coach. Rest In Peace with much love and adoration.

Joycelyn (McClain) Greene



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**Joycelyn Greene** - January 15, 2022 at 12:05 AM

DT

“ Debra Branch Taylor lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket



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**Debra Branch Taylor** - January 14, 2022 at 06:34 PM

OB

“ Otis C. Brown lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket



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**Otis C. Brown** - January 13, 2022 at 10:54 PM

LB

“ *Lenice Brown lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Lenice Brown** - January 13, 2022 at 10:53 PM

WJ

“ *Walter Jackson, Jr. lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Walter Jackson, Jr.** - January 13, 2022 at 10:35 PM

HA

“ *Rest in paradise Ms. Jacket.*



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**Happy** - January 13, 2022 at 09:37 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket.*



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January 13, 2022 at 03:10 PM

TS

“ *Rest in Peace Coach!*



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**TERESA SIMPSON** - January 13, 2022 at 12:25 AM

PG

“ *Pam Gooden lit a candle in memory of Coach  
Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Pam Gooden** - January 12, 2022 at 08:58 PM

FR

“ *The Prairie View Family has lost a great pillar in the passing of the legendary Coach Barbara Jacket on January 6, 2022. Coach Jacket was a committed, tough, experienced, perfectionist, friendly and lovable and Godly person. Many of her track students will remember her for "Come on Ham!" her way of motivating everyone she had the pleasure of their company and attention.*



*I remember Miss Jacket as one of the most committed individuals to student achievement at Prairie View A&M University. You did not have to be in her class or on the track team for her to show her concern for your achievement. She was always the same on or off the track - professional! She was never one seeking recognition for herself but was always pushing her students and team to achieve their best. Her phrase: "There's no room for second place," resonates to this day. I see it in her former students and her colleagues who dared to be in her company.*

*May Miss Jacket's legacy live on in the lives of those whom she touched.*

*Rest on sister Jacket.*

*Frederick V. Roberts  
<http://prairieviewtoday.blogspot.com/>*

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**Frederick V. Roberts** - January 12, 2022 at 07:34 AM

SC

“ Sarah Crawford lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket



Sarah Crawford - January 11, 2022 at 11:22 PM

GC

“ Gwendolyn Carter lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket



Gwendolyn Carter - January 11, 2022 at 06:05 PM

LW

“ Leon Walker lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket



Leon Walker - January 11, 2022 at 05:29 PM

VW

“ Vera Walker lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket



Vera Walker - January 11, 2022 at 05:25 PM

BM

“ *Brenda Mathis lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Brenda Mathis** - January 11, 2022 at 01:13 PM

ML

“ *Marie Lewis lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Marie Lewis** - January 11, 2022 at 06:35 AM

DL

“ *Deborah J Lockhart purchased the Ringed by Love for the family of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket.*



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**Deborah J Lockhart** - January 10, 2022 at 10:18 PM

SR

“ *Sandra Rutledge-Mosley sent a virtual gift in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Sandra Rutledge-Mosley** - January 10, 2022 at 09:16 PM

EK

“ *Eva Kirby lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



Eva Kirby - January 10, 2022 at 08:09 PM

KT

“ *KATHRYN THOMPSON sent a virtual gift in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



KATHRYN THOMPSON - January 10, 2022 at 07:56 PM

KT

“ *KATHRYN THOMPSON sent a virtual gift in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



KATHRYN THOMPSON - January 10, 2022 at 07:56 PM

KT

“ *KATHRYN THOMPSON lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



KATHRYN THOMPSON - January 10, 2022 at 07:55 PM

RD

“ I and my brother Calvin Deese were some of Coach Jacket's 1st swimming students in a community program she headed up at PVAMU. I was 9 years old. I am now 65 years old and my brother 66. What you trying to do Ham, she would say. A great African American Woman Hero who made a difference in this world will be truly missed



Robert Deese - January 10, 2022 at 07:37 PM

PB

“ Pat, Essie, Melrose, Angela & Brenda purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket.



Pat, Essie, Melrose, Angela & Brenda - January 10, 2022 at 01:42 PM

TS

“ Tysha Smith lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket



Tysha Smith - January 10, 2022 at 12:59 PM



“ Kimberly Jackson lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket



Kimberly Jackson - January 10, 2022 at 11:34 AM



*Coach Jacket was a great instructor, I remember when I was in NYSP, I was so afraid to learn to swim, she said "either you will swim or drown!", she then pushed me into the deep end of that pool and I swam as if my life depended on it, actually it did. I will never forget her, she did it out of love and care, not to be mean.*

**Kimberly Jackson** - January 10, 2022 at 11:38 AM



*“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket.*



January 10, 2022 at 11:03 AM



*“ Rest in Peace Coach*



**RenitaBlondie Hodges** - January 10, 2022 at 10:21 AM



*“ PRAYERS and CONDOLENCES for the FAMILY and FRIENDS of COACH JACKET. WATSON FAMILY OF WALLER*



**Sandra Watson-Wenzy** - January 10, 2022 at 09:39 AM

NE

“ *Nell sent a virtual gift in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Nell** - January 10, 2022 at 08:57 AM

NE

“ *Nell sent a virtual gift in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Nell** - January 10, 2022 at 08:56 AM

NE

“ *Nell lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket*



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**Nell** - January 10, 2022 at 08:56 AM

IC

“ I am sadden to learn of Ms Jacket's passing. She coached many of us when we attended PV. Her favorite name for her students was "Ham". She enjoyed what she did and she didn't take any mess. She will be well remembered and missed very much. Praying that her family will find comfort, peace and strength during this time. Rest in peace Ms Jacket.



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**Ida/JoKeisha Campbell** - January 10, 2022 at 08:51 AM

CS

“ Carolyn Stevenson lit a candle in memory of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket



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**Carolyn Stevenson** - January 09, 2022 at 11:31 PM

CS

“ I can hear Coach Jacket call us "Hams"! Our prayers go out to the family 🙏.

*Carolyn Stevenson and family*



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**Carolyn Stevenson** - January 09, 2022 at 11:30 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Coach Barbara Jean Jacket.*



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January 09, 2022 at 06:47 PM