



Dr. Clay T. Brewer

August 29, 1964 - February 19, 2022

Dr. Clay Thomas Brewer, 57, of Murphysboro, IL, received the ultimate call home to be with the Lord and Savior on the dawn of Saturday, February 19, 2022. After a sequestered battle with cancer spanning over several courageous years, Clay passed away peacefully in his sleep surrounded by his beloved wife, Zeppelyn and his best buddy, his son Braydon. A highly respected life-long educator, Clay recently retired as Vice President of Administration at John A Logan College in Carterville, IL. He was a prominent figure in regional athletics, most notably being inducted into the Illinois ASA Fastpitch Hall of Fame in 2021.

Clay was born August 29, 1964 in Carbondale, IL to Don and Wilma Jean (Turnage) Brewer. He was a graduate of Murphysboro High School, and was forever a Red Devil, bleeding crimson and corn. Upon graduation he attended John A Logan College where he played baseball and basketball. The next stop in his athletic career was as the starting catcher for the famous coach, Itchy Jones of the Southern Illinois Salukis Baseball Team. Clay graduated from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor's of Science in Education in 1985. He then went on to receive his Master's in Education from SIU and his Doctorate in Education from Oakland University.

His professional journey in education began at the Jackson-Perry County Regional Office of Education in the Truancy Alternative Education Program.

Clay led with the belief that an organization's most valuable asset is its people and that relationships are the key to success. His next career move was to John A Logan College where, during his 20-year tenure, he served in a variety of positions, including Executive Director of the Human Resource Division. Clay credited any success he received in this assignment to his good friend and mentor, the late John Huffman, JALC Attorney. Clay demonstrated leadership through faith, and mentored many over the course of decades. Prior to retiring, Clay was honored to serve JALC as Vice President of Administration.

Alongside professional successes, Clay continued to have many victories on the field both as a coach and as a player. He served as an assistant football and basketball coach for the Carbondale Terriers before eventually becoming the Head Football Coach at CCHS. Fast-Pitch softball was another sport in which Clay excelled; being a proud member of two IL State Championship Teams: Carbondale Italian Village and the Pinckneyville Celtics. His final season was with the renowned Decatur Pride, a team that won the Men's Major Fast-Pitch National Championship, solidifying a Hall of Fame career.

Above all, the accolades garnered in sports nor the recognition Clay earned from his professional achievements could ever measure up to the man Clay was on a personal level. He was a loving husband, father, son, brother, friend and most importantly, he was a man of Faith. Clay married Zeppelyn on September 23, 2006 and they spent 16 wonderful years together filled with love, adventure and laughter. Together their degree of happiness reached a new level on November 12, 2015 when Braydon Thomas Brewer the First was born. Clay was a very deserving father and quickly became Braydon's superhero. They were best buddies and shared the love of the outdoors. They would often take hikes, Jeep and side by side rides and scout deer together. As a family they enjoyed traveling, taking Braydon on new adventures and listening to rock and roll. Clays legacy as a great father may be one of the first

things that people close to him will mention when they remember him as he left an imprint on Braydon filled with unconditional love. Clay also shared a close bond with his father-Don a man that Clay respected as much as anyone. When Clay wasn't spending time with his family, you would often find him in his "man cave" with his friends including several members of the class of 1982 reminiscing about Murphy Football. Clay also enjoyed collecting guns and wouldn't turn the channel away from a good ole' western or Andy Griffith. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Murphysboro, and enjoyed sharing scriptures with his mother and sister whom he shared a special bond with. Clay had an infectious spirit and an endearing smile that could light up a room. As much as he will be missed by the many who knew him, he will be remembered by the extraordinary person that he was.

Survivors include his wife, Zeppelyn, son, Braydon, Mother and Father, Wilma Jean and Don Brewer, Sister and Brother-In-Law, Donna Jean and Dwayne Sanders, Mother and Father-In-Law, Cecilia and Rusty Dunbar, Brother-In-Law, Cody Dunbar, wife, Jennie and daughter Henley, Uncles and Aunts, Bob and Betsy Brewer, La Donna and Darrell Eastwood as well as Mary Lou Rednour and many cousins, nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, W.R. Roy Turnage and Beulah (Hagler) Turnage, paternal grandparents, Louis and Merline (Baker) Brewer and uncles, Bob Turnage and Roy Rednour.

There will be a church service honoring Clay Brewer on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Murphysboro, IL with Rev. Kent Eaton and Dr. Glenn Poshard officiating. The burial will be private. Following the church service, there will be a Celebration of Life at Jackson County Country Club from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in lieu of a visitation.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to the Clay T. Brewer Athletic Scholarship. Checks may be made payable to Murphysboro High School. Please indicate Clay T. Brewer Athletic Scholarship in the memo line. Envelopes will be available at the church, during the celebration of life, or at the funeral home.

Crain Funeral Home of Murphysboro has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB **26**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
401 N. 15th St.
Murphysboro
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Celebration of Life

FEB **26**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (cst)

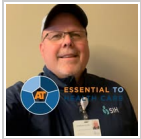
Jackson County Country Club
5776 Country Club Rd.
Murphysboro, MO 62966

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Clay T. Brewer*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the Brewer Family. Clay was always a gentleman, scholar and a good friend to many. Very sorry to hear of his passing, much love and comfort to his family and close friends.*

Brad Brush - February 26, 2022 at 08:04 PM



“ *I remember Clay always having a gentle smile and nod when he said hello. He will be sadly missed but is happily remembered.*

Carrie Stewart - February 26, 2022 at 04:07 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Coach Brewer passing. He was our son's football coach at CCHS. He was an excellent coach. He believed in our son and gave him a chance when no one else would. He made a huge impact on our son. Thank you Coach Brewer for making a difference in kids lives. He will be remembered always.*

Ted and Nancy Batteau

nancy batteau - February 26, 2022 at 03:01 PM

AB

“ I wanted to share something about this great man, that was so important to me. Coach Brewer was my head football coach at Carbondale Community High School when I was a sophomore. I was a young kid from DeSoto and had dreams of throwing touchdowns, and being a star quarterback. I was not a running quarterback, I did not fit in to the "way" the offensive was ran. Coach Brewer told me from day one, "Batteau listen to me, Your our quarterback, I don't care what anybody thinks, and nobody is gonna tell me who to start." I think it was that "Red Devil" in him that was gonna stand on his own. That year was the best year I had of the four. When I was a senior I fought and won the starting job at quarterback. Coach would grab me by my helmet and look in my eyes, (behind his perfectly clean Oakley sunglasses) and tell me, "I believe in you Batteau, I always have, now you have to start believing."

I never forgot what he did for me. I never forgot all the things he taught me, not just about football but about life. I was able to tell him once how much he meant to me. The two of us stood outside of Tres and talked and laughed. I love to mess with him about his spandex shorts. He never missed a chance to bring up my shoestring tackle after throwing an interception saving a touchdown.

I just wanted to share how much I respected, admired, appreciated, tried to make proud, and loved my Coach. Thank you.

Aaron Batteau
CCHS class of 1997.
QB1

Aaron Batteau - February 26, 2022 at 12:48 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Dr. Clay T. Brewer.



February 25, 2022 at 06:06 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Dr. Clay T. Brewer.



February 25, 2022 at 04:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Dr. Clay T. Brewer.



February 25, 2022 at 04:23 PM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of Dr. Clay T. Brewer.



February 25, 2022 at 11:12 AM

VH

“ Zeppelyn, I am sincerely sorry for your tragic loss. It has been many years ago that I worked with you but I will always remember you as an intelligent and beautiful person as a colleague and friend. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Vicki Hamann.

Vicki Hamann - February 24, 2022 at 08:11 PM

HJ

“ To Don and Jean Brewer and family, I had the privilege of working in the Regional Office of Education as Don's assistant for over 25 years. Clay and Billy Patrick worked hard to to keep students in school so that they could complete their education. It was often a challenge but they stuck with it and succeeded. Memories of his accomplishments will last a life time for me. John Hawkins

Hawkins John - February 24, 2022 at 06:26 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Clay T. Brewer.



February 24, 2022 at 02:43 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. Clay T. Brewer.



February 24, 2022 at 01:25 PM

CP

“ *My most sincere and deepest sympathy to Clay's family. My heart hurts for you all and can't Fathom the loss you are going through. May peace be with you knowing that Clay was a man of faith and prayers that Gods providing love and comfort will see you through the the days ahead. My condolences, Cindy Presley*

Cindy Presley - February 24, 2022 at 12:17 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Dr. Clay T. Brewer.*



February 24, 2022 at 12:11 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Dr. Clay T. Brewer.*



February 23, 2022 at 10:01 AM

EB

“ *Very sadden by the passing of my friend Clay. From boys to men we experienced life with many great memories on the hardwood but we also experienced the game of life in which we to are champions. Gonna miss our conversations and Clay's enthusiasm on remembering the times when we_____ yes I remember.*

You are missed my Classmate-Teammate- Friend. To the Brewer family thank you for sharing Clay with us these short years. His memory I along with many others will continue to cherish our lifetimes.



Ernie Bryant - February 23, 2022 at 06:45 AM

HK

“ *So sorry for your loss, I didn't know Clay, but remember his name from him playing fast pitch. My condolences to Don, his wife & the rest of his family & friends! Sending prayers for comfort & peace!*

Helen klitzing - February 22, 2022 at 10:52 PM

PB

“ *Clay was just a really good guy and a true gentleman. I'm heart-broken for his wife and young son.*

Peyton Blewett - February 22, 2022 at 10:08 PM

EB

“ Wanted to share a memory on the hardwood floor with my friend Clay many great memories from boys to men we've shared. Growing up we all always spent time away from athletics and developed friendships that have withstood the test of time. For this I am truly grateful. Much love, honor and respect to the Brewer family in Clay's memory.



Ernie Bryant - February 22, 2022 at 09:40 PM

TB

“ The Ferguson Family is so saddened by this news. We enjoyed many years of travel softball with The Martin Oilers and Jake's Tires for many years. Our softball teams still feel like family. Our hearts and prayers go out to the entire Brewer family as well as so many others that Clay touched through life. May you rest in peace Clay. Love, Terri Ferguson Beaubien, Jeff Ferguson and Tamala Ferguson

Terri Beaubien - February 22, 2022 at 09:10 PM

JA

“ Condolences to my friend Don Brewer and family. 🙏🙏🙏

Joe Aden - February 22, 2022 at 07:37 PM

DB

“ So sorry Don. God bless

Dink Broy - February 22, 2022 at 07:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Clay T. Brewer.*



February 22, 2022 at 03:31 PM

 Linda Polete

“ *Pete and I are so sad to hear of Clay’s passing. We are deeply troubled at the loss of this son, this husband, this brother, this father, and this friend at such an young age. I will always remember working with him at the ROE and the fun times at the Old Rome years ago. Prayers to the family and friends he leaves behind. RIP Clay! 😞*

Linda Polete - February 22, 2022 at 02:03 PM



“ *My memories go back to Keough Drive. We were all young. Wonderful memories. My thoughts and prayers to his family.*



Lynn Bateman Eaton - February 22, 2022 at 07:31 AM

VC

He was a nice guy we went to high school together he was always nice to me

Vicki Charles - February 23, 2022 at 01:48 PM

DG

Wilma & Don - So sorry for your loss. Great people raise up great children, and you are so successful at that. May your entire family, and Clay's family, continue in the strength that the Holy Spirit brings with His presence.

Don & Charlotte Gladden

Don Gladden - February 24, 2022 at 12:01 PM

EL

My husband and I are heartbroken to learn of Clay's passing. He always had a pleasant word for Peter in the halls of JALC and I admired his professionalism in classes at SIU. Clay's personality was always magnetic, that he got from his father, and his decision making was flawless, evident in his decision to marry the bright and beautiful Zeppelyn. What a devoted couple who accomplished so much is a time cut much too short. May God continue to comfort and guide all of Clay's Family as each member deals with this huge loss.

*Dr. Elizabeth Lewin
Mr. Hugh 'Peter' Lewin*

Elizabeth Lewin - February 24, 2022 at 12:05 PM

BH

To all the Brewer families, my deepest condolences and caring thoughts are with you as you remember Clay. May your faith, memories and knowledge of how many lives he touched sustain you during this saddest time.

Thank you for your kind words about my dad, John Huffman, in Clay's obituary--Dad considered Clay one of his closest friends and spoke of him regularly. I can't help but think of their passing so close together and wonder if it's coincidental--maybe it is. But I can just picture them now, strategizing together over some really important task their new "Boss" has assigned--He's been waiting for the perfect pair. This vision brings me some comfort and I hope it might for you as well.

Love and prayers for the Brewer families.

*Sincerely,
Beth Huffman*

Beth Huffman - February 27, 2022 at 10:59 AM