



Dr. Hal Shields

December 4, 1933 - September 3, 2020

Hal Shields, 86, died September 3, after a short battle with lung cancer. Born December 4, 1933, in New Bern, NC, he moved at the age of 12 to Fairburn, a town he would love and call home for the rest of his life. He graduated from Campbell High School (1952), the University of Georgia (1956), and earned a Ph.D. from Georgia State in 1979.

His long, distinguished career with the Fulton County School System began at Campbell High School, where he taught social studies and met Sue Bonner, the woman he would fall in love with and marry. In fewer than twelve years, he was named principal of Russell High School, of Campbell, and in 1970, of Palmetto. In 1972 he moved into district-wide administration, serving as Associate Superintendent for Instruction, supervising K-12 instructional coordinators, K-12 principals, and staff development. In 1975, he spearheaded the school system's transition to middle schools in grades 6-8. His enlightened leadership was characterized by a keen intellect, careful decision-making, perceptive listening, a broad knowledge of educational philosophy and practice, and a rock solid belief that the heart of education is the teacher in the classroom. He was a supportive mentor to many young educators who cherished his guidance and encouragement.

An enduring, central part of Hal's life was his faith and his church, Fairburn United Methodist. His membership spanned 70+ years and included serving as Chairman of the Administrative Board; Chairman of the Staff-Parish Committee; Trustee; and Church Treasurer.

Hal loved family gatherings; UGA football (particularly his trip to the 1980 championship game); his cocker spaniels; good music; fellowship with friends; an immaculately kept yard; a good meal; and, especially, the annual family trip to Ormond Beach every July. He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Sue; his children, Michael Shields (Lisa) and Karen Ethridge; his grandchildren, Jennifer Ethridge Grainger (Joe), Tyler Ethridge, Meghan Shields, Jordan Shields Hartzog (Marshall), and Emily Ann Shields; and his great-grandchildren, Henry Grainger and Duke Grainger.

Visitation will be at Parrott Funeral home on Tuesday, September 8, at 11:30 am, followed by a private family burial service at 1:00. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held when COVID-19 restrictions allow. In lieu of flowers, donations in Hal's memory can be made to Fairburn United Methodist Church, 5 Washington Street, Fairburn, GA 30213. Parrott Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Holly Hill Memorial Park

359 W. Broad Street
Fairburn, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 8. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Parrott Funeral Home & Crematory
8355 Senoia Road
Fairburn, GA 30213
info@parrottfuneralhome.com
<https://www.parrottfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Parrott Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Parrott Funeral Home - September 08, 2020 at 12:45 PM

DD

Hal Shields was the epitome of a life well lived. Reading through the tributes there is a common theme. Here was a man that was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was intelligent, sharp witted, kind, caring, well read, a true gift to his family, church, and the world. I first knew Hal as a Fulton Co. teacher. When I joined Fairburn Methodist Church I would sit behind him every Sunday. We would discuss and try to solve all the current problems of the world; especially, problems in education. I began to look forward to hearing his "take" on current issues. I will miss him so very much.

I don't know many people that leave this world with so much positive influence.

Delores Dysomn

Delores Dyson - September 10, 2020 at 04:01 PM

JB

“ Jayne Bennett lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Jayne Bennett - September 21, 2020 at 09:43 AM

LB

“ Linda Yarbrough Brown lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Linda Yarbrough Brown - September 11, 2020 at 10:06 PM



“ *Hal Shields had just been promoted to Associate Superintendent when I was hired as a teacher. I was privileged to work under his leadership until he retired. We knew that he always had the interest of the students foremost in his decision making. No matter your position, Dr. Shields had time to speak with you and make you feel important. His strong faith informed his work and we were the beneficiaries of his dedication.*

While I know the family have a hole in their hearts now, the healing will come as they read all the memories and praise people had for him.

Cynthia Lyon - September 10, 2020 at 10:44 AM

GC

“ *Hal was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him. He was highly respected within the Fulton County School system and in the church he loved so much, Fairburn Methodist and his community of Fairburn. He was devoted to doing all he could to help people and was inspiring to so many. Ron and I send our deepest condolences to Sue and his family. May God comfort each of you and know that many are thinking of you. Gladys and Ron Cochran*

Gladys Cochran - September 08, 2020 at 08:05 PM

JY

“ Hal has been a friend of my family for approximately 58 years. When my Dad got a job at the U.S. Post Office in Fairburn, back in 1961, we moved from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to Fairburn, Georgia. Hal was, at that time working part-time at the Post Office, where My Dad met him. They became friends, and Hal even gave us a little dog, because the dog kept tearing Michael's pajamas off. We also attended the same church as Hal and Sue, until Dad died, and Mother moved to a long term rehabilitation center. I, of course had married and moved away.

I remember when I was a senior at Campbell High School, Mr. Shields was our principal. We always got along great, and I thought I might have a little edge with him, since we had known each other for so long. As it happened, on my very last day of school, Mr. Shields somehow saw that I didn't have any socks on. And on this very last day of school, he sent me home to get some socks! He absolutely showed no partiality. However, I knew if I went home to get some socks, my mother would kill me. So a friend of mine had a dirty pair of socks in his car, and I got them and put them on.

I always loved Hal Shields, and I will miss him greatly!

Jerry T. Yates

Jerry T. Yates - September 08, 2020 at 03:03 PM

RL

“ Ralph And Patti Lynch lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Ralph and Patti Lynch - September 07, 2020 at 10:13 PM

WD

“ Dr. Hal Shields was one of my favorite people of all times. He hired me as director of business education for Fulton County Schools and then supported me in everything I tried to do. When I told him I wanted to start trading out all our typewriters for computers he just asked me if I was sure. At that time even colleges didn't have computer labs for students and there was no textbook for use in high schools. When I said “Yes, I'm sure.” He said, “Then, I'll help you.” He continued to support us until we had multiple labs in both high and middle schools. Fulton County, because of Hal Shields, became a national leader in our discipline.

Hal Shields was the consummate gentleman with a wry sense of humor. He loved Sue and his children beyond measure. He told me one time that his favorite time of the day was going home to Sue. What a tribute! We have all lost a genteel friend and colleague who is truly irreplaceable.

Wanda Daniel

Wanda Daniel - September 07, 2020 at 07:30 PM

OE

“ Our thoughts nd prayers are with you during this difficult time.
May you find comfort nd peace in the love and comfort of your family and friends. Owen and Bobbie Edge



Owen and Barbara EDGE - September 07, 2020 at 05:23 PM

KW

“ Kay Wingo lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Kay Wingo - September 07, 2020 at 04:54 PM

JE

“ *Janice Erwin lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields*



Janice Erwin - September 07, 2020 at 07:02 AM

LT

“ *Larry E. Teal lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields*



Larry E. Teal - September 06, 2020 at 09:40 PM

LT

*I am a 1958 graduate of Campbell High. I was fortunate enough to do my student teaching at Campbell with Ms. Annie Sarah Johnston and Dr. Shields. Two great social studies teachers, how could one be so lucky. I attribute my success in my educational to these great individuals. During my career in educational leadership, I would frequently call on Dr. Shields for advice. He was always willing and helpful to me when I needed it. My sympathy is offered to Sue and the Shields family during this time.
Larry Teal, Spring Hill, Tennessee*

Larry E. Teal - September 07, 2020 at 04:06 PM

HM

“ *A true Gentleman , always .*

H. Grady Mullis - September 06, 2020 at 08:27 PM

JB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are sent to Michael and Karen and the entire family. I have fond memories of Mr Shields and always thought highly of him. He was a fixture in the Fairburn community. In recent years when I attended the Fairburn UMC with Mom & Dad he always spoke and we would chat like old friends. What a kind soul. He will be missed by many.*

Julia "Julie" Johnson Blake - September 06, 2020 at 07:20 PM

SW

“ Hal Shields was one of Fairburn’s finest. He left an indelible impression on our community through his example and leadership to so many students and coworkers. He was a devoted member of the Fairburn Methodist Church and always willing to give a helping hand. He and Sue were inseparable from the time they met at CHS. Hal was an exemplary person and will be missed by so many.

Susan and William White - September 06, 2020 at 06:55 PM

SW

“ Susan and William White lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Susan and William White - September 06, 2020 at 06:45 PM

NS

“ Nancy Steed lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Nancy Steed - September 06, 2020 at 05:20 PM

RJ

“ We remember Hal and family fondly.. He and Roger were on the Fairburn Planning and Zoning Commission for years. Our families also were part of the Fairburn community and Methodist church. We miss his presence at church.

Roger and Marian Johnson - September 06, 2020 at 12:07 PM

JG

“ Judy W Goddard lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



judy w goddard - September 05, 2020 at 08:59 PM

JG

Dr. Shields was a great teacher. After high school, I taught in Fulton County and continued contact with him for many years. Also, it was a joy to see him at many class reunions. Without a doubt, he was my favorite teacher and he made an influence on me and my teaching career.

judy w goddard - September 05, 2020 at 09:18 PM

JR

“*Mr. Shields was my favorite teacher at CHS. I was blessed to also, have him as my home room teacher. He was a true southern gentleman. I always enjoyed seeing him and his sweet wife at our reunions. Having teachers like him, gives us good memories of high school days, he was an inspiration to many of us. My husband, Harry thought so much of him and Sue. Deepest sympathy to his sweet family. 🙏*

Judy Scarbrough Rivers - September 05, 2020 at 01:01 PM

DC

“*Aunt Sue, Michael, Karen, and families, we will miss Uncle Hal so much! Growing up in Fairburn and having family all around was idyllic and comforting. We were surrounded by people who loved us. As a child, I remember my dad Jack and Uncle Hal horsing around and teasing each other all the time. They got into battles with the whipped cream canister at Bish's house, much to her chagrin. I remember Uncle Hal to be so neat and even-tempered. He kept his car immaculate. We had some great flag football games in his front yard. Uncle Hal always took good care of himself and stayed in shape. Though he didn't cotton to the Internet, the last time we spoke he was thrilled with his smart TV! He was always thoughtful and considerate. We will miss him. Love, Jackie Shields, Monty Shields and family, Dr. Audrey Shields Crumbley and family*

Dr. Audrey Shields Crumbley - September 05, 2020 at 12:27 PM

MF

“*Margaret Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields*



Margaret Ferguson - September 05, 2020 at 12:27 PM

MF

Hal was my second cousin. His mother Aunt Bess was my Grandmother's sister. This entire family was and is loved for their kindness, character and love of education. I was blessed to know them. I remember him teaching in my senior year. He and Sue are a treasure and do not know how many they inspired.

Margaret Ferguson - September 05, 2020 at 12:31 PM

JH

“ *I hope you never tire of hearing this - "Mr. Shields was one of my favorite teachers". I never dreaded going to his class. He had an easy going style that made you want to listen & learn. He was a class act. It was always a pleasure to see him @ class reunions. Your loved one lives on in the hearts of so many. Judy Ruppensburg Hopkins , Campbell Class of 1965.*

Judy R. Hopkins - September 05, 2020 at 12:26 PM

MT

“ *Dr Shields mother was my first grade teacher and she occasionally would take me home with her and that's when I first met him and his brother, Jack. Also, I remember him and Sue from Campbell HS. Little did I know that our paths would cross again when I worked for Fulton County Schools for the Superintendent, Dr Fox, and Dr Shields office was next door. He was a sweet and very kind man. I am very saddened by his death.*

Mary Scarbrough Taylor - September 05, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ To Sue, Michael, Karen and family, Gordon and I are so very sorry for your loss. I have known Hal my entire life. We were fortunate to have grown up at an ideal time and in the ideal little town of Fairburn. Friends were many and parents shared moral and religious convictions. If you knew Hal you knew that he was a man of outstanding moral character. But did you realize that he was such a witty person? He never let me live down the time when the people who had served in the armed forces were ask to stand up for recognition during church. He stood and so did I. Where was my mind, what was I thinking? The next year when I did not stand up he asked me if I was sick and not able to stand up, and for years afterward he would approach me and suggest that we share war stories sometimes. There were more instances too numerous to mention where Hal brought wit and laughter to those around him. There are some who bring a light so great to the world that after they are gone the light remains, and Hal was that kind of person. Hal was a friend to me and to many. Not even death can break the bonds of friendship for friendship is like love, it is eternal. So farewell my good friend until we meet again.



Margaret Hudson Kilgore

Margaret Kilgore - September 05, 2020 at 11:32 AM

KC

“ I first met Dr. Shields when I began work with Fulton County Schools in the Visual Arts Dept. in 1973. My last 20 years were as Coordinator of Art Education, a position to which he promoted me. Over many years my fondest memory is Hal telling me to change the name "visual arts ed." to "art ed." to put the department at the forefront of all our curriculum publications. He always had great ideas! For over 30 years I valued his advice and counsel. I think most who knew him would agree that he had a wry sense of humor. We SO enjoyed keeping up with our families in retirement (Dan and I in Western NY) in our Christmas cards for the last 20 some years. Dan and I will miss Hal and Sue so very much. In our hearts - always.

Kellene Champlin - September 05, 2020 at 10:18 AM

LA

“ Dr. Shields, I carry in my heart sweet memories of summers spent in Daytona and weekends on Lake Lanier...your kind and generous family means so much to my family. I am so sorry for your loss, Mrs. Sue, Karen and Michael. I'm praying for you. Love always, Lori

Lori Watkins Atkins - September 05, 2020 at 09:16 AM

NC

“ I remember him as a teacher at Campbell. A Good well respected man who guided me in learning. Thank you.

Nathan Crutchfield - September 05, 2020 at 09:10 AM

EH

“ Ed And Dianne Hopkins lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Ed and Dianne Hopkins - September 05, 2020 at 08:50 AM

CQ

“ My Mother, Louise Miller Putnam, respected Dr. Shields greatly. She counted it an honor when he asked her to start-up the Home Economics Department at Palmetto High School. I appreciate the support that Dr. Shields provided to me: (1) as a student at Campbell High School and (2) when I was Principal at Fairburn Elementary School. Dr. Shields was a wonderful Christian man. Carol Putnam Quigley

Carol Putnam Quigley - September 04, 2020 at 11:13 PM

JF

“ John A. Fowler lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



John A. Fowler - September 04, 2020 at 09:48 PM



“ Carol Beaber lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Carol Beaber - September 04, 2020 at 08:58 PM



“ *Sandy Burdette lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields*



Sandy Burdette - September 04, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ *Judy Crawford lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields*



Judy Crawford - September 04, 2020 at 07:27 PM



I was so sad to hear of Mr. Shields' passing. I will miss all of our wonderful hugs. I will cherish all my memories of him. All of his family will be in my prayers, especially Sue, his love.
Judy Simpson Crawford

Judy Crawford - September 04, 2020 at 07:30 PM



He was such a great teacher - hard, but fair. I will always be grateful for his dedication to teaching, and touching many of our lives by instilling a love of learning about the history of our state, and nation. His wife and family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Carol Beaber - September 04, 2020 at 09:04 PM



“ *David & Jane Storey lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields*



David & Jane Storey - September 04, 2020 at 06:57 PM

AS

“ I have many fond memories of Hal. Since he was one of my brother Lawson's best friends, I had the chance to be around him a lot. Also, I was in Boy Scouts when he was Assistant Scoutmaster. He and Lawson even took me with them to see a movie about Chuck Yeager breaking the sound barrier. I remember Hal as being kind, honest, and caring. He will be dearly missed.
Avery Sayer

Avery Sayer - September 04, 2020 at 03:45 PM

RW

“ I have searched for words to convey my deepest sympathy and the loss of Dr. Hal Shields but I can't find words to describe. Then as I read all these wonderful, heartfelt tributes all I can say is "Amen". Sue, Michael and Karen and your families are and will continue to be in my prayers

Ruth Dodson West - September 04, 2020 at 12:35 PM

TF

“ Tara Fuller lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Tara Fuller - September 04, 2020 at 11:56 AM

TF

“ Mrs. Sue, Michael, Karen & Family,
Continued thoughts, prayers & condolences during this difficult time, of bereavement. Mr. Hal was, truly, a most wonderful man & will be greatly missed, no doubt. I am beyond grateful, to have had the pleasure, of cutting Dr Hal's hair, trust, we had a laugh a minute! Was awesome, seeing his radiant smile, every few weeks. I so enjoyed our conversations. Honestly, he never ceased, in making my day. Dr Hal, was extremely proud, of his beautiful family & loved, loved all, of you, dearly. I, thoroughly, enjoyed watching his face brighten, with joy, while sharing, the sweetest, heartfelt memories, of your family's past fun & adventures. Knowing Dr. Hal is a treasured blessing, I am very grateful to have had. Sending my deepest sympathies..Love Always, Tara Fuller

Tara Fuller - September 04, 2020 at 11:50 AM

MS

“ Mr. Hal, as I called him, was a lifelong best friend to my father and always a kind and funny gentleman who I enjoyed being around. Maybe he and Dad have found each other and will enjoy their shared passion for Georgia football. I have great memories of Mr. and Mrs. Shields and will keep you all in my prayers. When the last of my grandparents passed away, I'll always remember him saying "Mark, I hope you know how lucky you were." Well, everyone who was ever around Mr. Hal certainly was lucky and blessed to have known him.

Mark Sayer - September 04, 2020 at 10:50 AM

SM

“ Mrs. Shields, Michael and Karen,

You will be in my heart and in my prayers. Dr. Shields was a true treasure! He and my mom graduated from Campbell in 1952 and remained friends all those years. I was always amazed at how they would still coordinate their class reunion. For the last 10 years the reunion was always held at the Golden Corral in Newnan on the 1st Saturday of November. They were fortunate to even have it last year celebrating 67 years. He gave 100% in everything he did and our little community was a better place because of him. Dr. Shields will be missed greatly. I will miss his smile and his sincere genuineness,

Susan "Hearn" Mills - September 04, 2020 at 09:59 AM



“ My Sincere Sympathy to the Entire Shields family, Sue, Michael and Karen at the passing of My Good Dear Friend Hal. He was my mentor, Friend, and a Great and Shining Role Model for me. I will miss him, but I will always have Great and fond memories of him.

Gene Wiggins

Gene Wiggins - September 03, 2020 at 07:26 PM

G6

“ Dr Shields was one of my favorite teachers and he had a great sense of humor, His sense of humor contributed greatly to enjoying his class! He will be missed

Gail Wellborn Hightower Class of 65 - September 03, 2020 at 06:50 PM

SP

“ My Father, Dr. Rulon B. Johnson wishes to extend his Deepest Sympathy and Condolences to the family of Dr. Shields.
My Father worked with Him for Decades and remembers Dr. Shields as a very Good Man Educator and Friend.
With Deepest Sympathy the Johnson Family
Rulon B., Sandra Johnson Gosdin-Pryor.

Sandra Pryor - September 03, 2020 at 05:42 PM

MT

“ Oh no, I am crushed to hear this. I adored Mr. Shields - always so kind and friendly and sweet. He and Sue (we all love her, too) always came to our class ('63) reunions. He was such a great teacher - hard, but fair - and brilliant. I will always be grateful for his gentleness and his inspiration and his wonderful gift of making political science fascinating. Thank you, Mr. Shields, and to Mrs. Shields (we didn't say Sue back then), please know our hearts are with you. Sending love, Martha Smith Tate CHS '63

Martha Smith Tate - September 03, 2020 at 04:39 PM

LH

“ I was fortunate too have had Mr. Shields as my history teacher at Campbell High School. He was a great teacher I was most happy too see him at our last class reunion in 2018. My thoughts and prayer for the family.

Lawrence Harmon - September 03, 2020 at 03:32 PM

LH

“ Lawrence Harmon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Hal Shields



Lawrence Harmon - September 03, 2020 at 03:26 PM

JL

“ Oh, what a sweet, gentle man! How I have missed his warm hugs at church since the pandemic! RIP, Hal.....you will be missed.

Jill Lucas - September 03, 2020 at 02:49 PM