

DR. BUDDY LARRY THORNE

BUDDY LARRY THORNE WAS BORN JUNE 12, 1935, IN CORDOVA. HE IS THE SON OF CHESTER AND

Margaret Thorne. He enjoyed a very successful high school career, as he was a 3 year letterman in football, basketball and baseball. Buddy was the starting quarterback and punter on offense, as well as, a linebacker on defense. He called the offensive and defensive plays and his football coach Fred Knight quoted in the year book "Buddy was the smartest QB in Cordova history." The Blue Devils averaged 46 points per game, an amazing production for that period of time in football and was recognized as the Most Outstanding Athlete.



Along with Terrell Guthrie, Buddy organized the very first Jasper Swim Team, as well as, the development of the American Red Cross Water Safety program which he led for 25 years. He was often seen on the deck of the Memorial Park Pool as a stroke judge and meet referee. Buddy coached many TVC, State, and Southeastern Champion swimmers, including his children, Beth, Larry, Becky, and Babs. Buddy was himself, a championship diver during his early years.

While Buddy's athletic and coaching accomplishments are many, his greater legacy is his willingness to help others. Throughout his dental career, he provided free service for many of the county athletes who could not afford dental service. He provided mouth pieces and dental care whenever any local coach called and needed help for one of their players. He was always available to mentor young men, women, and coaches with tough love or encouragement as he saw fit. He was always available to help connect players and coaches with their next opportunity. Coach Larry Blakeney, legendary Troy State University coach said, "Doc is the most generous man I know with his time, energy and possessions, always willing to help both high school and college kids. He is as honest as the day is long...and most importantly, he is my best friend."

He attended Auburn University, graduated from Howard (now Samford University) 1956 and the University of Alabama School of Dentistry (1961). He now teaches Sunday School at First Baptist Church in Jasper.

He is married to the former Rieta Aaron. Buddy has four children: Beth (Rick) Stukes, Larry (Tasha) Thorne, Becky (David) Carroll, and Babs (Michael) Andersen and is blessed with eight wonderful grandchildren.