

## GEORGE SMITH "GOOBER" LINDSEY

**G**EOERGE WAS BORN DECEMBER 17, 1928, AS THE ONLY CHILD OF ALICE SMITH LINDSEY AND

George Ross Lindsey. He was raised in Jasper by his mother and his grandparents. He graduated from Walker County High School in 1946, where he was a basketball and football star. He attended Walker Junior College where he quarterbacked the only football team in the history of Walker College. This team was undefeated, however, the next year Dr. Jesse, the president of Walker College, eliminated the program, thus making Walker College the only college in America to never lose a football game.



He then attended Kemper Military School for a short period of time, before he transferred to Florence State Teachers College (later University of North Alabama) on a football scholarship. He was a two year starter at quarterback on the football team, while at the same time pursuing his acting career in school theatre performances. He received his bachelor's degree in secondary education. George then enlisted in the Air Force and spent most of his time at Pinecastle Air Force Base in Orlando, Florida, where he met his wife Joyanne Herbert. In 1956, he was discharged from the Air Force and returned to Alabama to coach at Hazel Green High School. George once said, "I was the worst teacher in the world." After a painful year teaching and coaching, he was accepted into the prestigious American Theater Wing in New York City. There he was picked up by the William Morris Agency and began to get acting jobs on Broadway, in Hollywood, and on Television. He acted on "The Rifleman," "Gunsmoke," "The Twilight Zone," "Alfred Hitchcock Hour" and too many others to mention. His big break came when he was picked to play Goober Pyle on the "Andy Griffith Show." He once said, "The thing I like best about 'Mayberry' is it made ole George rich." George was a favorite on the successful "Hee Haw" series, and was the voice of many of the characters in the Disney animated films.

George was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall-of-Fame in 1983 for his athletic success at the University of North Alabama, his George Lindsey UNA Film Festival, and his charity work with the Special Olympics where he raised over \$1,000,000.00 with his George Lindsey Celebrity Golf Tournament. A life well lived helping those less fortunate than himself.

George and Joyanne have two children: a son George Jr. and daughter Camden. George passed away May 6, 2012 and is buried at Oakhill Cemetery in Jasper.