

## JAMES BRYANT BEATY, JR.

**J**AMES BRYANT BEATY, JR.,  
BETTER KNOWN AS "MICKEY,"  
WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 9,  
1947, IN JASPER, ALABAMA TO

to the late J.B. Beaty of Eldridge and Jimmie Ann Abbott Beaty of Jasper.

During Mickey's early years, his dad was in the service and they made their homes throughout the U.S. Eventually, his dad was employed in the space industry and Mickey attended high school at Littleton High School in Littleton, Colorado. While at Littleton, he played and lettered in football (linebacker), wrestling, and track. With his senior year came big changes as his dad was hired by NASA in Huntsville. Due to the lack of housing in the Huntsville area, Mickey moved in with his cousins in Eldridge and began his senior year at Carbon Hill High School where he was a two way starter for the football team. After football season, he transferred to Decatur High School, where he was one of their outstanding wrestlers.

After high school, Mickey was a member of the Florence State College football team. He transferred to Auburn his junior year and eventually to Alabama. At Alabama, he received his Bachelor's Degree in secondary education with majors in both biology and English. He later received his masters and Ed.S. from Montevallo.

Beaty began his coaching career in 1969 with a one year stint at Cordova High School. He went on to become Head Football Coach at West Morgan High School. In 1970, he was selected as Morgan County Coach of the Year by the Decatur Daily and led West Morgan to their first ever winning season. He left West Morgan to go to Winfield High School, where he met and still gives credit for the majority of his basketball knowledge to Coach Tommy Suits. After a couple of years, he moved to Dora High School where he remained for nearly twenty years.

While at Dora High School, Beaty served in various coaching capacities. He was Head Basketball Coach from 1976-1979. He led the Dora Bulldogs to three consecutive years of County Championships. These were Dora's first basketball county championships in twenty five years. He then took a brief absence from coaching to be the best parent he could be to his two sons. After his absence from coaching, he came back and developed the Dora Junior High football program into a powerhouse. From 1981-1988, they had six undefeated seasons and played against Cullman, Mountain Brook, Homewood, Vestavia, Pinson, Walker, Cordova, etc. During his tenure the team achieved a 58-4-1 record. Eventually, Beaty also acquired the ninth grade basketball team and won a couple of county championships, but was most proud of being the only team from Walker County to ever play in a final four basketball junior high tournament. In 1988, Beaty started the first girls' basketball team in a Walker County school. They were 16-0 their first regular season defeating Mountain Brook, Vestavia, and Homewood.

Beaty is appreciative to all the parents, players and his assistant coaches that contributed to his success. Coach Vince Medlock, Sam Dansby, Bill Moon, Eric Tolbert, Barry Barnett, Donnie Early and Cal Franklin were all instrumental in his success.

After 1989, Beaty left Dora to become a school administrator. In the early 1990's, he became the Director of the Walker County Alternative School. While in that position, he became involved with school safety programs and was a member of the first safety task force of the Alabama State Department of Education. He developed the original safety plans for the Walker County Schools and spoke at AHSAA coaches' conferences about athletic safety plans. Beaty retired from education in 2008.

In 1990, Mickey married Dr. Vonda Beaty. They have four children and nine grandchildren: Dustin and Shannon Beaty (Hunter, Jon Bryant, Maci); Saige and Meagan Beaty (Brynlee, Dax); Anna and Ricky Dawkins (Bryson, Adelyn); and Adam and Kara Sides (Rylan, Rhett).

Beaty currently spends a lot of his time working with fellow committee members of the Walker County Sports Hall of Fame. He enjoys his grandparenting duties and still thrives on attending and promoting sporting events throughout Walker County.

