



Lowell D. Reynolds

March 21, 1931 - January 29, 2021

Lowell Drayton Reynolds, 89, passed away in Visalia, California on January 29, 2021. Born March 21, 1931 in Los Angeles, Lowell moved to Bakersfield during his high school years. There, he met his lifelong sweetheart, Catherine King. After marrying in 1952, the newlyweds moved to Fresno where he played basketball at Fresno State and both pursued teaching credentials. Lowell taught for Fresno Unified until 1986, the majority of the time at McLane High School as a math teacher and basketball coach.

In 1978 they purchased their first Baskin Robbins and operated two franchises in Fresno and Clovis until 1989. After this, they moved to Oakhurst for twenty years to enjoy the mountains, finally moving to Visalia to be near their two oldest daughters in 2009.

Lowell was active in the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America for over 30 years, singing in the Fresno Gold Note Chorus and the A-Tonic Explosion quartet with his dear friends. Music was central in the home and all four girls were taught to match pitch and harmonize around his ukulele. Singing together as Dad's quartet of daughters continued until the last week of his life.

Throughout his life he enjoyed backpacking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, fishing, wood working, music, basketball, and family.

He is predeceased by his parents, Lowell and Drusilla Reynolds, his sister Dolores Banks, his son-in law Ken Manes, grandson Derek Blatner and great grandson Kaine Sharp.

Married for 68 years, he is survived by his wife, Cathy, daughters Sandra Manes, Kristi Blatner (Neil), Susan FauntLeRoy (Craig), and Kerry Brooks. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Catherine Troxell (Jon), Austin Manes (Sophy), Annie Sharp (Jordan), Kelly Pensiero (Gene), Janelle Myers (Chris), Harley Taylor (Ashley), Allen Manes (Rachel), Jordan Hultin (Michael), David FauntLeRoy, Adele FauntLeRoy (Ashleigh), Brian FauntLeRoy, Reya Jones; and fifteen great grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Westgate Gardens for the compassionate care given for the past five months. Personal remembrances can be made by enjoying your family and spending loving time with them.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Tribute Wall



“ I remember Mr Reynolds as a coach at Fort Miller Junior High before he went on to coach at McLane High School. He always stood out because he was so tall and had such a booming voice when leading us in all of the exercises and races and games in physical education . He inspired a lot of us who weren't athletes to try to stay in shape the rest of our lives.. I still remember a lot of his exercises: the side straddle hop, straight push ups, the medicine ball toss, 300 yard dash, and the rope climb for time. Whenever I had other coaches later in my schooling none really compared to him for his enthusiasm and the motivation and discipline that he instilled in youth. He was a model coach of youth. Jim Justiss

jim Justiss - October 02, 2025 at 12:37 AM



“ The family backpacking video I just posted from the late seventies has the Reynolds' family dog that went with us on the trip to the Dale/Diamond/Davis lake backpacking trip location. Lowell was a great teacher.

Steve Stacy Russell - March 21, 2022 at 11:22 PM



“ Lowell Reynolds meant a lot to me. He taught me how to back pack in 1978 with a McLane summer school course that changed my life. He then hired me to work at his Baskin and Robbins' ice cream shop at Shaw and Peach. He was a friend of my fathers and he gave me a chance, and taught me how to stay busy. He then hired my brother John and both of us worked there for a bit, and I remember us both getting a 3lb. hand packed rocky road, and both of us battling for position on the tub only to find out they needed only one, and got us confused because we looked the same, me and my brother. I lost my father Blair on Christmas Eve, 2011, an he was an old-time friend of his. I did not let him know he died in time for him to attend the funeral and have felt bad about this. Lowell is and was an amazing man and thank him for getting me tougher on our group back packing trips we and his family went.

One time we were coming back from a trip on the north fork of the San Joaquin river and it started raining on the first day. By the third day it was still raining and Lowell said we needed to head back. At Hemlock crossing the river was now raging, and all made accross but me, and luckily Lowell reached down and pulled me up, saving me from the raging waters, and probably my life. His daughters Sue and Kerry as well as Dale Densmore were on this amazing backpacking trip, and thanks to Lowell lived to tell of the trip. He was an amazing man.

Steve Russell

Former employee, and backpacking friend of Lowell

Steve Stacy Russell - March 21, 2022 at 10:45 PM

PL

“ Mr. Reynolds hired me on at Baskin-Robbins when I was in high school and then as a cake decorator when I went on to college. He was an amazing boss and helped me confirm my love for ice cream! Two scoops to Mr. Reynolds! He will definitely be missed by all who knew him.

Pamela (Peterson) Lee - June 29, 2021 at 12:54 AM

TS

“ Lowell Reynolds was very instrumental in getting me started in my coaching and teaching career at McLane HS back in the early 70's. He was my mentor and taught me a lot about the game and people. I so appreciate what he did for me and my family. He will be missed. His wife Cathy and their family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Tom Smith - February 20, 2021 at 05:31 PM

DK

“ Coach Lowell. That is how I remember him -- when playing at McLane in 1965. He was a wonderful motivator and a very good man. I had the very good fortune of seeing him in Arizona some years ago, where I live, when he was traveling and looked me up. We had a wonderful afternoon of conversation -- remembering our basketball time together and just catching up. He also so kindly gifted me and my bride a wonderful silver tray for our wedding -- some years after leaving high school. I count him among my most favored and valued teachers. I thought of him often over the years and am saddened to learn of his passing.

David Kader - February 18, 2021 at 03:23 PM

RA

“ May I express my sympathies to the family. Mr. Reynolds was my Basketball coach at McLane and I learned a lot from him and not just about basketball. He showed me and others what hard work and discipline can do for a person. While a stern coach you knew he cared and wanted you to do what you were capable of - even if you did not know what that was. Great coach. Randy Ames class of 1973

Randy Ames - February 04, 2021 at 11:35 AM

KE

“ I first got to know Lowell when my best friend Ken Manes started dating Lowell's daughter Sandy in high school. Also, he was my Algebra 2 teacher at McLane HS. I will remember Lowell as a friendly and outgoing man who loved to laugh and edify others. I am grateful that he gave me the opportunity to help record basketball statistics during the games. His was a life well-lived, and I know he will be greatly missed by his family and friends. You are all in my prayers as you mourn his passing. God Bless. Ken Ebersole

Ken Ebersole - February 01, 2021 at 01:08 PM