



Doug Mason

JUN 12, 1931 - JUL 21, 2019



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Doug Mason

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Doug Mason, 88, passed away Sunday, July 21, 2019. Born to Fred and Katie Mason on June 12, 1931, in Clearwater, FL, Doug grew up attending Belmont Baptist Church, Clearwater, and always had a love for sports. He graduated from Clearwater High School in 1949 where he earned varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball. As part of Coach Bill Justice's "Bill's Boys," Clearwater's Varsity football team went undefeated in 1947 and 1948, including a state championship, and Doug was a member of the team's four horsemen.

In 1949, at the age of 17, Doug started playing for Clearwater Bombers and from there his career with the team totaled 18 years, making him the longest serving Bomber in the team's history. He is still widely considered the finest fielding third baseman in the game of fast pitch softball. Five times Doug earned All-American honors playing in 18 ASA national championships and was a member of six national championship teams and three runners-up teams. He was a first-team selection in 1959, 1963, 1965 and 1972 and a second team choice in 1962. He batted .333 in the 1962 and 1965 nationals and .389 in the 1972 nationals. He compiled quite a host of records and awards as player, coach and manager, and was inducted into the ASA Fast Pitch Hall of Fame in 1978. A highlight of Doug's softball career was being selected by the U.S. State Department to conduct softball clinics in Southeast Asia and Australia as part of a cultural exchange program in 1965. Doug and 5 other men spent 45 days visiting 6 countries and putting on clinics for the people of Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo, the Philippines and New Zealand.

Doug proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corp where he played football and baseball for the Marines. After graduating from the University of Florida, he taught math at Clearwater High School and also served as Dean of Boys. During the 18 years he taught at Clearwater High, he served 12 years as J.V. Football coach and 14 years as head baseball coach. Following his years at Clearwater High, Doug began a long successful career in real estate.

Doug began attending Calvary Baptist Church in 1949 where he served in many different roles, including deacon and member of the finance and building committees. He served as Chairman



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of the building committee at the time the new worship center was built in downtown Clearwater, and was instrumental in securing the real estate for the new location at McMullen Booth Rd and Drew St. Doug continued his work for the Lord by serving as a trustee and property manager for the Florida Baptist Children's Home for 37 years. He felt his role with the Children's Homes was part of God's plan for his life, and was quoted as saying, "Everything I ever did in life seemed to prepare me for this role. Whether it was my experience working with kids as a teacher and coach or my work in real estate, it all prepared me in some way for my work with the Children's Homes."

Doug is preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Katie (Sinclair) Mason and his sister Lavern (Mason) Mussnug. Doug is survived by his loving wife of 66 1/2 years, Shirley; 5 children and their spouses: son, Greg and wife Marybeth; daughter, Penny Reedy and husband Larry; daughter, Elizabeth Snyder and husband Chris; son, Kent and wife Beth; daughter, Nancy Kachurik and husband Mike; 13 grandchildren and their spouses: John (Christine); Tyson (Jessica), Jennifer (Courtney), Savannah (Ryan), Shaun (Darcy), Amanda (Michael), Jack (Jen), Alan (Kim), Kimberly (Casey), Katie (Justin); Abigail, Dean, Lily; 12 great-grandchildren: Peyton, Michaela, Zephyr, Summer, Cade, Chesney, Cora, Parker, Harper, Rosie, Charlie, Delainey; his brother, Jim Mason (Sam); sister-in-law, Carol Bolin (Denny); and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation will be held Sunday, July 28, at 3 pm, Calvary Baptist Church with a funeral service starting at 4 pm and reception immediately following. Military burial will be held at Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park, Monday, July 29 at 10 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Florida Baptist Children's Home, 1015 Sikes Blvd., Lakeland, FL 33815.



Events

Doug Mason

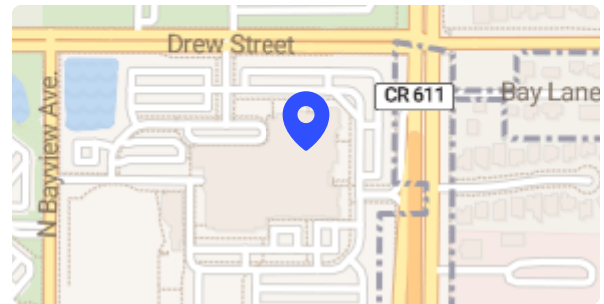
JUN 12, 1931 - JUL 21, 2019

Visitation

Sunday, July 28, 2019

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

Calvary Baptist Church
110 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater FL 33759

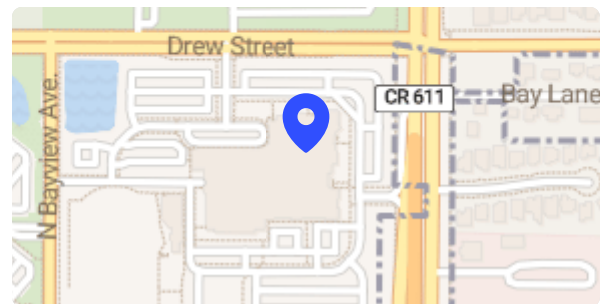


Funeral Service

Sunday, July 28, 2019

4:00 PM ET

Calvary Baptist Church
110 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater FL 33759

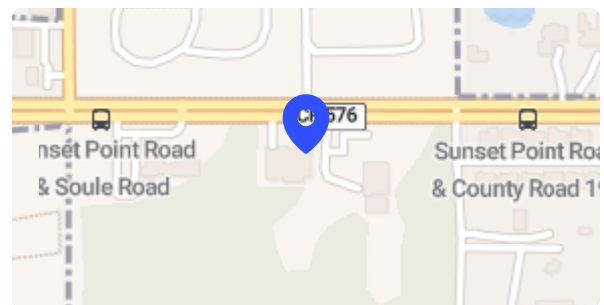


Graveside Service

Monday, July 29, 2019

10:00 AM ET

Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park
2853 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater FL 33759





Tribute Wall

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Skip And George Petzold posted:

George and I both want to share with Coach Mason's family the fond memories we have of Coach Mason and the fact that we were able to keep in touch over the years with him both in person and via emails. Coach Mason was a great mentor to both George and myself not only in the classroom but also on the baseball field where he coached both of us. Coach Mason was a great tutor to us over the years and we're going to miss him very much. Many of our classmates have been in touch with us and have expressed and shared the same feelings, that coach Mason was a good friend and also a great instructor. From the class of 1961 and the class of 1964, coach Mason, we will miss you a bunch. Skip and George Petzold

July 26 at 4:18 PM



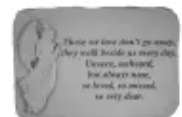
Nancy A. Vanwinkle posted:

Please accept my sincere Sympathy at your loss, he was a fine man, many years ago he taught at Largo High (Math) when I was a student and was in his class. I also knew several of the Clearwater Bombers , Harry Hancock's wife is a friend and her Mother was one of my Mother's dearest friends. My Late Uncle , Robt. Eugene Williams, was friends with the man who Originally organized the Bombers (I could be mistaken but I think his name was Herbert Dudley (?) anyway they were neighbors and good friends for many years before my Uncle moved away and when he came back for visits he always looked him up. I'm sorry I will not be able to attend the service, we are getting ready to go to N.Carolina our son-in-law is getting ready for serious surgery, Sincerely, Nancy A. (Williams) VanWinkle

July 26 at 1:35 PM



Anonymous sent a Garden Accent - "Those we love don't go away..." to the Mason family.



July 26 at 7:13 AM



Bobby Musselwhite posted:

Shirley, I'm saddened to hear of Doug's death. Doug was a trustee of FBCH when I first started in the role in 1981. He was a strong supporter and advocate for the ministry. Bobby and Yvonne Musselwhite

July 26 at 5:44 AM



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Martha Sue Gregory Head posted:

I was shocked to read on facebook about Doug's homegoing. He is with his Savior and Lord, enjoying being more alive today than ever before. May God bless Shirley and all the family. May He pour out comfort and peace upon them during the days ahead. With love and prayers, Sue (Mrs. Glenn M.) Head

July 25 at 7:43 PM



Tracy Wallace posted:

I'm so heartbroken to receive this news. I will always cherish my childhood memories at Jack Russel Stadium as my dad, Kenny Hart played catcher on the Bomber Team. I will never forget the time Doug and Shirley showed up to my Mom and Dad's backyard party, in disguise. Took everyone a very long time to figure them out!! My sincerest condolences to the entire Mason family during this difficult time.

July 25 at 4:38 PM



Gina Esposito posted:

I have so many wonderful memories growing up on 193 with you all, my heart breaks for you, my brother always says, we keep our loved ones alive by sharing our memories!! Your dad was an amazing man and raised an amazing family!! Love and prayers for you all. xo

July 25 at 5:56 AM



Sharon Cline lit a candle in honor of Doug.

(((((((((((hugs to all)))))))))))) - I will only repeat what Doug told me when a neighborhood child was electrocuted... "You didn't lose anyone. He's with Jesus, waiting for everyone else to join him. Death should be a celebration for we one day will be in heaven with all of our families, friends, and above all ... IN THE SAFE HANDS OF OUR LORD." I thought about this greatly (considering I had spent much of my youth and teen years going to funerals) - and you know... HE IS RIGHT! We didn't lose him ... he's with Jesus waiting for all of us to join him!



July 24 at 9:52 PM



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DF

Don Ferguson sent a virtual gift in honor of Doug.

I played baseball at CHS in 1965-67. In 1967 we came up short of winning the state championship, but had a great season under Coach Mason. We lost to Hillsborough High, and they went on to win the state title. I have fond memories of playing for him, and watching him play for the Bombers. Never in my life have I ever seen anyone play 3rd base as well as him. RIP Coach Mason!



July 24 at 5:40 PM

NS

Nancy Swartz posted:

So sorry to hear of this. I worked for Mr. Mason when he was Dean of Boys as an office helper. He was always a fine and fair man to all who passed through his office. He was a representative of Christ for certain. Blessings of peace and strength to his family.

July 24 at 4:43 PM

ME

Merrie posted:

Wednesday night dinners will never be the same.....loved dining with Doug, Shirley, and Jo Haney at church on Wednesday's for the past few years. Love you, Merrie, Timothy, and Grace

July 24 at 3:25 PM

PM

Paul D Maclaren shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



July 24 at 12:38 PM

ST

Susanelizabeth Turner posted:

Uncle Doug and Aunt Shirley will always hold a very special place in my heart. Back in 1972 when I was in Florida Bible College, paying my own tuition and living expenses, I got a message on the school message board saying Uncle Doug had put 300.00 on my school bill! I stood there and cried. It was a huge blessing! He was a wonderful, Godly man and will be missed.

July 24 at 10:46 AM



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Rita Friedbacher posted:

To Shirley and Family -- There are so many accolades to Doug--"Mr. Clearwater," Bomber Star, Florida Childrens' Home tributes,but to me, Calvary Baptist and Doug Mason are synonymous. He remained during changes he didn't agree with, but his faith and loyalty never changed. He was "Mr. Calvary Baptist." All the joyous, happy memories of his life will help erase our grief. Bless you, Shirley, for being with and supporting him for sooooo many years. As always, love, Rita Friedbacher.

July 24 at 6:12 AM



Elle Scheffey March July 27 at 5:06 AM

I know I gave him some early grey hairs trying to teach me algebra. At 75 there are a few people who stand out in my life. Coach Mason and Coach Dudley and Mr. Edson from CHS are three of a few. I am happy he lived a long life....know he is in heaven. God bless!



Billy Hancock July 25 at 5:08 AM

As a 1963 graduate of CHS, Coach Mason played a significant role in my early life--he was my baseball coach. I will forever be grateful for his influence and support both on and off the baseball diamond. I was privileged to follow his career for awhile with the Bombers and saw many of his games. I was pleased to read that he had a great family and was involved with the Florida Baptist Children's Home. I send my heartfelt sympathies to the entire family.



Media

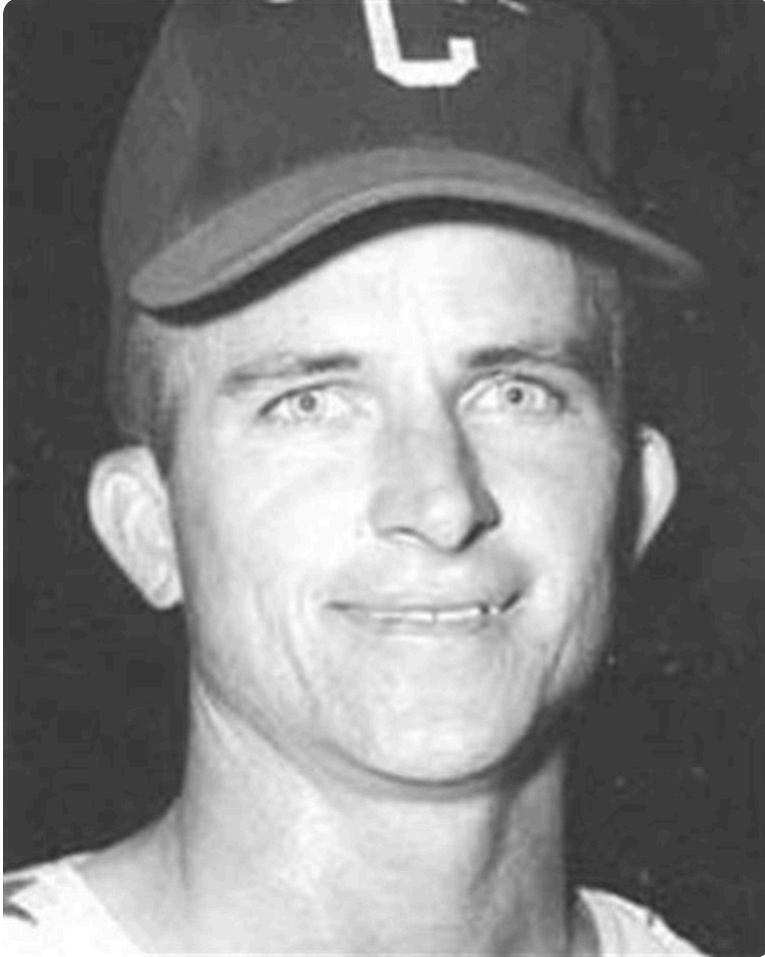
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Paul D Maclaren shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

July 24 at 12:38 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Doug by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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