



James "Doc" Joseph Holliday

October 10, 1938 - August 7, 2020

James "Doc" Joseph Holliday, 81, passed away on August 7, 2020, surrounded by his family. He was born October 10, 1938, in Toledo, to Nelson and Sara Mae (Naylor) Holliday.

Doc graduated from DeVilbiss High School in 1957, where he dominated on both the basketball and tennis courts. He earned All-City honors as the captain and point guard of the basketball team, along with being one of leading tennis players in the city. In 2001, he was inducted into the athletic hall of fame at DeVilbiss.

As a diehard basketball fan, Doc spent over three decades of his life attending countless high school basketball games. He was such a regular attendee, many people around the area came to know him. While he spent the winters watching basketball, the rest of the year you could find Doc on the golf course as he golfed five to six days a week.

Doc worked for the Toledo Fire Department as a firefighter and inspector for 31 years. Prior to that, he briefly served in the United States Military. One of the things Doc enjoyed the most was socializing with both friends and strangers, and storytelling. He was beloved by many and preceded in death by his wife Christine (Reynolds), mother, Sara Mae, and father, Nelson. He is survived by his daughter Jessica (Rich) Stein, sons Benjamin Holliday, and

Spike (Mallory) Holliday, grandchildren Ethan, Emily, Benjamin, Jr. and Shea, along with his sister Ruth (Paul) Dresser.

Friends and family are invited to visit on Saturday, August 15th, from 3-6 pm at the Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 Sylvania Avenue (between Secor and Douglas Roads). A celebration of his life will begin at 6:00, followed by the Last Alarm Ceremony at 7:00. Please wear a mask, as they are required. The family asks that any donations be made in honor of Doc to the Gary Sinise Foundation.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 15. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Celebration of Life

AUG 15. 6:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Tribute Wall

MM

“ The second time I met Doc was when he came to my classroom and explained that Spike knew his name was Nelson and that he should know how to write it, but Spike was the name he answered to. I was happy to know this because I made a point of calling children by the name they preferred to go by-within reason. Another time Doc gave me some of the best advice for breaking the glass on a fire alarm. Firefighters always chose a teacher to turn in the alarm to start a fire drill and teachers had a hard time breaking the glass with the little hammer. Just take off your high-heeled shoe and use it like a hammer. I did. The glass went everywhere but it broke the first time I hit it. I think the firefighter was really surprised- thanks to Doc's advice

Madonna Mallett - August 14, 2020 at 11:55 PM

JS

“ You have my sincerest sympathy.
- Fr. Jim Sanford

James Samford - August 14, 2020 at 03:34 PM

LG

“ Doc was in my police academy class back in '83 when he needed police powers to be a fire inspector. He was so fun and even though he was a little older than the young rookies, he was tough as nails. I loved hearing his stories and always felt he watched out for the rest of us. Our prayers are with you at this time...

LisaAnne Gregg - August 12, 2020 at 12:00 PM

JW

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We attended DeVilbiss together. He was always fun and a good person to be around. He has a positive impact on those he met. The last time I saw him was when he attend my father's funeral in 1990.

Judy Peterson Wood - August 12, 2020 at 11:21 AM

EH

“ Doc's enthusiasm for basketball was unparalleled. He was frequently at our games, and I saw him at games when I scouted. He was always willing to offer an opinion about high school basketball. He will be sorely missed - Rest In Peace, Doc!

Ed Heintschel - August 12, 2020 at 10:52 AM

BC

“ Spike and the entire Holiday Family, We were saddened to hear of Doc's transition. We looked forward to seeing him at the Siena Heights baseball games. From day one, he and Billy became friends for as it was stated, he never met a stranger! Always full of fun, laughter and good conversation. May the memories of a long and well lived life give you peace and comfort in the days ahead.

*The Cork Family,
Billy, Karen, Brandon & Brent*

Billy Cork - August 12, 2020 at 10:23 AM

FO

“ Please accept the sympathy and prayer of the St. Francis de Sales Community. Doc was a regular at our basketball games and, of course, his wife was a treasured employee and his sons were Knights. We shall remember all the family in our prayer.

Fr. Ron Olszewski - August 12, 2020 at 09:29 AM

JS

Spike and family so sorry for your loss. Prayers and thoughts during this time

Jackie VanDemark - SFS - August 14, 2020 at 01:21 PM

JH

“ *So very sorry to learn of Doc's passing. He was always a pleasure to chat with. RIP. Doc.*

Jane Heltebrake - August 12, 2020 at 08:06 AM

DT

What a terrific guy, Doc was!! I adored him! We always had so many fun DeVilbiss memories to share. We both loved to talk so we never shared a moment of silence. God bless you and your family! Rest in peace!

Dee Talmage - August 12, 2020 at 03:54 PM