



Coach Donald R. Mathews

August 16, 1956 - September 12, 2025

MATHEWS, Coach Donald - Age 69, passed away Friday, September 12, 2025, at his residence. Family hour 10:00 AM Thursday, September 25, 2025, from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Reverend Angela N. Mathews officiating. Interment Flint Memorial Park Cemetery G-9506N. Dort Hwy., Mt. Morris, MI. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the funeral home 10:00 AM Thursday. Coach Mathews will lie in State in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed Noon – 6:00 PM Wednesday. Donald Ray Mathews, also well known as "Coach", was born on August 16, 1956, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He was the son of Evon and Burnestein (Carter) Mathews. After moving to the great state of Michigan, Donald later completed his high school education at Southwestern High School in Flint, Michigan and continued to further his education at Charles Stewart Mott College also in Flint. Donald's interests were that of Politics and History. But, as fate had it, something else piqued his interest which soon turned into his wife of 49 years, Anita Raye (Jefferson) Mathews. In that blessed union, they shared three children. Although Don faithfully worked for General Motors Corporation for 30 years, his true passion was coaching football and basketball. Starting at Whittier Middle School in September of 1981, Don began his football coaching career which spanned almost 4 decades long. He also lent his coaching talents in football at Holmes Middle School, Carman-Ainsworth Middle and High School, Hamady High School,

and Kearsley High School. The list doesn't stop there. In the 1990's, "Coach" founded a Pop Warner Youth Football League here in Flint, MI, as well as being the Founder and Head Coach of The Michigan Admirals Semi-Pro Football Team in 2002. He also had the pleasure of coaching college club football at both The University of Michigan-Flint and Michigan State University. When asked, "Coach" would state that the highlight of his coaching career had nothing to do with football, rather it was coaching his youngest and her teammates for years in the Carman-Ainsworth Girls Basketball Winter and Summer Games. Besides coaching, Don's biggest pleasure was spending time with his grandsons, his family and friends and enjoying movies, sporting events, singing along to his favorite music, and playing dominos. While he is out of sight for now, his earthly memory will be cherished by: his loving and faithful wife, Anita Mathews; 3 children, Jessyca, Christopher and Angela Mathews; grandsons, Bjay, Gabriel and Michael Mathews; his mother, Burnestine Mathews; sister, Gwendolyn Mathews-Dangerfield; and brother, Andre' Mathews; a host of nieces, nephews-in-law, family, friends and players. Donald was preceded in earthly departure by his, father, Evon Mathews; paternal grandparents, Phillip and Geraldine Matthews; maternal grandparents, Elbert Sr. and Cora Carter.

Cemetery Details

Flint Memorial Park Cemetery

G-9506 N. Dort Hwy.
Mt. Morris, MI 48458

Previous Events

Family hour

SEP **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-MOON (6666)
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

SEP **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
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Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Coach Donald R. Mathews*



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - September 25, 2025 at 08:36 AM

TC

So glad this was shared online. Very touching celebration of a great person who touched so many. Thank you for all you did for us players and creating the Admiral family.

Tim Collick - September 25, 2025 at 05:21 PM

TT

Thank you for this. Hate I couldn't be there to stand with my fellow Admirals in honor of Coach.

Truck Turner - September 25, 2025 at 07:06 PM

AM

*On behalf of the family of Coach Mathews, we thank all of the Admirals Family who were there physically, virtually and spiritually. We love you guys and we are family for life!
Much Love, Angi.*

Angela Mathews - September 26, 2025 at 01:22 PM

TH

I meet Coach when my son was playing youth football with the Westwood Warriors. Him and his wife were both very active in the league. Wonderful couple and great mentors to all the boys

Terra Horton - October 02, 2025 at 05:27 AM

JM

“ James and Netta McClinton lit a candle in memory of Donald Mathews



James and Netta McClinton - September 25, 2025 at 08:28 PM

KM

“ Karla Matthews lit a candle in memory of Coach Donald R. Mathews



Karla Matthews - September 25, 2025 at 10:56 AM

OJ

“ Omar Johnson lit a candle in memory of Coach Donald R. Mathews



Omar Johnson - September 24, 2025 at 02:22 PM

LF

“ Linnea and the Evans family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Coach Donald R. Mathews.



Linnea and the Evans family - September 23, 2025 at 09:26 PM

ST

“ Steve and Lorri Thornton purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Coach Donald R. Mathews.



Steve and Lorri Thornton - September 23, 2025 at 05:17 PM

DW

“ Danny L Carter, Milwaukee, Wisconsin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Coach Donald R. Mathews.



Danny L Carter, Milwaukee, Wisconsin - September 23, 2025 at 04:30 PM

MC

“ MCTE Executive Committee purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Coach Donald R. Mathews.



MCTE Executive Committee - September 22, 2025 at 09:32 PM

MC

“ MCTE Executive Committee planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Coach Donald R. Mathews.

MCTE Executive Committee - September 22, 2025 at 09:32 PM

CP

“ My condolences and prayers to the family of Coach Donald Mathews. We were classmates during Junior and Senior High. May the peace of God grant comfort and healing to the entire family.

Blessings,
Cerese Simpson Pennington



Cerese Simpson Pennington - September 22, 2025 at 04:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Coach Donald R. Mathews.



September 21, 2025 at 09:14 PM

DT

“ I will truly miss Donald. He was a great friend and coach. Anita and Donald want to collage together Im our hay days and been friends for over 30yrs. May he rest peacefully in Heaven.

Deborah Thompson - September 20, 2025 at 03:37 PM

DT

“ Deborah Thompson lit a candle in memory of Donald Mathews



Deborah Thompson - September 20, 2025 at 03:30 PM

RT

“ Donald was a great guy with a wonderful sense of humor, and always was determined to accomplish anything he set his mind to. I'll carry the memory of times we shared and smile every time I think of him.



Rodney Thompson - September 19, 2025 at 02:55 PM

CB

“ To the Mathews and Jefferson Families you have my heartfelt sympathy at this time. My brother Cletus and I was always with Mark and Bo. Wherever Donald took them he also took me and my brother. I remember going to Playland on Pasadena. I was always the tomboy 🤪 Precious Memories. Praying for you all Anita and the kids 🙏❤️

Charlene Baber-Guerrero - September 19, 2025 at 02:48 PM

AN

“ Adrienne Nathan lit a candle in memory of Donald Mathews



Adrienne Nathan - September 18, 2025 at 01:10 PM

DW

“ My deepest condolences to the family of Donald Mathew You are forever in my prayers.



Diane White-Broden - September 18, 2025 at 07:58 AM

JM

“ *Jaquetta Moore lit a candle in memory of Coach Donald R. Mathews*



Jaquetta Moore - September 17, 2025 at 02:30 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Coach Donald R. Mathews.*

September 17, 2025 at 01:56 PM

MT

“ *Michael Thompson lit a candle in memory of Donald Mathews*



Michael Thompson - September 16, 2025 at 11:39 AM

LT

“ *There is not enough space, or enough words to explain how much Coach means to myself & countless others. I couldn't have asked for a better coach, and mentor. He is a big part of why I am where I am, and who I am today, and I am proud to be a branch of his coaching tree.*

To Momma Matthews, Bosslady, the rest of the family, the friends, the loved ones, and all of the players he impacted over the years I offer my deepest heartfelt condolences, as well prayers for peace of mind, and the healing of hearts.

Lon Turner - September 16, 2025 at 08:49 AM

KK

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Coach/Mr. Mathews. He was such a nice man and was always encouraging as a coach and as a fan. I have very fond memories of playing ball with Angi and will always remember his kindness and huge smile. Sending prayers to your whole family.
Kelli Richardson Kissel

Kelli Richardson Kissel - September 15, 2025 at 03:31 PM

EC

“ Earl And Diane Crowder lit a candle in memory of Coach Donald R. Mathews



Earl and Diane Crowder - September 14, 2025 at 11:49 PM

CT

“ Anita and family, we're so heartbroken to hear about Donald. May God give you all the strength you'll need...during this difficult time. Sending prayers. Love you all 🙏❤️



Cleo Thompson - September 13, 2025 at 10:57 PM

TJ

“ Tanya Jefferson lit a candle in memory of Coach Donald R. Mathews



Tanya Jefferson - September 13, 2025 at 12:42 PM