



John Freeman Dean

March 17, 1940 - December 27, 2021

He did it his way

Born on March 17, 1940, to Marjorie and John Henry Dean, John Freeman Dean's childhood was filled with loving memories with his dearly beloved grandmother Lizzie Washington. They attended Mt Zion Missionary Baptist Church where John sang in the children's choir.

Even at a young age, John was a sports enthusiast, playing baseball, basketball and football - and winning at them all. After attending Vine Junior High and Austin High, John enrolled in Knoxville College in Knoxville Tennessee.

Life at Knoxville College was good but John's life would be forever changed when he met a young freshman named Norma in 1959. Norma and John's romance budded as they were in the gospel choir and traveled together singing about God and falling deeper in love. They participated in civil rights demonstrations and in 1960, John entered into the lifelong brotherhood of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

On December 21, 1963 John and Norma married and began their journey together. After a brief move to St. Louis and Chicago, the Deans set their roots in Detroit Michigan.

Leader and Best.

John Dean received his Masters of Education from the University of Michigan. Beyond being an extraordinary teacher teaching at schools such as Butzel and St. Theresa's, John was a legendary coach known for bringing tough competition to the football field every time. His coaching accolades began at Detroit Northern High school where he was Athletic Director and Head Football Coach for forty years. John coached swimming, baseball, basketball and football at Northern. He lead Northern to win the City championship in 1978 and numerous runner ups subsequently.

During the summers, John was a regular summer camp coach at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University Football Camps, often coaching the Michigan High School Football Association East/West All Star Game.

John used sports and coaching to change the lives of many people. He was a mentor to hundreds of athletes around the country.

John also served as an adjunct professor at Wayne State University. John Dean served as Michigan High School Football Coaches Association President for two terms and Varsity Club president. He was a member of the Sunday Headmen's Golf Club for over thirty years.

Hall of Famer.

John was inducted into the Knoxville College Athletic Department Hall of Fame in 1991. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1995 and John was inducted in to the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Family Man.

John Dean loved his family. He enjoyed throwing parties and entertaining

guests with his wife Norma. He absolutely adored and spoiled his daughter Kelly and loved spoiling and spending time with Erik, especially on the golf course. When John became a grandfather, Papi was created. Papi loved spoiling his grandchildren Elijah and Lauren. He enjoyed taking them on trips and telling them stories about his days in Tennessee.

After living a full life, John left this life to join his beloved grandmother and others on December 27, 2021. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Norma, daughter, Kelly Dean sons, Erik Dean (Charity), and Kenneth Glass. He leaves two grandchildren, Elijah and Lauren, his aunt (Eveline) and many other family and friends.

We will miss John but we are grateful that he lived his life and he did it his way.

In lieu of Flowers, the family asks for donations to United College Fund in memory of John Dean.

https://secure2.convio.net/uncf/site/Donation2;jsessionid=00000000.app20014a?df_id=5320&5320.donation=form1&NONCE_TOKEN=D4A5FE6319011EA A95C072370B484899

Cemetery Details

Elmwood Cemetery

1200 Elmwood Street
Detroit, MI 48207

Previous Events

Strolling Visitation

JAN 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Family/Friends Time

JAN 7. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 7. 12:30 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of John Freeman Dean*



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 07, 2022 at 11:22 AM

LT

For a gentleman that needs no introduction I can still hear his voice saying how you doing big fella, whether you played for him or just coming into the gym to buy a bag of chips, RIP coach, Thompson family.

Leonard Thompson - January 07, 2022 at 04:32 PM



“ *John Freeman Dean*

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *John Freeman Dean*

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM

JG

“ *Dean Family,
What a wonderful tribute for a phenominal man. My heart goes out to the entire family and please know I am lifting you in prayer, as always. Words cannot express the sorrow of this loss. Keep your heads to the sky. Luv Ya!!!*

Juana Spears Gissendanner - January 07, 2022 at 04:08 PM

DB

“ *Thank you for your service in helping to build men*



David Branch - January 07, 2022 at 03:49 PM

SA

“ *To the Dean family,*

Thinking of you all and asking God to surround you with His perfect peace.

Love,

Starlette

Starlette Anderson - January 07, 2022 at 12:40 PM

BD

“ I shall remember him as the president of the movers and shakers club at northern High school. This group was always there for the students. we loved and respected them as they did us. We had so much fun ! We were truly friends and we did things OUR WAY! Rest In Peace my friend.



Barbara DuBose - January 07, 2022 at 11:22 AM

DA

“ To the Dean family, my sincere condolences. I am grateful that I have had the chance to express my gratitude to Coach Dean before his homecoming, Coach Dean's presence and influence reached far beyond his immediate family, but also to all the young men he helped developed and coached. This would also include the hundreds, if not thousands of College Scholarships he help young men like me obtain. John Dean's teachings, mentorship, and guidance, started this young man, from the Northend of Detroit, on a path toward a College Education. This College Education not only change my life, it changed the lives of my children and Grand Children. I just wanted to share with the family how truly great Coach Dean has been for the Branch family.

Rest In Peace Coach your legacy as a man, father, husband, Grandfather, friend, and Coach will live on in all of us, forever.

David - January 06, 2022 at 06:44 PM

“N

“ Coach Dean was a pillar in the community, a benefactor to humankind, and an altruistic valued role model. Coach Dean saved lives numbering in the thousands, through the usage of sports & mentoring to do so, not just at Detroit-Northern High School, but in the entire Detroit Public Schools system as well. Being one of his many former football players, I am one of those lives that he saved. As I was headed down the wrong path, Coach Dean afforded me an opportunity that helped me to positively redirect my time and energies. Frankly speaking, Football kept me busy, and Coach Deans discipline, kept me out of trouble. Years later, I pledged Omega due to his influence, and decades later I find myself using the impactful life lessons he taught me, and instilling them in the kids I currently coach, and my own children as well. But not for Coach Dean not having turned his back on me, and the countless others, who knows what my outcome would've been. Thank You is an understatement. Words cannot express the gratitude. He was a GodSend.

Sincerely,

(As coach always referred to me) “Mister Nicholson”

“You Gotta WANT IT!”

“Special Teams Wins Games”

“Chop a Mosquito with an Axe, Run over a Fly with a FreightTrain”

“Mister Nicholson” - January 06, 2022 at 03:28 PM

BT

“ Just want to say Thank You for all that you have done for me. I really appreciate everything that you taught me on and off the field. I never got a chance to tell you just how Great you were as my "Life Coach" and "Friend". Your discipline has allowed me to become the man I am today. Thank you Coach...Much Luv Bobby Turner #38 Class of 1980... Peaceful Journey...Detroit Northern High School PSL Champs 1978 4Life...

Bobby Turner - January 06, 2022 at 09:16 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 04, 2022 at 02:35 PM

DW

“ I met John Dean at Knoxville College. He was popular and so well-liked. What a joy it was to know John Dean! Norma and I lived right down the street from each other as young girls. They were such a beautiful couple, a loving couple. John's was a life well lived. My condolences to the family!
Dr. Julia Frazier White

Dr. Julia Frazier White - January 03, 2022 at 12:05 PM

DW

“ I met John Dean at Knoxville College. He was popular and so well-liked. What a joy it was to know John Dean! Norma and I lived right down the street from each other as young girls. They were such a beautiful couple, a loving couple. John's was a life well lived. My condolences to the family!

Dr. Julia Frazier White - January 03, 2022 at 12:02 PM

PR

“ Coach Dean would always say, "Kill a mosquito with an ax, run over a fly with a freight train."

Patrick D Rudolph - December 31, 2021 at 11:08 AM



“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - December 30, 2021 at 12:43 PM