



Pariss Michael Coleman

May 17, 1946 - August 2, 2021

Pariss M. Coleman, May 17, 1946 - August 2, 2021

Longtime Toledo Public School Principal and children's advocate.

Pariss Michael ("Mike") Coleman, 75 years old, died on August 2, 2021, at the University of Toledo Medical Center. He died of complications associated with lung disease.

Mike arrived in Toledo at the age of 22 as a recent graduate of Marshall University. He was lured to Toledo by Toledo Public Schools to teach children and earn a steady income. Mike had invitations to pursue professional football with the Miami Dolphins and Washington Football Team, however, the need to provide for his family - Mother, brother, and sister - at a young age brought him to Toledo.

He began working as a physical education teacher at Jesup W. Scott High School where he also coached football and track. As he developed teaching skills and displayed a knack for administration, he became a dean of men and, later, an assistant principal at Scott. He earned a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Toledo in 1974.

Throughout the 1970s, Mike also worked at the Children Studies Institute. After working at Scott for 20 years, in 1988 he became the principal of Old West End Junior High School where he presided until his retirement in 1998 with 30 years of service to TPS. Continuing his passion for children, he substituted as an administrator for TPS and was often asked to mentor new administrators.

A parishioner at Rosary Cathedral Parish since 1977, in 2010, Rosary Cathedral Elementary School asked him to serve as its principal for one year. Because Mike's rich administration experience had been in the Old West End neighborhood, he was a natural fit at the school, often times greeting his former students as the parents of enrolled children. After working at Rosary Cathedral, Mike returned to serving as a substitute administrator for TPS. With his daughter Christine Coleman serving as a vice principal at Beverly Elementary School, Mike volunteered as a cafeteria attendant. Known as "Papa Coleman" by teachers and students alike, he did his very best to put a smile on every child's face and, more often than not, sweet treats in their mouths. Before going to Beverly every day, he made sure he had enough small bills to provide for students who just might need a little something. He was recognized by TPS as Volunteer of the Year in 2016. He continued volunteering at Beverly until 2020.

Mike was known for his discipline, fairness, and robust sense of humor. He carried the utmost respect from his peers, but more importantly, carried the lifelong respect of his students. Even while hospitalized at UTMC, former students made it a point to visit.

Born to William and Frances Coleman in the coal mining town of Winona, West Virginia, Mike attended Nuttal High School where he displayed athletic talent and was particularly gifted with a football in his hands. High school success as a running back and wide receiver earned him a football scholarship to Marshall University where he played for Coach Charlie Snyder. Based on his extraordinary speed and diminutive size, he earned the nickname "Flea." Due to spirited challenges from teammates, Mike joined the track team at Marshall where he was formidable in the sprints. Mike also pledged the fraternity of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. at Marshall and remained active in the Toledo alumni chapter.

After living in Toledo for a year in the late 1960s, a mutual friend introduced Mike to Linda Recker. They did not know then that a simple introduction would lead to almost 52 years of marriage. Against the backdrop of the Robert Frost

poem "The Road Not Taken," after a year of courtship, they wed and began a family with two children, Pariss ("Mike") and Christine. His children followed in his footsteps with Christine serving as a grade school administrator and Mike playing football at Miami University.

Identified by their obvious love for one another, Mike and Linda served as Pre-Cana marriage counselors at Rosary Cathedral. Mike also served as an usher there for over 40 years.

Once he retired from TPS, Mike found his voice in the Clarence Smith Community Chorus. Much to his family's surprise, he could sing! Mike enjoyed the discipline, camaraderie, and performances of the choir.

Also early in his retirement, Mike received the ultimate gift in his granddaughter, Kennedy. Kennedy and "Papa" were attached at the hip from the beginning, with him as her biggest supporter and cheerleader and she as his.

The Coleman family extends tremendous debts of gratitude to the many physicians, nurses, therapists, and other staff at UTMC who cared for him. The family would like to offer special thanks and gratitude to Dr. Dolsey, Dr. Hamouda, Dr. Machanda, Dr. Rashid, and Joe Huss.

Surviving Mike are his wife, Linda Coleman; children, Pariss "Mike" Coleman II (Traci) and Christine Coleman; granddaughter, Kennedy Coleman; sister Beulah Nickerson (Arthur); and Godmother, Connie Huss-Boyle. Mike was preceded in death by parents William and Frances Coleman, and brother Roger Coleman.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please make donations to any of the following: Rosary Cathedral Church; Clarence Smith Community Chorus; or St. Ursula Toledo LABRE Program.

Visitation will be on Tuesday, August 10, at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo, OH 43614, from 3:00-7:30 p.m. with the Kappa Alpha Psi Omega ceremony beginning at 7:00 p.m. On Wednesday, August 11, visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Our Lady, Queen of the

Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, 2535 Collingwood, Toledo, OH 43610. A Funeral Mass will follow the visitation at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be private.

Please view and sign the online guest registry at www.coylefuneralhome.com
<<http://www.coylefuneralhome.com>>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 10. 3:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Mass

AUG 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Rosary Cathedral
2535 Collingwood Blvd
Toledo, OH 43610

Tribute Wall

LA

“ Dear Linda,

We are your neighbors at 58 Wolf Ridge. We think we remember meeting you years ago at Tom and Connie Huss' home on Stratford in the Old West End. At the time we lived nearby on Parkwood. We were so very sorry to learn of Mike's passing. We extend to you our deepest sympathy. We will keep you in our prayers.

Samir and Lucy Abu-Absi

Lucy Abu-Absi - August 11, 2021 at 10:55 PM

AJ

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you from the Jeffries family ❤️



Audrey Jeffries - August 11, 2021 at 06:52 PM

JG

“ When I visited my grandmother, Granny Bowles (Mike's great grandmother) in Winona, Mike was my favorite playmate. He was 3 years younger; but always the leader. I still smile about the mischief we got into. We last spoke on the phone about 3 years ago and shared our life experiences -- both of us were retired school principals; but mostly we talked about our grand children. We had grand daughters about the same age. My family extends its deepest sympathy to Linda, Mike II, Christine and Kennedy. May the beautiful memories bring you some peace. --- Winona Juanita (Tiny) Shoffner Gray & family.

Juanita Gray - August 11, 2021 at 12:59 PM

VK

“ *The family of the late William and Theora Headen Choice of Charleston, WV extends its sincere condolences to the family of our cousin Parris Michael. (His grandmother Lelia and our grandmother Lula were sisters.) May God grant you peace in your time of sorrow.*
— *Vivilora Choice Knapper*

Vivilora Choice Knapper - August 10, 2021 at 07:12 PM

CP

“ *So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers to you Linda my heart goes out to you and your family. May the memories comfort you all .*
Chris pfau ❤️

chris pfau - August 10, 2021 at 01:25 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.*



August 10, 2021 at 09:38 AM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.*



August 10, 2021 at 06:44 AM

ET

“ Our condolences to Linda and the family. Mike was a wonderful man to work for and with during our brief time at Old West End. I remember his wit and how he won people over with an encouraging word. He always had the best interests of students at the forefront. Prayers for the family as they go through this time of loss.

Edgar & Ophelia Thompson

Edgar Thompson - August 10, 2021 at 04:36 AM

SS

“ In sympathy and love to all the Colemans.

Susan (Farmer) Skitowski

Susan Skitowski - August 09, 2021 at 10:45 PM

WG

“ I Thank Our God The Lord Jesus Christ for thee impact Mr. Coleman had in my life as A Teacher & Mentor from 1972 thru 1976 Scott Hi School Bull Dog

Rev. W. C. Garrett (Little Billy)

Remembering when Mr. Coleman first found out back years ago that I was now an Ordain Gospel Preacher & him jokingly telling my Pastor Rev. C. L. Mayes The Lord Is Going To Need Some Help With This One lol

My Deepest Sympathy Condolences & Prayer's during your time of Bereavement

*Rev. W. C. Garrett
Assoc. Min. Macedonia MBC*

william garrett - August 09, 2021 at 04:21 PM

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - August 09, 2021 at 03:10 PM

TS

“ My condolences to all of Mike's family. He certainly left his mark on the community in a very, very positive way. He always left you feeling better than how he found you. Certainly a life well lived. God bless you all.

Tom Schlachter - August 09, 2021 at 12:36 PM

MR

“ compassion, caring, empathy, kindness, intelligence, Mike Coleman never met a stranger, always a friend. tom and marti

marti ryan - August 09, 2021 at 10:41 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.



August 09, 2021 at 09:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.



August 09, 2021 at 08:47 AM



“ I remember MR Coleman growing up in the old west end we lived across the street I think he was everyone's best friend he would say HAY NOW to anyone. He and my stepfather would always call each other by there middle name. He was a great memory of my youth. What a wonderful human being he was. Rest in peace



Chris osborn - August 08, 2021 at 07:57 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.



August 08, 2021 at 05:11 PM

WT

“ I enjoyed working with Mike when we were administrators at the former Old West End and Leverette Junior High Schools and singing with him in the Clarence Smith Community Chorus. He was an administrator who always had the best interest of children at heart. He was also a character who could spin a story that would leave you laughing. I will miss him. To Linda, Mike, Christine and Kennedy, your husband, father and grandfather was a wonderful man who cared about people. I pray that God will continue to bless and keep you during this difficult period in your lives.

Wanda Kirtz-Tanksley

Wanda Kirtz Tanksley - August 08, 2021 at 03:33 PM

WK

“ Wanda Kirtz-Tanksley purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.



Wanda Kirtz-Tanksley - August 08, 2021 at 03:24 PM

JS

“ Taught with Paris at Scott High when he first came to Toledo. His kindness, humor and commitment was a blessing to many students. R.I.P.

Dr. J.S. Scott

Maumee

john scott - August 08, 2021 at 04:21 AM

FA

“ Francis, Patricia, Orbai, and Alhajie purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.



Francis, Patricia, Orbai, and Alhajie - August 07, 2021 at 04:33 PM

WJ

“ William Jackson purchased the *Pretty Please* for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.



William Jackson - August 07, 2021 at 02:04 PM

GJ

“ May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord
Love Gwendolyn E. March Jones and Family

Gwendolyn E. March Jones - August 06, 2021 at 02:57 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.



August 06, 2021 at 01:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.*



August 06, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Pariss Michael Coleman.*



August 06, 2021 at 09:48 AM



“ *My condolences to the Coleman family. Mike was a great mentor and leader. He will be greatly missed, but I will remember him for his continued support.*

Dr. Sandra Meeks Speller - August 06, 2021 at 08:30 AM



“ *We would like to extend Our deepest condolences to Mrs. Coleman and the rest of the family. Mr. Coleman was someone we admired we always had a good laugh when we were around him. His sense of humor was one of a kind. He will truly be missed.*

Verdis and Verna Cheers - August 06, 2021 at 06:56 AM

CK

“ *When I think of Mike, I remember, first and foremost, his beautiful smile. Having been a longtime usher at Rosary Cathedral, Mike was personable and well-dressed. When my husband and I offered pre-cana classes, along with Mike and Linda, to engaged couples, the Colemans' loving story touched my heart.....a beautiful one that lasted more than 50 years. Linda, Mike Jr., Christine and Kennedy, you will remain in my prayers. I pray that wonderful memories and our Lord's love will help sustain you in the difficult days ahead.*

Christine Keran - August 05, 2021 at 03:25 PM