



James Cecil Langcuster, Sr.

August 2, 1930 - November 17, 2020

James Cecil Langcuster, Sr., age 90, passed away peacefully early in the morning of November 17.

Cecil, as he was commonly known, was born Aug. 2, 1930 in the coal-mining community of Sayre, Alabama, to Ruby and Daniel Langcuster.

After re-locating with his mother and grandparents to Russellville, Alabama, Langcuster demonstrated athletic talent and under the encouragement and mentorship of his high school football coach, C.C. Kindig. Langcuster secured a four-year athletic scholarship to Troy State Teachers College, now Troy University. Langcuster always fondly recalled Troy as the place where life began for him. For the rest of his life, he followed and attended Troy football games and contributed generously to Troy academic and athletic programs. Upon graduation from Troy in 1951, Langcuster attended George Peabody Institute for Teachers/Vanderbilt University, graduating in 1952 with an M.A in school administration. He subsequently served in the Air Force as a psychological testing technician at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Upon his return home, Langcuster taught and coached at Colbert Heights, Deshler and Sheffield High School. Throughout his life, he was a regular fixture at high school reunions, recalled by numerous students as an exceptional mentor, educator and coach. He was especially proud of having taught and coached the two famed "Swampers," Jimmy Johnson and David Hood, immortalized by the iconic Lynnyrd Skynnyrd song "Sweet Home

Alabama." Langcuster, Johnson and Hood were reunited more than a decade ago during an appearance at his local Civitan Club.

In 1953, he wed the love of his life, the former Suzanne Wages, to whom he was married for 63 years. In addition to Suzanne, he is survived by sons Jim Langcuster (Beth) of Auburn, Alabama, John Langcuster (Christy) of Jackson, Mississippi, and by grandchildren Sarah Langcuster (Mark Kleist) of Stuttgart, Germany, Maggie Langcuster (Alex) of Auburn, Alabama, Jackson Langcuster (Madeline) of Huntsville, Alabama, Grace and Caroline Langcuster of Jackson, Mississippi, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Langcuster eventually left teaching and worked as an agent and held various leadership roles for several insurance companies, earning numerous leadership and production awards

He also continued his military service, first in the Alabama Army National Guard as Captain in the Army National Guard. Langcuster eventually transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, eventually ascending to the rank of Lt. Colonel. He was a graduate of the U.S. Army School of Engineering, the Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He also served for many years as a Liaison Officer for the United States Military Academy (West Point) and recruited a number of young people to the academy. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal upon completion of his military career.

Langcuster was also an active civic and community leader and volunteer, serving on the Russellville Library Board and as Vice President of the Russellville City School Board. He also served two terms as a Russellville City councilman and as Mayor pro tempore.

After his retirement, he served as host of the local cable TV program "What's Happening in the Tennessee Valley," interviewing many local townspeople. He was also honored as Farm-City Banquet Distinguished Citizen of the Year and as Civitan of the Year in 2007.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Troy

University Athletic programs. Contributions can be forwarded to: Troy University Athletics, 5000 Veterans Stadium Drive, Troy, Alabama 36082.

The family is planning a private graveside service on Monday, November 30th at the Knights of the Pythias Cemetery in Russellville, Alabama. The service will be on Facebook Live for those who cannot attend. Pallbearers will include Brian Pace, Brent Pace, David Hester, Jackson Langcuster, Larry Christopher and Grant Atkins.

The family offers their effusive thanks to the incomparable care provided to Cecil by the management and staff of Country Cottage and later by Terrace Manor Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Russellville.

Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family. To have us sign the book for you, please free to call or to leave private condolences, please visit our website

Tribute Wall

JW

“ So sorry for your loss

Johnny and Brenda Wages - November 30, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Sending our prayers for the family and Mrs Suzanne during this time of loss. Mr. Cecil was a great person, neighbor and friend. We will cherish our memories of his friendship.



Chris Hammond - November 29, 2020 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ a very good man



hutty hutcheson - November 28, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Coach Langcuster was a formative influence on my young life, as was Mrs. Langcuster. He was a great and exemplary man. My deepest sympathies to the entire family.

Mark Kelly - November 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I am so sorry to hear that ?Coach? has passed. I will always have fond memories of him coaching the Gold team. I never saw him when he didn?t say ?Hello?. I will be praying for all of you! May God wrap his loving arms around all of you.

Jeff Madden - November 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Cecil. Our family was blessed to have known him. Prayers for sweet Suzanne and the family.

Russell and Deanna Hollimon - November 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ So sorry. Cecil and my husband, Buddy Meeks were very close friends.

Judy Meeks - November 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM