



## Irby Lee Koon

October 5, 1948 - December 1, 2017

Irby Lee Koon, age 69, passed away Friday, December 01, 2017 at Conway Medical Center.

Mr. Koon was born in Aynor, SC, a son of the late Alton Leon Koon and Marian Doris Faulkenberry Koon. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by a sister-in-law, Pam Koon.

He is survived by his wife; Lynne Booth Koon; his daughter, Casey Miller (Adam); his grandson, Tanner Kevin Miller; his four siblings, Alton Koon, Marian Martin, Lynn Roberts, and Nancy Whetstone (Charles). Mr. Koon is also survived by several nieces and nephews; Nan Barnett (Brian), Amanda Hausfield, Jonathan Roberts (Ashley), Josh Roberts (Katherine), Will Whetstone, and Kate Usry (Charles).

Mr. Koon grew up in Aynor, graduated from Aynor High School, and then received his degrees from The University of South Carolina in Columbia. He has remained an avid Gamecock fan his entire life. GO COCKS! Mr. Koon is well known to the citizens of Conway as a public figure who devoted his life to this community. Irby was also very fond of his cats, Jeepers, Tim, and past Ralphs.

As an educator, he spent his years teaching in Conway, primarily at Conway High School. Mr. Koon was a history teacher, an administrative assistant, and sponsored the Student Council at Conway High School. He was key in bringing the National Student Council Convention to Conway High School, which led to the school receiving the Award of Excellence from the President

of the United States. Mr. Koon was also the voice of sports for Tiger Football and announced the Friday games. He led the Conway High School Salvation Army Food drive annually. Mr. Koon was named to the Conway High School Foundation Hall of Fame in 1998.

In addition to his work as an educator, Mr. Koon served his community on Conway City Council and also as Mayor Pro-Tem. During his years on council, many significant events took place in Conway. The Riverwalk and Riverfront Parks were developed, the Conway Recreational Center, City Maintenance Shop, and several Fire Stations were constructed. The wiring was placed underground on downtown streets and Millpond Road was constructed, offering new access around the city.

Mr. Koon was an active member of First United Methodist Church and faithful member and teacher of the Hut Bible School Class. He also taught the high school youth Sunday school class for many years. His accomplishments were exceptional, and he will be missed.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the critical care unit staff at Conway Medical Center and to his loyal caregiver FeFe Ramirez

A funeral service will be held at 3:00 PM Monday, December 4, 2017 at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Kyle Randle officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:00-3:00 PM prior to the funeral service in the parlor.

Memorials may be made in his honor to: The Hut Bible Class, 1001 5th Avenue, Conway, SC 29526 or to the Conway High School Foundation, 2301 Church Street, Conway, SC 29526.

Please sign an online guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is serving the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 4. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Conway  
1001 5th Avenue  
Conway, SC 29526  
<http://www.fumcconway.org/>

## Funeral Ceremony

DEC 4. 3:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Conway  
1001 5th Avenue  
Conway, SC 29526  
<http://www.fumcconway.org/>

# Tribute Wall

HM

“ I have crystal clear memories of Mr. Koon's CHS classroom, of his laugh, and, most of all, of the respect that he showed for the teenagers that he taught. It was one of the secrets of his success as a teacher. In my own work with teenagers, his example has guided me: Share your passion for the subjects that you love and do not "talk down" to your students. Mr. Koon encouraged me to run for CHS student council when I'd moved to Conway only a few months before. He introduced me to a national scholarship opportunity that I later won. I know now that I was not the only student that he helped in these ways. He taught us that there was no limit to what we could achieve. He believed in us. What a gift to us that was. I graduated from CHS in 1982 and never had contact with Mr. Koon after that, but he is unforgettable. My condolences to his family, but also my congratulations on sharing life with such a rare person, who made an impact on others in so many ways. I'm not sure that he is "resting" now as much as enjoying heaven without the physical constraints he carried here. Jesus must be roaring with laughter . . . and I know that He is well pleased with Irby's life here. How fruitful it was! Well done, Irby, well done.  
-- Hope (Allred) Murtaugh, CHS Class of '82

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**Hope Murtaugh** - January 28, 2018 at 10:52 AM

SA

“ In memory of Irby Lee Koon  
Susan Alford



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**Susan Alford** - December 10, 2017 at 05:44 AM

RM

“ *Irby was a great teacher and role model for those he taught and worked with. He truly loved his students, colleagues, and school. He will be greatly missed.*

*Ron Malone*

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**ron malone** - December 07, 2017 at 08:00 PM

PM

“ *My God bless you. Lynn if I can do anything I am available. Love Pam Mclain*



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**Pamela McLain** - December 06, 2017 at 02:46 PM

CB

“ *Conway has lost a legend for sure! Wishing peace and comfort to Lynne and all the rest of his family and many friends.*

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**Cameron Brown** - December 05, 2017 at 10:37 AM

DA

“ *Irby Koon was without question one of the best teachers I ever encountered on any level. I was always amazed that even with all of his activities, his enthusiasm and knowledge for history remained consistently at the highest level. He could make history come alive, which is a rare gift. Thank you, Mr. Koon-- my life and countless other students' lives are richer because of you.*

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**David Alexander** - December 05, 2017 at 10:18 AM

AJ

“ *Mr Koon was my teacher back in 1975/1977 at Conway High School, he was a very nice, polite and unselfish man. He had a beautiful home family. I have known the family all my life. Irby will be truly missed. God bless the family thru this time.*



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**Aubrey Dean Johnson** - December 04, 2017 at 03:14 PM

PM

*I'm so very sorry. God bless you in this time of need.*

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**Pamela McLain** - December 06, 2017 at 02:25 PM

FM

“ *Recently, I was saddened to read the passing of a great man, Irby Koon. After my 2001 retirement from the NMBPD, I was fortunate enough to be hired by the City of Conway as their Grants-Special Projects Coordinator. Councilman Irby was on City Council then. It didn't take me long to see how respected he was in the community, Conway High School as a long-time educator, and among the entire City of Conway family. One thing for sure, he was an effective leader, a public servant, and he loved Conway with a passion...especially his beloved Conway Tigers! He and I worked well together. He had such great vision. I admired him so. This man will be missed but never forgotten. I cherish the fond memories of Councilman Irby. The family can now take comfort knowing that he is now resting in peace in God's loving care. Thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Lynne, family, and his many friends.*

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**Fred Morris** - December 04, 2017 at 11:06 AM

AL

“ Allison lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon



Allison - December 04, 2017 at 09:43 AM

DN

“ Danyese Hobbs and Nikkia Nesbitt purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Irby Lee Koon.



Danyese Hobbs and Nikkia Nesbitt - December 03, 2017 at 11:19 PM

PH

“ Priscilla Hunt lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon



Priscilla Hunt - December 03, 2017 at 09:40 PM

CC

“ I knew Irby as a friend when we were students at Coastal Carolina. I will always remember him with a smile in my heart. I am saddened that his family must go through this difficult time. I pray for comfort for each one.

Connie Rickenbaker Chase - December 03, 2017 at 08:28 PM

RF

“ A group of us, and probably many more, had Irby Koon for 8th and 9th grade World and U.S. History at the old Whittemore school. He was more of a friend than a teacher, maybe because he was only 11 years older than we were. We enjoyed Charles Towne Landing and the Harbor Tour in Charleston with Irby. He was always an upbeat teacher and everyone enjoyed him. It was good to see him at Good Hope Baptist on occasion with family. We're better people for having known Irby Koon. May the good Lord bless all of his family until we see him again.

Robert Ford - December 03, 2017 at 08:27 PM

LM

“ Sadden by loss of friend of school days! Loved all the family! Leona Hunter Morris

Leona H. Morris - December 03, 2017 at 04:58 PM

MM

“ Mary McNeill lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon



Mary McNeill - December 03, 2017 at 01:24 PM

DW

“ Sending special prayers to the Koon family. Mr. Koon was my history teacher in high school and the reason I became a history teacher. His passion for learning and history was evident in the engaging stories he shared in class, and I always chased that same passion for my own classroom. Mr. Koon, thank you for inspiring generations of students!



Demetrius A. Williams - December 03, 2017 at 11:06 AM

AD

“ RIP Irby. A great teacher and friend. My condolences to all of the family. Irby is in heaven looking down on us, cheering for us all to make something of ourselves as the true educator that he was.

Anthony Ray Durant - December 03, 2017 at 10:42 AM

SS

“ Anyone in Conway knows Mr. Koon! He was my history teacher and one of the few classes I couldn't wait to get to. He had a way about teaching that kept you interested in what was being taught. Prayers to his family, friends and fur babies. Conway lost a wonderful treasure!



sharon Rose Stevens - December 03, 2017 at 10:18 AM

Stacey Tilghman

“ Stacey Tilghman lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon



Stacey Tilghman - December 03, 2017 at 10:01 AM

CC

“ *Cindy Calhoun lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon*



**Cindy Calhoun** - December 03, 2017 at 08:57 AM

CC

*Lynn. Danny and I are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time of sorry. We love you.*

**Cindy Calhoun** - December 03, 2017 at 08:59 AM

CH

“ *Mr. Koon was well known and loved my many of his students. His loyalty to his co workers and above all students drew me closer to knowing him. He taught for so many years. He was such a funny man. His passion to make us students learn about history was impeccable. Mr. Koon Conway won't ha e another outstanding leader, organizer, just well round person to know. From my mom that knew u from school, and u teaching me , thank u. May Conway High and Conway miss a fantastic member.*

**Cynthia Richmond. Hopkins** - December 03, 2017 at 02:59 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with his Family and friends. Mr. Koon was an amazing, caring person. I value all the advice he gave me as a student at Conway High School. Go rest high on that mountain Sir.*



**Miranda Holt** - December 02, 2017 at 11:55 PM

DW

“ *My prayers are with the koon family.*



**Danielle Williamson** - December 02, 2017 at 11:06 PM

GB

“ *Lynn, Casey and family. I am so sorry to hear about Irby. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. He was a fine man and he will certainly be missed by many.*

**Gloria M. Bussey** - December 02, 2017 at 11:03 PM

JR

“ *Joe Rabon purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Irby Lee Koon.*



**Joe Rabon** - December 02, 2017 at 10:00 PM

TR

“ *Terry And Joanne Rabon lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon*



**Terry and Joanne Rabon** - December 02, 2017 at 09:48 PM

PL

“ *Peggy Lee lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon*



Peggy Lee - December 02, 2017 at 09:23 PM

PL

*Rest In Peace*

Peggy Lee - December 02, 2017 at 09:23 PM

JR

*Irby was a good person/friend, didn't see Irby that often but when I did he was always the same ole Irby, will miss you my friend, God bless.*

Joe Rabon - December 02, 2017 at 09:53 PM

SG

“ *Me Koon was my history teacher back in 82-83. He was very good with his students. Then I move to Aynor and got to know his brother And now past sister in law. Great family and great teacher and man. Prayers with this family.*



scarlett gaskell - December 02, 2017 at 08:28 PM

Jill Allyn

“ *Jill Allyn lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon*



Jill Allyn - December 02, 2017 at 07:56 PM

BB

“ *Button Benton Boyd lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon*



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**Button Benton Boyd** - December 02, 2017 at 07:35 PM

BB

*My sympathy to tbe family.*

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**Button Benton Boyd** - December 02, 2017 at 07:38 PM

PM

“ *So sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏❤️*  
*Pam Martin*

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**pam martin** - December 02, 2017 at 07:32 PM

TJ

“ *Timmy & Vicki Johnson lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon*



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**Timmy & Vicki Johnson** - December 02, 2017 at 07:12 PM

VG

“ *Sorry to hear of the passing of Irby Koin  
I was a classmate of his at Aynor High School*

*Velma Ruth Gerald*

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**velma ruth Gerald** - December 02, 2017 at 07:00 PM

KB

“ I am very sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Koon. I have a lot of fond memories of him from Conway High School. Prayers to the family.

Kristi Jordan Biggerstaff - December 02, 2017 at 06:52 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Irby Lee Koon.



December 02, 2017 at 05:51 PM

TE

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Koon. He was an amazing teacher and friend to my family. He will truly be missed. He is who made me love history.

Tiffany Edwards - December 02, 2017 at 05:25 PM

KG

“ Kimberly Grissett lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon



Kimberly Grissett - December 02, 2017 at 05:15 PM

SC

“ Shirley Cribb lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon



Shirley Cribb - December 02, 2017 at 05:02 PM

AL

“ AllisonIreneBrockFutrell@gmail.com lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon



AllisonIreneBrockFutrell@gmail.com - December 02, 2017 at 04:48 PM

KR

“ Kathy Richardson lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon



Kathy Richardson - December 02, 2017 at 04:31 PM

James Kirkpatrick

“ James Kirkpatrick lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon



James Kirkpatrick - December 02, 2017 at 04:20 PM

JS

“ *Mr. Koon will be greatly missed! He taught me AP European History and was a wonderful man! Conway has lost a true treasure.*

James Smith - December 02, 2017 at 03:54 PM

RG

“ *Robin Goff lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon*



Robin Goff - December 02, 2017 at 03:46 PM

RG

*I had Mr. Koon in 10th grade for U.S. History. I learned alot and he was a great teacher and announcer at the football games. R.I. P*

Robin Goff - December 02, 2017 at 03:48 PM

RG

“ *Robin Graham lit a candle in memory of Irby Lee Koon*



Robin Graham - December 02, 2017 at 01:41 PM

K(

*Mr. Koon was my history teacher in 1978-79. He was THAT teacher. One of the few I remember so vividly. Students were always hanging out in his room. He had a way of making everyone feel special. RIP sir and prayers for your family. May the Lord comfort them in their grief. You were an honorable man.*

Karen Roberts Horn (Texas) - December 03, 2017 at 03:01 AM

SP

*The first cousin to leave our family. Irby was loved so very much and will be missed by all of us. He will be forever remembered in his wonderful stories and tales that kept us so entertained and bursting with laughter. Thoughts of caring, love & prayers for Lynne and his brother and sisters.*

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**Sonya Poole** - December 05, 2017 at 10:53 AM

DM

*I knew Irby during high school days. He was a wonderful person and friend. My thought and prayers go out to his family.  
Darnelle Lee Maher (California)*

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**Darnelle Lee Maher** - December 06, 2017 at 11:52 AM