



Sam Parker Sox Jr.

June 6, 1941 - December 27, 2022

Retired United States Air Force Lt. Col Sam Parker Sox Jr
June 6, 1941 - December 27th, 2022

Sam Jr. was born to the late Sam Sr. and Lurleen Sox in June of 1941. He Graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.S. in Education, He earned a Master's degree in Mathematics from the University of Montevallo and pursued further doctoral level graduate work at the University of Alabama Birmingham.

He spent 6 1/2 years on active duty with the United States Air Force where he became a decorated fighter pilot during the Vietnam conflict. After leaving the Air Force he taught math in the Jefferson County school system for over 30 years and remained an active pilot with the 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing of the Alabama Air National Guard until he retired with 28 years of service. He was a beloved teacher and loved teaching all of his students and rarely went anywhere without running into one.

He was preceded in death by his brothers John, Joe, and Robert. Sam is survived by his wife Shirley of 53 years, son Ryan (Haley), his sister Carol Cruise (Doug) and numerous nieces and nephews.

Sam loved the Lord and was an active deacon for many years, he loved

helping people.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Trussville

He was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Sam will be laid to rest at the National Veterans Cemetery in Montevallo, Al on Wednesday January 4th at 11:00 am. The short service is open to all but Shirley and Ryan understand that due to time and distance it may not be possible for you to attend.

In lieu of flowers (They are not allowed at the National Cemetery) please consider making a donation in his honor to :

Unforsaken Ministry
5700 Deerfoot Parkway
Trussville, AL 35173

Or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 3. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home
5360 Deerfoot Parkway
Trussville, AL 35173

Funeral Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home
5360 Deerfoot Parkway
Trussville, AL 35173

Tribute Wall

WC

“ *Sammy a good friend of mine. When we went to pilot training at Craig AFB, Selma Al back in the class of 67-D. We spent 53 weeks together with the many friends we developed learning to fly. I met with Sam for the last time in Okinawa in 1968 and he made my tour easier as he just had away to make all seem ok. He was a great pilot and a great friend who made those who met him a better person. I'll see you up there Sammy save a seat in that cockpit.*

Walt & Jean Cienaski

walter cienaski - January 30, 2023 at 05:33 AM

PB

“ *I knew Sam at the University of Alabama and we became good friends in pilot training at Craig Air Force Base in Selma. He had a great sense of humor and loved to give people nicknames -- mine was "The Heflin Flash," so you can guess where I grew up. He stopped by to see my parents several times over the years while I was living many miles away. I have always appreciated that, it shows the kind of man he was. My best wishes to his family.*

Paul Beggs

Paul Beggs - January 29, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *Mr. Sox was my bus driver for several years. I was always running late getting to the bus stop, and he would patiently honk the horn for me to come running. My half-asleep, grouchy teenaged self would get on the bus scowling, and he'd always give me a big smile & say "Hi, Sunshine!" He got a kick out of killing me with kindness! 😊 I really adored that man, and even though I haven't seen him in 35 years, it hurts my heart to know he's gone. My deepest condolences to the family. ❤️*

Stefanie Meeks - January 11, 2023 at 04:46 PM



“ *Mr. Sox was my bus driver for several years. I was always late getting to the bus stop (which was only across the street from my house), & he would patiently beep the horn for me to come running. I'd be grouchy because I was a barely awake, moody teenager, and he'd just give me this big smile and say "Hi, Sunshine!", knowing he was making me even grouchier for a minute, and loving it! 😊 I really adored that man. Although I haven't seen him in 35 years, it hurts my heart to know he's gone. My deepest condolences to his family. ❤️*

Stefanie Cargo Meeks - January 10, 2023 at 04:07 PM



“ *Shirley, I am so sorry. Sam was one of the finest men i have ever known. I pray that God gives you strength. ❤️🙏*

Larry Daniels - January 03, 2023 at 06:17 PM



“ *Thank you for your service and making learning fun. Blessings to the Sox family.*

David Posey - January 02, 2023 at 02:28 PM

PG

“ There is so much I could say about Mr. Sam. he was a wonderful man. When I was in kindergarten at Center Point Baptist, he use to drive his school bus by the playground every morning on his route to stop and wave to me and tell me to have a good day. I loved that and looked forward to it everyday. He always did all repairs to our house, and was there when you needed him. He will truly be missed.

Pierce Garrison - January 01, 2023 at 03:01 PM

TC

“ Tara Crawford sent a virtual gift in memory of Sam Parker Sox Jr.



Tara Crawford - January 01, 2023 at 09:33 AM

TC

“ The first day of class I remember thinking you were going to be the meanest teacher at Erwin and I was going to hate it . That was the absolute opposite you were by far the most enjoyable teacher and I actually enjoyed attending math because of you. I pray you Rest In Peace and that God give your family comfort and ease their hearts at this grieving time . Tara Crawford , c/o "00

Tara Crawford - January 01, 2023 at 09:32 AM



Mr. Sox was my Algebra II teacher and I enjoyed his class so much.

Roger Hancock - May 05, 2025 at 07:57 PM



“ *Mr. Sox had a big impact on my teaching and bus driving career by teaching me to drive a school bus. He once shared a very emotional talk about his Vietnam experience with my students at West Jefferson Elementary. He was a remarkable mentor and friend. Shirley and Ryan, please accept my deepest condolences.*

Jennifer Anders - December 31, 2022 at 05:58 PM

JB

“ *Shirley, We are so sorry to hear about Sam. Please know we are praying for you and Ryan for comfort and peace. He was a special guy and we loved him. We are unable to attend his service, but you will be in our prayers. Love. Joan and Jim Barnes*

Joan Barnes - December 31, 2022 at 03:12 PM

JB

“ *Shirley. We are just so very sorry about Sam. He was such an inspiration to Jim and lifted his spirits every time they talked. We will certainly miss him and will pray for comfort and strength for you, Ryan and family during this time. We hate we are unable to attend his services, and will be thinking about you . Joan and Jim Barnes*

Joan Barnes - December 31, 2022 at 03:01 PM

RJ

“ Mrs. Sox and family I’m so sorry for your loss. Mr. Sox was such an inspiration to me as a student at Erwin High School and after I graduated from college and started my career in education. Mr. Sox was the first person to suggest to me that I consider a career in education. I am so glad that I followed his advice and thank God for placing Mr. Sox in my life. I know that there are many others who have stories similar to mine. I will be praying for peace and comfort for your family in the days to come. Mr. Sox will be missed by so many.

Rod Johnson

Rod Johnson - December 31, 2022 at 01:42 PM

KO

“ Me. Six was the best teacher, he let me and my girlfriend come to his home to help us with Algebra !! RIP sir !!!

Kenneth Otts - December 31, 2022 at 01:11 PM

MB

“ Mr. Sox was an amazing teacher & will be greatly missed. My most sincere condolences to the family, friends and loved ones. Rest In Peace & thank you for your service. 🇺🇸💕💕

Meliya Brasfield - December 31, 2022 at 11:37 AM

SS

“ So sad to hear of Sam Sox passing! He was one of my favorite teachers at Erwin High School. He taught me how to play spades like a pro, and called me “split ends” bc I had long hair and always played with it. He was hilarious and loved by so many of us. R.I.P. Mr. Sox!

Stephani Melton Shields - December 31, 2022 at 10:44 AM

SS

“ So sad to hear of Mr. Sox passing! He was one of my favorite teachers at Erwin High School. He taught me how to play spades like a pro, he was hilarious and called me “split ends” bc I had really long hair and always played with it. He was loved by so many of us!! R.I.P. Mr. Sox! -Stephani Melton Shields

Stephani Melton Shields - December 31, 2022 at 10:40 AM

DR

“ I didn't have the privilege of being taught Math by Mr. Sox however, he would go out of his way to speak to every student in the hall that would pass his door. He always made sure he left the line of communication open with his humor or caring nature. He was the epitome of a great teacher. He will be sorely missed.

Dee Ray - December 31, 2022 at 07:40 AM

BY

“ Wonderful memories of algebra and calculus class at Erwin HS in 1980. My favorite teacher from high school. Prayers for his family. Beau Yarbrough.

Beau Yarbrough - December 30, 2022 at 05:57 PM

BT

“ Best brother-in-law ever. I called him brother. I always looked forward to our RTR. we were on the phone the whole game. I've talked to you for every Alabama game for 18 years. My Buddy don't know if I can watch without you. love you B.

Betty Toxey - December 29, 2022 at 06:30 PM

AM

“ Shirley, I am so sorry for your loss. While I've never been around Sam that much, I do know from you and others that he will be terribly missed. I've never heard anyone speak a bad word about him - only praise about his character. I am praying for you and your son as you go through this grieving process. With sincere love and prayers, Annette Mixon

Annette Mixon - December 29, 2022 at 01:06 PM

NS

Sam was a man who followed Jesus and helped any one who needed help .I loved teaching across the hall from him. Since we retired he has done so many helpful things for my husband and me.I miss him. N. Smith

Nancy Smith - December 30, 2022 at 12:30 PM

JL

Shirley, so sorry to hear about Sam. When I told my children about Sam, both of them said, he was favorite teacher. Sam came to my house a few years ago to help Jerry with some project. The two became instant friends.He was special to everyone who knew him. My prayers for you and family. Judy Lockridge

Judy Lockridge - January 01, 2023 at 02:25 PM