

## WILLIAM HARVEY BANKS, JR.

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**W**ILLIAM "HOGGIE" BANKS WAS BORN ON NOVEMBER 20, 1938 ON BANKS LOOP

in Oakman, Alabama. His parents were William Harvey, Sr. and Mary Carmichael Banks. He had an older sister, Betty Joyce, and a younger brother, Barry Michael. He spent his youth playing several different sports.

William spent his high school years playing football and basketball. He lettered in those sports for five years. In football, he was a team captain and co-captain. He played offensive and defensive tackle. Banks was the leading tackler for Oakman his junior and senior year making 77% of the tackles. Howard Sudduth, long time Daily Mountain Eagle sports writer, said he was a demon on the field. Banks enjoyed playing his senior year for legendary coach Jimmy Powell of Walker County Sports Hall of Fame. He said Banks was the most outstanding football player in Walker County and was the defensive star of every game his senior year. In addition, he was the teams most ferocious blocker on offense.

Through his years of playing football and basketball, he was named All County several times. He received the first Football Player of the Week award from the Birmingham News. He was named Eagle Football Player of the Week on numerous occasions. Not only was William an exceptional athlete, but he excelled in the classroom as well.

William was the first All State player from Oakman High School. He was honored years later by having his name painted on the Oakman fieldhouse at Hosea Collins Field. William would attribute his success to his upbringing and the guidance of his coaches and teachers. William was also honored by being one of the first Oakman athletes to sign a scholarship at a major university. In 1956, he signed a commitment letter to play football at Auburn University.

William suffered a career ending back injury and was unable to further his football career at Auburn. He had a 35 year career in the mining industry, retiring from Drummond Shoal Creek Mine in 2001. William served his country in the United States Army National Guard for nine years. He spent several years in politics serving as Major Pro Tem of Parrish where he resides today. William raised beagles and had a National Field Trial Champion. He traveled with Stoney for many years to 12 states competing in field trials, winning many trophies. William is a die hard Auburn fan and will always yell War Eagle. He also spends quality time in Oakman at the Banks family farm and on Friday nights at the Oakman Wildcat football games.

William has been married to the former Sue Jones of Parrish for 60 years. They have a daughter, Patrice Banks, of Parrish, a son, Patrick Banks, and a daughter-in-law, Kathy Banks, of Fairhope, Alabama. William is a member of Jasper First United Methodist Church. He loves spending time with his family and his two spoiled dogs. William feels incredibly honored to be recognized by the Walker County Sports Hall of Fame.

