



Jay C. Gowell

July 19, 1946 - February 3, 2020

Jay Gowell, 73, of Charlotte, passed away on February 3, 2020 surrounded by his loving family.

Jay was born on July 19, 1946 in Shelby, MI to the late Calvin and Beatrice Gowell. He grew up locally, graduating from Shelby High School and, was awarded the President's Scholarship at Western Michigan University. Upon earning his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics Education and a Minor in Physical Education, he began his teaching and coaching career at Fruitport School District. Later he taught and coached for Evart High School, which is where he met fellow teacher and love of his life, Cindy. The two were wed in 1977, settling in Charlotte. He continued to teach math and coach both track and football at Charlotte High School. Jay and Cindy began building their family in 1983 and were blessed with four children. Jay retired in 2001 due to Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. His life was saved by a lung transplant in 2003. After the transplant, Jay returned to coaching football, and track, and discovered his love of coaching cross-country. Jay valued the time he spent with his family, his friends, and the athletes he coached.

Jay is survived by his wife Cindy Gowell, sons Jeffrey Gowell (Marcie), Noah Gowell, daughter Stephanie Gowell, brother Roger Gowell (Sheila), sister Marie Gowell, brother-in-law Bob Meyer, and best friend Tom Sneckenberg (Dawn). Jay was preceded in death by his son Michael Gowell and his sister Nancy Meyer.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Charlotte High School 378 State St., Charlotte, MI 48813 in the gymnasium lobby from 1:00 - 3:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to a scholarship in Jay's memory. It will be an annual scholarship to graduating Charlotte athletes from the football, track and cross-country teams. Donations can be deposited at any MSUFCU location or checks made out to "Coach Jay Gowell Memorial Scholarship" and mailed to the family.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Charlotte High School
378 State St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Jay C. Gowell

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ Terry Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Jay C. Gowell



Terry Williams - February 27, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ We were really sorry to hear about Jay's passing. Jay was a wonderful teacher and coach at Evert High School and was known by all. Jay attended the Class of 75 reunion 10 years ago. It was great seeing him and little did we know that would be our last time to see him. He had a lot of compassion for the students he taught and coached so it is easy to understand why he choose the profession he did. Our hearts go out to you, Cindy, and your family. Ron and Zoe Babb (Evert)

Zoe and Ron Babb - February 26, 2020 at 09:26 AM



“ I was very sorry to read of the passing of Jay. When I saw your Dad yesterday, the aid was not sure he had been told, so I did not say anything to him. I always enjoy the minute of interaction with him. Again, my condolences to you and your family. Tom Fullerton

tom fullerton - February 13, 2020 at 06:26 AM

JW

“ Cindy and family: I was sorry to read of Jay's passing. Good guy, good coach, good family man. A sad time in which Sue and I send our deepest condolences. His involvement in coaching and education is a legacy that will memorialize him. Joe Wood

Joe Wood - February 11, 2020 at 09:02 PM

CM

“ We got puppy from Jay's folks many years ago and knew Jay as he got older. John Ritchie myself and some others went to Evert Mich. To see him coaching football. He really was a good guy. Clem McLouth

Clem McLouth - February 11, 2020 at 03:34 PM

SB

“ It is with great sadness to hear of coach Jay's passing as his first year at Charlotte, was my senior year in football. That was my most enjoyable year as an Oriole. I will cherish the memories and the only regret I had was not having him as a coach for four years. My heart and prayers go out to the Gowell family, may he Rest In Peace. I will always have a spot in my heart for Coach, in Jesus's name, Scott Beglin

Scott Beglin - February 11, 2020 at 10:15 AM

A(

“ I am so sorry for your loss. He was amazing. He was my FAVORITE teacher at Charlotte High School. I enjoyed talking to him. He came to my open house in 1985. I have so many fond memories of him. My thoughts and prayers are with you always.

Angela K Brand (Macleod) - February 10, 2020 at 08:48 AM

MA

“❤️❤️❤️



Marcie - February 09, 2020 at 12:20 PM

LJ

“ *He will really be missed he was a really great man really Bright and always had a big smile on his face I really look up to him and he made me feel like I was his family as he was to me all love to his family*

lance jones - February 09, 2020 at 08:57 AM

EE

“ *I have coached with Jay for more than 20 years. My best memory of Jay during football practice, Coach Sneck would start getting fired up. Jay would come to me and say, “You need to calm Sneck down. Im afraid he’s gonna have a heart attack!” I’d turn to him and say “Jay, this is how he is every year, besides, the rest of us younger coaches got money on what he’s gonna say next!” Any one who knows Coach Sneckenberg knows what I’m talking about. That’s how Jay was. He cared about everyone! He loved the kids! Jay was a great man! Ive learned so much from him throughout the years. Last, I will never forget the time when he suckered us younger coaches to come over and move a hot tub that was bigger than my house!” I love you coach! Your legacy will live on forever. Til we meet again! Coach Eric Emery.*

Eric Emery - February 08, 2020 at 09:50 PM

ST

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Thank you,
Stephanie Gowell

Stephanie - February 08, 2020 at 06:59 PM

RE

“ I’m so sorry to hear about the loss praying for you and the family I rode the bus with your kids with the boys

Renee - February 08, 2020 at 07:42 AM