



Coach Tony Tademy

March 1, 1959 - January 6, 2025

Anthony Duane Tademy, a beloved husband, father, brother, coach, and friend, passed away Monday, January 6, 2025, in Grand Prairie, Texas.

He was born March 1, 1959, to the late Raymond Hall Tademy and the late Ruth Banks Tademy.

Coach Tony Tademy was a dedicated and passionate figure in the world of sports, known especially for using athletics to positively impact young men and women. Before becoming a revered coach, “Coach T” was first and foremost an athlete. His love for all sports was evident from a young age, as he excelled in football, baseball, basketball, and track. A standout moment in his early career was being part of the 1976 Arkansas state championship football team at Jacksonville High School, a testament to his skill and team spirit.

His talent on the field earned him a football scholarship to Louisiana Tech University, where he helped lead the Bulldogs to a pair of Independence Bowl appearances in 1977 and 1978. Tony served as a student coach for the 1981 and 1982 seasons, and he ultimately graduated from Tech in 1983 with a bachelor’s degree in general studies.

After his time in Louisiana, Tony joined the staff at the University of

Mississippi, becoming the program's first African-American graduate assistant football coach. Tademy continued to be a trailblazer, becoming the first African-American football coach at Virginia Military Institute in 1985. Coach Tademy returned to Louisiana Tech as a full-time coach in 1987, and he later spent time at Howard University, Northeast Louisiana University, the University of Houston, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Blinn College, Texas Christian University, Henderson State University, and various high schools in Texas.

Since 2018, Tony has served as the head football coach and campus athletic coordinator for Grand Prairie High School. In 2021, he led the Gophers to the UIL Class 6A, Region 1, Division II Bi-District Football Championship, the program's first playoff victory in over 30 years. In total, Coach T spent 43 years on the sidelines at 16 schools.

Tony is preceded in death by his parents and his younger brother, James Leonard Tademy.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Bagnardi Tademy; sons, Anthony Joseph Tademy and Victor Raymond Tademy; brother, Raymond Hall Tademy Jr., Ph.D., and wife Danita Green; aunt, Shirley Banks; numerous cousins, and a host of friends.

Visitation will be Friday, January 17, 2025, from 11am -12pm, at the First Baptist Church of Grand Prairie, 950 Mayfield Road, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052. Funeral service will follow immediately at 12pm, and a private burial will take place at the conclusion of the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Grand Prairie Youth Football Association in Coach Tademy's name.

Arrangements entrusted to Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home under the direction of Aaron King, Funeral Director.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Grand Prairie
950 Mayfield Rd
Grand Prairie, TX 75052
(972) 262-5146

Funeral Service

JAN 17. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Grand Prairie
950 Mayfield Rd
Grand Prairie, TX 75052
(972) 262-5146

Tribute Wall

MW

“ *Maria & Victor,*

*We are so sorry to hear of Tony's passing. Our prayers are with you and the family during this difficult g this time. We have fond memories of your family during the time you were in Arkadelphia.
Brent, Molly & Josh Wallace*

Molly Wallace - January 19, 2025 at 03:25 PM



“ *Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Coach Tony Tademy.*

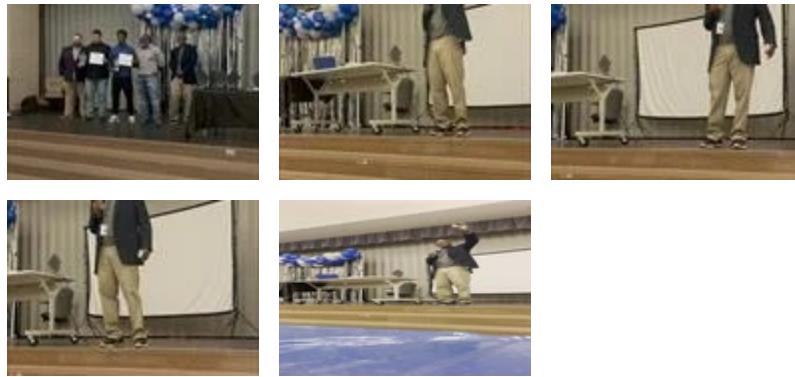


January 17, 2025 at 01:56 PM

MH

“ Our Deeply condolence to Coach "T" Family, our prayers are with all of you. I thank God for put Coach T in my Gopher kids Will 73 Generation 2024 and Alessandro 71 Generation 2027 on the same wagon of life, thank you for being part of their growing as a Football players.

Hernandez Family



Maria Hernandez - January 17, 2025 at 10:30 AM

DT

“ *Maria, AJ and Victor*

We want to extend our most sincere and deepest condolences for the loss of your husband and father. Although being fist cousins, I regret that we did not established a strong familiar relationship. Tony was known to me because of his accomplishments beginning in college and throughout his many others successful endeavors. We wish you healing and kindness in the days to come.

Dennis & Gracie Tademy - January 17, 2025 at 10:26 AM

AL

“ When I coached at Texas City with coach Tademy, I will never forget our daily runs we went on. I was not a runner but he convinced me to go with him, and soon I was his running buddy. He was a great mentor and an awesome guy and I really enjoyed being around him. I will be praying for your family during this difficult time for peace and comfort, but know he will truly be missed!!

adam lynn - January 16, 2025 at 11:20 PM

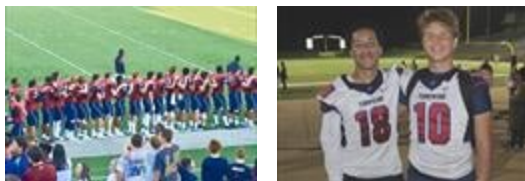
GS

“ Dear Maria, AJ & Victor, I'm in shock after getting the call from AJ. Gosh, words are difficult. We met in Church in Keller during the move from Mckinney when Tony was hired by TCU. Tony & I connected & stayed in touch through the years. Our last conversation was just a few short weeks ago. What I know for sure is that Tony was committed to Christ, his family & his kids at Grand Prairie High School. He loved his family who were everything to him. Tony believed that coaching was a calling, not a job and how important it was to teach kids to believe in themselves. My heart grieves but I rejoice knowing that Tony is healed & Home with his Heavenly Father & Savior Jesus Christ. I'll miss you Tony. This is not goodbye but " see ya later" . Gerald Streater

GERALD STREATER - January 16, 2025 at 08:33 PM

AS

“ Ryan and AJ and Coach with the boys



Angela Schmidt - January 16, 2025 at 03:03 PM

ED

“ I did not know coach well, other than being around him while watching his boys play. I say that to say that life's greatest achievements will be the caliber of children you raised, and to this I can say that Coach has helped raise two of the finest young men I have known. I am so sorry for your loss!The Medleys

Eddie - January 16, 2025 at 01:28 PM

AS

“ Rest is peace Coach we loved you and we always will . Thank you for helping Ryan into the man he is today . You would be so proud of him he will graduate from one of the best engineering schools in the country in May . He has already accepted a Job from an amazing company here in Texas . Thank you for helping to instill a great work ethic in all the young lives you touched . Thank you for believing in my son . You were there for him when he needed a strong male influence in his life the most . Maria, AJ and all the family you are in my thoughts and prayers. If you need anything please reach out to me .



We love you all always ☐ 🙏 🏈

Angela Schmidt - January 16, 2025 at 01:28 PM

JW

“ Tony was a legendary player at Louisiana Tech. I saw him play versus Mississippi State on the campus in Starkville in 1980. He was a beautiful linebacker in that he saw the field and attacked brilliantly. When you see talent like his, it is wonderful to watch. He was our graduate assistant in 1981/1985 at Louisiana Tech and Ole Miss and he was valuable in so many ways to me, the team and to the staff. So, I spent 5 years growing up with this man. A short period, but an impactful moment in both our lives. He impacted me by being supportive, he was funny and could cut a joke with a stoic look, he was knowledgeable and was always growing intellectually. Later, in the civilian life, we crossed paths, but infrequently over the years; as old friendships in different geographic footprints do quite often. The binding and backdrop to crossing paths was “the game.” The game that we all played, but in a deeper sense the binding of “the relationships” we develop in the game. Tony bared fruit in the relationships. He was wealthy in this regard and measurement. Oh, to be that rich...right? I am grateful for Tony, and so many of you reflect the same emotion. We are lucky that he touched so many, we are a richer community for it. Deepest sympathies to Maria, AJ, Victor, and the extended family.

Jay Webb - January 16, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Coach Tony Tademy.



January 15, 2025 at 01:55 PM

AC

“ Coach. Tademy was a very dear friend in the coaching arena to me. He and I would always share stories of our journey and the impact he had on players and families. He always had a big smile on his face when talking about his family. He truly adored them. I know Coach was a big believer in God and may he rest in peace in glory

ANTHONY CRISS - January 15, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Coach Tony Tademy.



January 15, 2025 at 10:56 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Coach Tony Tademy.

January 15, 2025 at 10:56 AM

DD

“ I really don't remember a time that Tony and I weren't friends. I can truly say he was one of the most loyal people I've ever known. He loved his family, he loved football (especially the J'ville Red Devils) and he loved his friends. I can hardly believe I'm writing about him in the past tense. We talked recently about the loss of another good friend, Jose Towsley. I know the two are dancing in heaven. My prayers are with his family during this most difficult time. This is not goodbye my friend , but I will see you again.
Dee Dee Rutledge DuPree

Dee Dee DuPree - January 15, 2025 at 10:10 AM

HP

“ It was my first year as a varsity linebackers coach and the first homecoming parade I drove him in. We had so many talks during those parades. The first one will be the one I’ll remember the most. He said to me “ Coach remember this, take the drill to the field, if ü want to be successful in this business take the drill to the field” and those words forever changed the way I coached and will forever stay with me. I thank ü for being a great mentor, boss, friend and trusting me with the position ü held closest to ür heart.



Hector Palma - January 15, 2025 at 12:52 AM

JH

“ I look back and notice not one flaw in Coach T, when I had my living arrangements messed up he didn’t take a second to even think and he started putting things together for me. Now 5 years down the road I have two baby boys and a beautiful family. If it weren’t for his continuous conversations and commitment to making me the man I am today I wouldn’t be where I am. The love and dedication from him was well appreciated.



Jacquese Hurst - January 14, 2025 at 09:07 PM

LS

“ *Ms Tademy, Anthony and Victor,
I am so very sorry to hear the news of Coach
Tademy’s passing. He was a great mentor
and coach to our student athletes while here
at Henderson State University. Please know
you are in our thoughts and prayers.
‘Doc’ Stanley, Arkadelphia, Arkansas*



Lynn Glover Stanley - January 14, 2025 at 07:05 PM

LN

“ *love & blessings, Lisa, Rich & Natalie purchased
the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of
Coach Tony Tademy.*



love & blessings, Lisa, Rich & Natalie - January 14, 2025 at
04:37 PM

VA

“ *Tony and I were very close friends at Jacksonville high School,
Class of 1977 because he and my cousin Joe Towsley were best
friends. My condolences to his family. He will be missed by many
people from Arkansas. RIP Tony. I hope you and “Jose” are playing
football in Heaven.*

Vicki Allbritton - January 14, 2025 at 10:43 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Coach Tony Tademny.*



January 14, 2025 at 10:07 AM



“ *Dear Maria, AJ & Victor,*

Wishing you comfort and strength as you go through this difficult time. Please know that you are not alone, we are here for you. Tony, you will be sorely missed and will never be forgotten.

*We love you,
Barrett, Nancy, Terah & Paige Parker*

Barrett Parker - January 14, 2025 at 09:52 AM