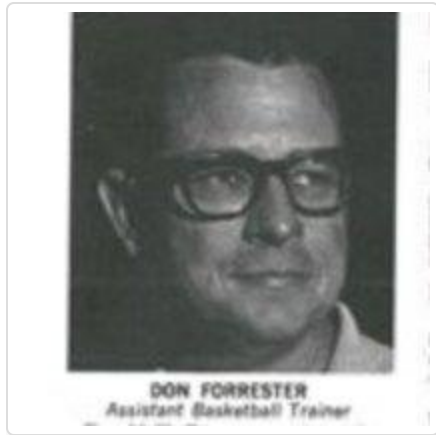




Donald H. Forrester

January 25, 1933 - November 14, 2013

Age 80, a resident of Albuquerque, died Thursday, November 14, 2013. He is survived by wife of 56 years, Juanice Forrester of Albuquerque, NM; children, Bryce Forrester, Jody Streepy; and Garry Forrester; and seven grandchildren. Don was preceded in death by his sons, Stephen and Larry Forrester. Don served his country with the Navy. Over the course of his life he served as minister of music at several churches in El Paso, Dripping Springs, and Albuquerque. Don was known for his singing voice and often sang the National Anthem for various events. Also served in the athletic community at UTEP and UNM. He was a member of Highland Baptist Church. Services will be held on Sunday, November 17, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at FRENCH - Lomas. Interment will take place at Santa Fe National Cemetery, Monday, November 18, 10:15 a.m. Friends may visit French - Lomas, Sunday, November 17, 2013 5:00 p.m. Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to Joy Junction, PO Box 26568, Albuquerque, NM 87125.

Cemetery Details

Santa Fe National Cemetery

501 N. Guadalupe St.
NM 87504

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 5:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)
10500 Lomas Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
(505) 275-3500
<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

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Tribute Wall

DN

“ It was an honor to know Mr. Forrester at UNM in the athletic training program. The man who taught me how to put on a tie. I will always cherish and value his advice.

Daniel Nevarez

Daniel Nevarez - February 10, 2014 at 09:41 PM

CS

“ Don taught me how to swim at UTEP and sang at my wedding. He was a kind and caring man, and he made such an impact on my entire family. You will be missed, Don!

Cecce Stephens - November 18, 2013 at 10:06 PM

MV

“ My very first day as a students athletic trainer at UNM I had a lineman run up panicked as his pinky finger was facing the wrong way. Mr. Forrester calmly walked forward and grabbed his hand. With a smile and a gentle voice he relocated the stray digit, asked for some tape to brace it and sent the player back to the line. I will always remember his kind words, and encouragement. Mr. Forrester was always available to listen and teach. I can still hear his voice resonating in University Arena as he beautifully sang the national anthem during women's games. What a great man!

Matthew Vasquez - November 18, 2013 at 03:24 PM

CT

“It's always sad when we lose a friend like Don Forrester, but he would never want us to be sad about our loss. No, I think he would want us to remember the moments we shared with him and reflect on them. I'd wager that he would want us to show the same kind of class, compassion, humility, and grace that followed him everywhere to people in our own lives, just like he did in his. He'd want us to commit to loving God and each other more than we do now. I knew Don for about 3 months through his work with the UNM athletic training program when my dad had a quadruple bypass. He was a comforting presence for me at school and helped me deal with my stress, but when he showed up in the hospital to check on my dad, whom he had never met, I knew what kind of a man he was. Thanks Mr. Forrester.

Chris Turpen - November 18, 2013 at 03:17 PM

FE

“One day during a unique Albuquerque blizzard Mr. Forrester asked if I would take him home. He live down the street from and so this was not out my way. The next I found a thank you card and gas money in my mailbox. Mr. Forrester was first class in all he did.

Felipe - November 18, 2013 at 01:37 PM

JD

“Mr. Forrester was an amazing man. His impact on Dripping Springs, Texas is evident as I read through the messages left from friends and colleagues. I will never forget his faith, his voice, or the speeches he gave to the student body. He always reminded us to remember who we are and where we're from. To this day, I remember those words and pass them on to our girls. To Mrs. Forrester and the rest of Forrester family we offer my deepest sympathy. Greg and Jaime Dydalewicz, Dripping Springs TX

Jaime Dydalewicz - November 18, 2013 at 12:21 PM

SS

“Don was such a unique individual. He never met a stranger. He loved his family and he was dedicated to his church. He believed in us as athletic trainers, although he had some shoes to fill when coming to UTEP. He accomplished that without missing a beat. You will not be forgotten. To Juanice and family, my deepest sympathy. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Scott Smelser - November 18, 2013 at 09:31 AM

CG

“Don Forrester, a true Christian Gentleman, was loved by all He touched. Having been His Secretary at Dripping Springs High School the full time He was there, He shared His compassion, His love of Children, He was a Mentor, Guidance Counselor, a Pastor, A Friend to All and A real Gentleman who loved each day in His life at DSHS. If a student had a 'bad day' in a classroom or elsewhere and was sent to the Principal's Office, Mr. Forrester would put His arm around the 'troubled' teen, walk outside, up the sidewalk having a 'Fatherly talk' with the student before the student was sent back to class with a Great feeling and loving the rest of the day. Mr. Forrester taught everyone He knew, and He announced on the high school PA system, at least once per day and more, "Never forget who you are and where you came from" ~ Thank you Don Forrester for being a Great Mentor to me, showing patience, love and understanding each day. God Bless Juanice and the Forrester Families and Friends. <3



Carolyn Crumley Grumbles - November 18, 2013 at 02:42 AM



“ Our condolences to Juanice and family. Thanks to Don our daughter Shondra was able to attend UTE and become an educator. His love for the Lord was evident in his life by the way he treated the students and cared for people. He was truly a gentlemen and will be missed.

Lynette Ritter - November 17, 2013 at 09:23 PM

EP

“ I am so glad Don never forgot Whose he is and where he came from and where he would be going back to someday. The world is a better place because of him, and there are few true gentlemen like him. I'm so glad to have known him and been able to visit a few years ago. I think we cried together the whole time, but it was so good to see him.

Ed Palmer - November 17, 2013 at 08:41 PM

LM

“ Forrester Family,
Sending thoughts and prayers from Jerry & Beverly Martin, Jeff and Lee Anne of Dripping Springs, Texas. Heaven is rejoicing!

lee anne mcleod - November 17, 2013 at 07:08 PM

MB

“ Melissa Bourcier lit a candle in memory of Donald H. Forrester



Melissa Bourcier - November 17, 2013 at 05:34 PM

MB

“ Thank you for being a great, leader, mentor, educator and friend. I will always remember the support you gave my family during my mom’s cancer diagnosis. DSHS has lost a great man but Heaven has an amazing angel smiling down at us! My thoughts and prayers to his family, friends and all the lives he has touched!

Melissa Bourcier - November 17, 2013 at 05:34 PM

SV

Mr. Forrester was my beloved principal at the high school whenever I began my teaching career in Dripping Springs. He was a joy to work with. I will always treasure his willingness to help, support, and be a part of our choir program. What a wonderful man! He will be truly missed!

Sonja Vandivier - November 18, 2013 at 09:03 AM

DS

“ Don 'The Reverend' Forrester was a special individual in our small but elite class of athletic trainers. His integrity and professionalism made us all better. I feel very blessed that I was able to work with him during my formative years. He helped make our class of student trainers a very special group that everyone could appreciate. God bless you, Reverend.

Don Smelser - November 17, 2013 at 04:52 PM

PE

“ Don Forrester changed my life with his gracious offer of a full athletic scholarship to this "young, wet behind the ears, student trainer". He made me feel important and respected my decision making helping me to build my confidence to be a life long educator and athletic trainer. I owe him so much!! Thank you, Don!
Peggy Enax
San Antonio, Tx

Peggy Enax - November 17, 2013 at 04:40 PM

GD

“ To one of the best administrators we ever worked for and one the best friends anyone could ever have! Thank you for making an impact on our lives and the lives of so many! We will always remember "who we are and where we come from" We love you!
Glenn and Colleen Davis

Glenn and Colleen Davis - November 17, 2013 at 04:18 PM

NH

“ I was only called to his office one time in my HS years...I was so confused and had no idea what I had possibly done to be in trouble. When I got there, he invited me in to sit down and there in one of the two chairs was my dad. I was nervous and not sure what to say...thankfully, I didn't have to say anything. I just listened and cried. Mr. Forrester and my dad were watching out for me and just wanted me to know that they were taking care of everything. Mr. Forrester was one of a kind. How blessed we were at Dripping Springs to have known him and been under his care.

Nikki Harmon - November 17, 2013 at 04:01 PM

 Paula King

“ Don as Principal of Dripping Springs High School, Dripping Springs TX.



Paula King - November 17, 2013 at 02:22 PM

RC

“ Thank you Don for being a great brother-in-law and I always admired you . It was an honor to have you as part of the Cooke family and you will be missed.I have good memories of the sports talk and I was able to attend many UNM games because of you. I always enjoyed being at them with Steve and seeing you on the sidelines doing great work for the players. I send my best to Juanice and family.

Roger Cooke - November 17, 2013 at 10:31 AM

RL

“ Jock Doc was an amazing principal and the one that detected that from all the kicking I was doing my freshman year that my hip was jammed and causing partial scoliosis of my back.... I can remember him putting me on a table and saying yep your right leg is a couple inches shorter. I went to a chiropractor the next day and he fixed my back instantly and the pain was gone... I'm forever grateful you are/were a great man than you!

Ray Leverett - November 17, 2013 at 08:58 AM

AC

“ Don was a friend, mentor and a shining light in the Dripping Springs community! A man of integrity, honor and commitment who left his mark. God Bless and rest easy my friend.

Art Costello - November 17, 2013 at 08:45 AM

 Lori de Leon

“ I will always cherish the memories I have of Mr. Forrester. He was my principal when I went to school in Dripping Springs. He was such a kind man. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Lori de Leon - November 17, 2013 at 08:15 AM



“ I will always remember every morning our adopted dog...Ranger... would always run up to Mr. Forrester just to get his morning scratch and love. He was one of the greatest people alive and yes i will always know who i am and where i came from

Yvonne Flores - November 17, 2013 at 06:15 AM



“ Such a very special, kind, Christian man who will be missed by so many more than will hear of his passing. Met with him a few years back, laughed and prayed with him. He lit up, as usual, at the site of my family, especially of my young nieces. His love radiates from his smile and hug! He has family and friends escorting him around up there! He's at peace, even more now...thank you for sharing him with us!

Angela Palmer - November 17, 2013 at 12:48 AM



“ We loved you, Mr. Forrester. We will always "remember who we are, and where we are from." Rest in peace.

april segers - November 17, 2013 at 12:20 AM



“ When I first signed up to substitute teach in the early '90s Mr. Forrester was the principal at DSHS. He was always so kind, encouraging and supportive. I have many fond memories of Mr. Forrester and am fortunate that I worked at the school while he was there.

Lisa Patton - November 17, 2013 at 12:18 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers to the Forrester family. Mr. Forrester was my high school principal at Dripping Springs. I will always remember him as one of the most honest and fair-minded gentlemen I ever had the pleasure to know. Once again, I'm sorry for the loss. He will be missed by many.*

Shawn Holloway

Shawn Holloway - November 16, 2013 at 11:16 PM



“ *My prayers to his family. I was a student of his at Dripping Springs High School, and he set the benchmark for people that I held in high regard. Humorous, kind, easy to talk to and willing to listen, and a man that would stand up for his students is how he is remembered. RIP Mr Forrester.*

Carl J "CJ" Speed

Carl Speed - November 16, 2013 at 10:36 PM

DH

“ *Mr. Forrester was one of my principals while I served as band director at Dripping Springs High School. He was so honorable, kind and fun to be around. My sympathies to family and friends. God Bless*

Don Hopkins

Don Hopkins - November 16, 2013 at 10:28 PM

SR

“ I had the pleasure of having known Don in my early years at UTEP. I met him my freshman year as an undergraduate student trainer as he he was one of the Graduate Assistant Trainers under Ross Moore. As a GA, he was instrumental in providing guidance and knowledge, not only in the training room, but as an wholesome individual. He was assigned to Men's Basketball and upon completing his Master's Degree, was hired as the athletic trainer at Coronado HS.

During his tenure at Coronado, he was a member of the original El Paso Athletic Trainers Association, held office as President and helped coordinate many a seminar. After a couple of years in the high school ranks, he moved on and took a position at Region XIX expanding his opportunity to serve not only the El Paso Community, but a larger area of Far West Texas. On him taking the position at Region XIX, it was then that I had the opportunity to become the athletic trainer at Coronado in 1977.

On the unfortunate death of Ross Moore, Don Forrester was selected to be the new head athletic trainer for UTEP. He held the position of Head Athletic Trainer for several years until it was time for him to again, move on. He took another job as a high school administrator/athletic trainer in Dripping Springs, Texas. When Don left UTEP, another past graduate from the college whom many of you know, David Binder, took the reigns at UTEP. David, upon his leaving UTEP and taking the position of Head Athletic Trainer at UNM had Don join him as one of his assistant athletic trainers for many years.

Although it has been many years that I have not seen or talked to Don Forrester, I can always say that his persona has and always be a special one for me. I am fortunate in having known him and the best of all, memories of that special "BARITONE VOICE" of his. For those of use who ever heard him sing our "National Anthem" at the Sun Bowl, Memorial Gym, the Special Events(Haskins)Center, or Coronado High School, we will remember that special individual

who always had that special smile and wink to say that all is good!

May God Bless,

Serg Renteria

Sergio Renteria - November 16, 2013 at 10:24 PM



Thank you Sergio. I enjoyed the new insights you brought to me today regarding this special man, loved by so many. Paula King, Teacher @ Dripping Springs High School and Professor @ UNM, Taos

Paula King - November 17, 2013 at 02:08 PM

LS

“What an amazing man! Thank God he was in our lives here at DSHS for as long as we could have him. It was also a blessing to see him about 2 years ago and have him meet my girls. Praying with him was just ... awesome.

Lysbeth Smith - November 16, 2013 at 10:24 PM

JH

“Mr Forrester was truly a good man. Salt of the earth. Not many like him today. RIP Mr Forrester. You will surely be missed.

James Henry - November 16, 2013 at 10:19 PM

TN

“Mr. Forrester offered me my first teaching job at Dripping Springs HS, where I still teach 20 yrs later. What an honor it was to teach under his leadership for 4 months before he retired. I am blessed to have known him and know that he will always be remembered fondly in the Dripping Springs community.

Tracy Neef - November 16, 2013 at 09:53 PM

KH

“ *Mr.F was a great man. I'm glad to have him guide me as a youngster*

kristi Haynes - November 16, 2013 at 09:37 PM

PA

Mr. Forrester was a true gentleman and a great principal. He cared about the students and always had a positive attitude. God bless his family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. The bell did ring and another angel got his wings. You will be truly missed. HUGS

Patricia - November 16, 2013 at 10:38 PM

CM

“ *Sympathy to the family on Don's passing. We remember Don from our Riverside Baptist //church days.*

Charles & Betty McMath

Charles & Betty McMath - November 16, 2013 at 05:35 PM

SH

“ *On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.*

Shelia F. Hocker - November 15, 2013 at 01:32 PM

JE

What a joy it was to work with Don on the staff of Highland Baptist Church, Albuquerque, NM! Because of his deep faith in Christ, Don always had a song in his heart, and always ready to let it roll across his lips and bless the hearts of others. No doubt, he is still singing! God bless you Juanice!

John Embery

John Embery - November 18, 2013 at 11:36 AM