



Barry Pennington

June 3, 2026

Barry Kent Pennington, 79, of Fairhope, Alabama, passed away on June 3rd at Mobile Infirmary. A visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 at 10 AM in the Sanctuary of Fairhope United Methodist Church with a service to follow.

Born March 24, 1947 in Battles Wharf, Alabama, Barry grew up swimming, fishing, and scouting for jubilees on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. Over the course of his childhood, he developed a lifelong passion for sports that propelled him into his professional career. After graduating from Fairhope High School in 1965, he attended Livingston College on a football scholarship and graduated from the University of South Alabama with a degree in science, later pursuing a Master's degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at the University of South Alabama. Throughout his career as an educator, he served as a classroom teacher, physical education teacher, a principal, and a coach of many sports.

Barry was known to be a fair, efficient, and encouraging educator, meeting students where they were and accepting them for who they were. He undoubtedly touched the lives of thousands of students across south Alabama over the course of a 30+ year career in education. Though he was known as an intimidating teacher with high expectations, he often spoke of teaching moments on the field and in the classroom with pride and fondness. He was

inducted into the Fairhope High School Athletics Hall of Fame, the Foley High School Hall of Fame, the Daphne High School Hall of Fame, and the Baldwin County Varsity Coaches Hall of Fame. He consistently improved local high schools and their sports programs, even leading the Jackson Aggies to the 3A state high school championship in 1979.

Barry enjoyed fishing, watching collegiate sports, being outside, traveling, and, above all, spending time with loved ones. Whether you were a friend or a stranger, you would hear about Barry's admiration, pride, and unending love for his family members. His thoughts were often devoted to bettering their lives, and he poured his love and adoration into his loved ones every chance he got. He was a longtime member of Fairhope United Methodist Church and often served his community through his membership there and with the Fairhope Rotary Club.

Barry is preceded in death by his mother, Geraldean Forster Pennington, his brother, Harry G. "Sonny" Pennington Jr, his sister, Suzzanne Cowart, and his father, Harry G. Pennington. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Deborah Kelley Pennington, his children, Bryan Pennington (Lia), Erin Jones (Richard), and Amanda Adams (Chris), his sisters Sharon Faust (Joe) and April Long, his four grandchildren, Emma, Carter, Annabelle, and Cooper, and many nieces and nephews.

Barry was a devoted husband, father, brother, grandfather, uncle, and friend, whose love changed many lives for the better. He will be deeply missed by many.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to Fairhope United Methodist Church Caring Ministries, Fairhope United Methodist Church Missions, or the Alzheimer's Association.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

Fairhope United Methodist Church
155 S Section St
Fairhope, AL 36532-2211
(251) 928-1148

Tribute Wall

JK

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. May your many wonderful memories help in your grief .
With Deepest Sympathy,
Jo Anne Keller

Jo Anne Keller - June 09 at 09:17 AM

NK

“ Coach Pennington joined the staff at Davidson while I was there as a player, he helped us get to the state playoffs and the historic 20-20 tie with Banks High School at Legion Field. He was passionate about football, tough, but fair. He made all of us better players. I only saw Coach Pennington once after high school when a reunion was held for that playoff team. He showed a genuine interest in what I had done with my life, it was then that I knew he always wanted the best for his players. Rest in peace and thank you Coach. Nels Kvalheim #85, DHS '74.

Nels Kvalheim - June 08 at 04:00 PM

DP

Thank you so much for your comments. He was so proud of that team!

Deborah Kelley Pennington - June 11 at 08:05 AM

NK

We got to that game with our defense. His first day as the defensive coach we were doing full contact drills during "warm-up" before practice actually started. We were the number one defense in the state as a result. Wish we could have won the state championship, I played at Ole Miss with one of the players from the Banks team and he told me that Davidson team was the toughest team they ever faced in high school. Coach Pennington was a major reason for that, I am so sorry for your loss.

Nels Kvalheim - June 13 at 10:43 AM

GF

“ Gumban Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barry Pennington.



Gumban Family - June 06 at 06:12 PM

EC

“ Dearest family Sharon & April,
We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your brother. What a beautiful legacy he leaves behind to share his life with so many. Thankful for a great reunion there will be when Jesus returns. Sending our prayers of strength & encouragement for all.
God Bless - Ron & Erida Coleman



Erida Coleman - June 06 at 05:03 PM

MM

“ Barry was a gentleman and a helping hand when I was his pastor in Fairhope. May his family and friends be blessed with many happy memories of times with Barry.

*Mike McKnight
Birmingham, AL*

mike mcknight - June 06 at 03:22 PM

DJ

I knew played ball and really respected Barry.. may he REST IN PEACE 🙏

Donald Joullian - June 08 at 09:41 PM

DP

Thank you Mike and Donald for those comments. They are much appreciated.

Deborah Kelley Pennington - June 11 at 08:09 AM

MQ

“ *My brother and I were several years younger than Barry, but he took time with us kids . He taught us a lot about football and was a good teacher, even then. We grew up and went our own ways but never forgot Barry’s kindness to those small neighborhood kids.
My brother and I pray for your family in this time of sadness 🙏🕊️❤️
Micheal and Glenn Quiggle*

Micheal Quiggle - June 06 at 02:30 PM

AH

“ *A. Kelvin Hamil purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Barry Pennington.*



A. Kelvin Hamil - June 06 at 01:55 PM

AH

“ *A. Kelvin Hamil planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barry Pennington.*

A. Kelvin Hamil - June 06 at 01:55 PM

DM

“ Prayers for the family!



Danny McLain - June 06 at 01:37 PM

TE

“ Toto, Nica, Inday, Josh, and Ella purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Barry Pennington.



Toto, Nica, Inday, Josh, and Ella - June 06 at 12:44 PM

PD

“ Mr. PENNINGTON hired me at Daphne High School after only 1 year and even gave me my dream job teaching Marine Science. He was always so kind to me and I loved seeing him at DHS luncheons after he retired. Prayers for his family.

Priscilla Dabney - June 06 at 10:31 AM

RB

I played football with Barry at Fairhope High School in the 60s. We had some great players, but Barry was undoubtedly our leader. I loved Barry my entire life since meeting him at 15

Richard Beall - June 08 at 10:05 AM