



## Hartzell Jones

August 1, 1944 - July 8, 2021

Hartzell Jones, age 76, was born August 1, 1944 and died July 8, 2021 surrounded by his loving family. Hartzell was a humble and gentle giant – at home with his family, as well as, in his work as Deputy Superintendent with the Springdale School District. He valued his family greatly and exhibited a strong commitment to his work as an educator.

Hartzell was born at home in Waldron, Arkansas. From his humble beginnings he became a successful coach, a beloved teacher, and an outstanding educational leader. After graduating from Mena High School, Hartzell attended the College of the Ozarks (University of the Ozarks, in Clarksville Arkansas), where he worked on campus to pay for his college tuition. He would often have to hitch-hike home for the weekend since owning a car was out of the question, financially.

After graduation from College of the Ozarks, he married Debby Green in 1967; they were married for eighteen years. In 1978 Debby and Hartzell expanded their family to include son, Trent Jones.

Hartzell's tenacity in gaining an education paid off – he became the first college graduate in his family, completed his Masters Degree and his Specialist Degree from the University of Arkansas. Upon graduation he was immediately hired at Gentry High School in Gentry, Arkansas (1966-1969) to

coach and teach. After 3 years he was invited to be a teacher and coach at Southwest Junior High School (1969-1973).

Many people remember Hartzell as a kind, compassionate and caring coach. He would often be stopped at games or other events by his former players or students to express their appreciation or fond memories of him as a coach.

His leadership skills were recognized and he was promoted as the assistant principal (1978-1980), then principal at Southwest Junior High School (1980-1983). His innate leadership traits were once again recognized by the new superintendent at the time, Dr. Jim Rollins, and he was promoted to serve at the district level.

Hartzell served as Deputy Superintendent for the Springdale School district for 30 years (1983-2013). During his tenure, Springdale had unprecedented growth and change. He interviewed and processed the hiring of over 1500 teachers. He aided in the vision for and the construction of multiple schools. He worked diligently to support the families, teachers and administrators as they faced challenges and sought resolutions to difficulties that might arise. In his role as Deputy Superintendent, he gained a reputation as being a very fair, opened minded, and thoughtful listener. He became a mentor and guide to educators in the district and across the state of Arkansas.

Hartzell was preceded in death by his mother, Martha Evans, father, Ramey Evans Jr. and sister Wanda Jo Edmondson. He is survived by Larry Edmondson (brother-in-law), niece Cassie Edmondson and her children Madison and Abby, niece Natalie Disney and husband Michael and children, Lilly, Aiyana, and Bryce, and nephew Kevin Edmondson.

Hartzell married Marsha Brooks Hayward in 1991. They celebrated 30 years of marriage June 16, 2021. He was very fond of showing his affection with a

special bouquet of flowers. He took the selection of flowers quite personally and went to the florist shop to personally pick out the vase and the flowers. According to the florist, he was quite unique in his interest in creating that special surprise for Marsha.

Hartzell came from a comparatively small family, he adjusted to his ever-growing family and he and Marsha enjoyed many fun occasions with their four children in their blended family – son, Trent Jones and wife Bayleigh, step-son Jason Hayward and wife Angela, Step-son Jacob Hayward and wife Michelle, and step-daughter Jessica Bryan and husband Stewart. He was entertained by his 8 grandchildren: Erika Phillips and husband Taylor, Alex Hayward, Noah Hayward, Rachel Hayward, Benjamin Bryan, Joseph Bryan, Ramey Jones and Ross Jones; and the 2 great-grandchildren, Gavin and John Phillips. Holidays were especially fun and a bit chaotic.

His love of athletics was continued in his dedication to Arkansas Razorback athletic events. He arranged for the family to have tickets to Football and Basketball games. Tailgating was a highlight for him and his family. At the end of a Razorback game, he was either elated by a win or devastated by the loss – no in-between in his passion about the game.

Hartzell received many recognitions during his distinguished career as a professional educator. His accomplishments include: Coach of the Year in Basketball, Class B Conference in 1969; Administrator of the Year by Arkansas Association Education Administrators in 2008; Outstanding Educator by the Springdale Chamber of Commerce; Graduation speaker for Har-Ber High School 2010. Upon his retirement in 2013, the basketball gymnasium at Lakeside Junior High School was named in his honor; Inductee into Springdale Public School Education Foundation (SPSEF) cornerstone society in 2015; he was inducted into the Springdale School District Athletic

Hall of Fame Class of 2016 and the Springdale High School Athletic Wall of Fame Class of 2019. Along with Marsha, he established the Promise and Potential Scholarship with the SPSEF. His community support includes being a Friend of the Walton Arts Center, Patron of the Arts Center of the Ozarks, Contributor to the University of Arkansas Alumni Foundation and the Razorback Foundation and a supporter of the Shiloh Museum.

Hartzell was loved greatly, admired by many, and served as a role model and mentor to those whose lives he touched – at school and at home. He will be forever loved and cherished by his family and friends.

Funeral arrangements are being made by Sisco Funeral Home. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 from 4 to 6 P.M. at the First United Methodist Church, 206 West Johnson, Springdale Arkansas. A “Celebration of Life” service will be held at the First United Methodist Church on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to:

“Promise and Potential Scholarship” with the Springdale Education Foundation, 409 N. Thompson, Springdale, AR 72764 ; Contact: Chris Stecklein . Email: [chris@spsef.org](mailto:chris@spsef.org). 479-790-9221. Online gifts may be made by going to [spsef.org](http://spsef.org).

Springdale Athletic Foundation, C/O Hartzell Jones, PO Box 6305; Springdale, AR 72765 Contact: Donald Tucker SAF Vice President, 479-200-4434; email: [Tucker@BBQfunding.com](mailto:Tucker@BBQfunding.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Bluff Cemetery

795 N. Shiloh Street  
Springdale, AR 72764

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 14. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
206 W. Johnson Ave.  
Springdale, AR 72764  
[info@firstchurchspringdale.org](mailto:info@firstchurchspringdale.org)  
<http://www.firstchurchspringdale.org>

## Service

JUL 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
206 W. Johnson Ave.  
Springdale, AR 72764  
[info@firstchurchspringdale.org](mailto:info@firstchurchspringdale.org)  
<http://www.firstchurchspringdale.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Hartzell Jones*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *I loved Coach Jones. He was my coach in high school football. One of my favorites. I'm so saddened to just now read about his passing.*

**danny norris** - May 23, 2022 at 02:17 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss Marsha . Please know I am thinking about you and your family at this time . Sincerely , Jackie Brashears*

**Jackie Brashears** - July 14, 2021 at 10:43 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Hartzell Jones.*



July 13, 2021 at 08:00 PM

JH

“ We are all heartbroken with the loss of a pioneer of 21st century education. I remember Hartzell from Southwest JHS when I taught earth science for one year. So we knew each other for a long time. He was my PET trainer and he was the one that asked me to consider the position of federal program director which was my last job before retiring. I have a lot of memories of Hartzell but I never ever overcame being so intimidated by him. I had immense respect for him which is why I would shed tears after leaving his office thinking that he didn't like me. I recall telling Marsha once that I would rather eat dirt than to have to go talk with him. I know I was wrong and I will miss him, Marsha. It is ironic that my grandson received the Hartzell and Marsha Jones scholarship this year. That was very special for me. My deepest sympathy is with this family - Marsha, Trent, Jacob, Jessica and the rest. Judy Hobson

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**Judy Hobson** - July 13, 2021 at 05:55 PM

TD

“ Dear Marsha and family,

*I am so sad to hear that Mr. Jones, Hartzell has passed away. He was a very unique man. I had great respect for his professionalism but also his humanity as he dealt with so many personalities thru the years. His sense of humor and steady guidance was a gift to all that had the privilege to work with him. There were quite a few times I got to interact with Mr. Jones throughout my career from my first interview to workshops to celebrations to district meetings. He was constant in his support for my efforts as a school teacher and professional. Mr. Jones was a gift to the Springdale School System but also a gift to all the teachers he patiently listened to and provide guidance. He is definitely a part of my professional journey story. I consider Hartzell a friend. My sincerest condolences to you all.*

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**Tresa Hardage Dixon** - July 13, 2021 at 04:09 PM

TH

*Tresa Hardage Dixon*

**Tresa Hardage** - July 13, 2021 at 04:11 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Hartzell Jones.*



July 13, 2021 at 03:49 PM

BF

“ *Hartzell was the kindest person I ever met. He put me at ease immediately when I was interviewing to work at SHS. I'm forever grateful that he agreed to hire me. My sister Kay Mustain Nixon and I send our deepest sympathy to Marsha and Trent. Know you have a huge extended family who love and support you in this rough time.*  
*Becky Froning*

**Becky Froning** - July 12, 2021 at 09:19 PM

RG

“ *Please know we send our deepest sympathies to the family. He was a great leader and help to the district. I enjoyed my times working with him. Please know we are keeping you all in our thoughts through this very trying time.*  
*Robert and Robin Guadagnini*

**Robin Guadagnini** - July 12, 2021 at 01:34 PM

LR

“*Marsha, my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I spent many an hour working with Hartzell as a personnel/payroll person "downstairs" in the business office. I loved working with you too!*

*May God comfort you with remembrances of Hartzell to bring comfort and joy even through the tears of sorrow. Precious memories.*

*In Christ,*

*Linda (Susie) Rowe (1986-1997 Springdale Public Schools*

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**Linda Rowe** - July 12, 2021 at 01:34 PM

KE

“*Kenny & Debbie Mayes, Family & Employees purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Hartzell Jones.*



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**Kenny & Debbie Mayes, Family & Employees** - July 12, 2021  
at 09:42 AM

JD

“*Marsha, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and all of your family. Hartzell was a true gentleman, a wonderful administrator, and a friend to all of education in Arkansas. He will be missed by many.*

*Janie Darr*

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**janie darr** - July 12, 2021 at 08:23 AM

JC

“ I will never forget the day I was hired to teach! I walked into Hartzell Jones’ office and sat down on the edge of a very large chair. I was obviously nervous and felt so small in the chair. He looked up and asked me if I knew how to teach reading. I replied with a “yes sir!” Then, he smiled and said...”Welcome to Springdale!” He was so kind! This past year, I had the opportunity to teach his grandson, Ross Jones. It was an absolute joy! My prayers will be with his family!

Jami Cheshier - July 11, 2021 at 08:06 PM

JT

“ I remember Hartzell Jones as unassuming, who listened, rarely spoke, always kind and wore a winning smile. He did not seek popularity but was. His countenance was loaded with good will. I regret not taking the opportunity to know him better than just on the football field. I admired him.  
Jeremy Thornton, Mena

Jeremy Thornton - July 11, 2021 at 11:38 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Hartzell Jones.



July 11, 2021 at 09:34 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Hartzell Jones.*



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July 11, 2021 at 01:18 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Hartzell Jones.*



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July 10, 2021 at 10:40 PM



“ *Marsha you are in our prayers. May God bless you. Carl and Molly Campbell*

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**molly Campbell** - July 10, 2021 at 08:01 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Hartzell Jones.*



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July 10, 2021 at 05:48 PM