



Noble Brent (Coach) McGee

June 27, 1960 - July 23, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Noble Brent (Coach) McGee

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – EGYPTIAN CHAPEL

3208 South Park Avenue, Energy, Illinois

Noble Brent (Coach) McGee was a professional educator for 39 ½ years in the Waterloo, Marion and West Frankfort School districts, passed away on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at his home. He was disappointed that ALS kept him from achieving 40 years in the profession. He was involved in Illinois H.S. football for over 35 years. He Graduated SIU-C in 1982 and received his first full-time teaching assignment in Waterloo, IL where he is a member of the Waterloo H.S. Hall of Fame.

In 1993 his Waterloo Bulldog Football team was the runner-up in class 3-A . In Summer 1994 he was selected to be the Head Coach of the Illinois All-Star, East Team. Eventually he would take over the Head coaching position at Marion H.S. and managed to return the Wildcats to the playoffs in 2001 after a 12-year absence.

Brent went on to assist with several area High school athletic programs. He was heavily involved in Youth Sport leagues in both Marion and Herrin. In The spring of 1996, while at Marion, along with Mike Rude (Johnston City) and Jim Woodward (Murphysboro) started a Recreational Tackle Football league for junior high age athletes. This league ran for two seasons and was the catalyst that lead to the development of the SIYFBC. Today communities in Southern Illinois from Salem to Metropolis host youth tackle programs.

Brent was also known for his experience coaching the Pole Vault. He worked with several vaulters throughout southern Illinois and coached for the Marion, West Frankfort and Herrin School Districts. He was involved in three State Championships during the early 2000's while at Herrin.

While he was proud of his team's accomplishment in several sports, he was equally proud of his classroom efforts. On three occasions Brent was nominated for Who's Who of America's Teachers. He is also credited for starting the Elementary Physical Education program at both Waterloo and Marion. In his retirement he was heavily involved in working with children with special needs.

Mostly, He was very proud of the efforts and accomplishments of his two sons Brock and Bryant. He often described them as his "Multiple time, State Champions". Coach McGee enjoyed training pointing dogs, building antique vehicles, riding his Harleys and visiting with past students and athletes.

He is survived by two sons, Bryant (Johanna) McGee of Marion and Brock McGee of Carterville. Two sisters, Pam Green of Waleska, GA and Cindy LaGant of Jacksonville, FL as well as both parents Noble and Janet McGee of Waleska, GA. Three nieces, Dr. Audrey Green, Katie McGee and Elizabeth LeGant as well as two nephews, Ethan Green and Sean McGee also survive.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Rebecca McGee, a brother, Jon McGee and a nephew, Nathan Green.

Brent was especially proud that he worked and paid all his bills and left this world owing nobody for anything. Apart from Noble, Janet and sister Pam, for kindness, guidance, and a love that he could never repay.

At the end, he left this life as he lived it, on his own terms. There will be no services at his request.

Crain Funeral Home in Energy is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

RM

“ Sorry to hear of the loss of Coach McGee. My son Mat Cannon was Football Mgr at Marion Class 2001. Not only was he Coach but a friend. Bruce and I worked for the newspaper at the time. Long after he would come through Drive Thru at McDonald's say Hi. Praying for the families.

Renee Pressley and Bruce Marsan - July 29, 2025 at 08:25 PM

MS

“ Thinking of you Bryant, Brock, Brent's parents and all the family. What a great guy! We have so many good memories of him. He was our son's football coach at Waterloo HS, including the 1993 year when they were 13-0 & went to State. Such a fun season! He was liked & respected by the players & parents. We also knew him & Becky personally, and Mike went quail hunting with him quite a few times. It was always clear that Brent was so proud of his two sons. Our sympathy to all of you. Rest in Peace Coach McGee. Mike and Shirley Stiening

Mike & Shirley Stiening - July 26, 2025 at 08:48 PM

MB

“ Sincere condolences go to the McGee family on the passing of Coach Brent McGee. The news of his passing is very saddening. He was a great friend of Tracy and I, and he will be dearly missed. Over the last couple of months, I had the opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus with Brent over several calls and visits. It was a privilege to have the chance to do this with him. May God offer comfort during this sorrowful time. If there is anything that can be done to help in the days ahead, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Michael Bradley - July 26, 2025 at 06:39 PM

LB

“ I would not have made it through my first year of teaching seven years ago without Brent as my right arm! He was such an awesome person and I was very blessed to work closely with him. My prayers are with your family.

Lora Briscoe - July 26, 2025 at 06:01 PM

TW

“ Brent was a dear friend and I had many enjoyable hunts with him and his bird dogs. I particularly like Butch his favorite setter.



Tuck Williams - July 26, 2025 at 12:08 PM

VR

“ Sorry for your loss! I didn't know you lost your mom til a month ago! They will be with you every day!



Vickie Robbins - July 26, 2025 at 10:35 AM

VR

“ Vickie Robbins lit a candle in memory of Noble McGee



Vickie Robbins - July 26, 2025 at 10:33 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Noble Brent (Coach) McGee.*



July 25, 2025 at 10:31 PM



“ *I got to know Brent about 20 years ago. We seemed to hit it off and I always enjoyed taking with him. I always enjoyed calling him by his first name. He was one of the good guys. R.I.P. Noble.*

John Butler - July 25, 2025 at 08:45 PM



“ *Sorry to hear of Brent's passing. Peggy and I send our deepest sympathies to each of you in your time of need.*

Anthony Rinella - July 25, 2025 at 05:08 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Noble Brent (Coach) McGee.*



July 25, 2025 at 01:17 PM



“ *Brent, and I went to SIU together and I had the privilege of him coaching for me in West Frankfort. He was a very good coach and a friend. Very sorry for your families loss. Prayers 🙏🙏🙏*

Richard Glodich - July 25, 2025 at 11:28 AM

GS

“ I met Brent at John A. Logan College in 1978. He had went to Jerry Bechtel's office to get some help on lifting weights, Jerry sent him my way and that's when I took him under my wing and helped him all that I could. We worked out together at JALC and SIU at The Rec Center. After college, I ran into him from time to time. I told him on many occasions that I was proud of him and I do know that he was a super achiever. He got a lot out of life but gave back more than he took! I moved to Florida in 88 and we fell out of touch. I regret that. I noticed that he lost his wife of 43 years, I lost mine of 41 recently. My deepest condolences go out to his family. He was one of a kind! God Speed Brent...Gary Segretario

Gary Segretario - July 25, 2025 at 11:15 AM

RG

“ Brent came out to our family farm several times to quail hunt with me. I have fond memories of those times hunting together with Brent and the conversations we had.

Ronald Grant - July 25, 2025 at 10:11 AM

LH

“ Brent was one of those guys you never forget. I enjoyed talking with him as a colleague. He was a bright light on our faculty, a quality human being. My students said only positive things about coach McGee and his players, that I had in class, sang his praises. What a legacy he left at WHS. I will never forget his players walking onto the field holding hands and then playing their guts out. Rest in Peace Coach McGee.

Larry Hood - July 24, 2025 at 06:49 PM

GR

*A good coach for my son a client who was easy to make friends with
and someone who always had time to talk bird hunting or football.
Deepest sympathy from the Rhine family.*

Gordon Rhine - July 26, 2025 at 05:51 PM