



Otis William "Bill" Shimek

September 17, 1942 - December 1, 2024

Otis William "Bill" Shimek, 82, of Bald Knob, Arkansas departed this life on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at Pleasant Valley Rehabilitation and Nursing center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

He was born September 17, 1942 in Bald Knob, Arkansas to the late E.T. and Bertie Shimek.

"Coach" Bill Shimek attended Bald Knob High School where he excelled in all sports; football, basketball, baseball and track. He received Arkansas All-State honors in football and basketball. After graduation Bill attended Arkansas State Teacher College (now University of Central Arkansas), where he again excelled in all four sports earning All-American honors in football, basketball, and baseball.

After graduating college and earning his master's degree in education, Bill became the head football coach at Forrest City in 1966. He was head coach there until 1971 when he was offered the running back coach and head recruiter by Barry Switzer and Oklahoma.

Bill held these positions at Oklahoma from 1972 until 1982. He left Oklahoma for the same position at Oklahoma State under head coach, Jimmy Johnson. Bill stayed at Oklahoma State until 1981. He finished his coaching career at Northeast Louisiana University (now Louisiana Monroe).

Coach Bill Shimek recruited many of the greatest college running backs in college football history; Barry Sanders, Thurman Thomas, Billy Sims, and Marcus Dupree just to name a few.

In retirement Bill enjoyed playing golf at Hurricane Creek Golf Course with his many friends. He also enjoyed time with family and cherished his time with his special friend, Van Compton.

He is survived by his son, Kyle Shimek of Little Rock, Arkansas, a grandson, Drew (Laura Cain) Shimek of Fayetteville Arkansas and a granddaughter, Annie Kate Shimek of Dallas, Texas.

Funeral services will be conducted on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Powell Funeral Home in Bald Knob, Arkansas. Visitation will be held prior to services beginning at 9:00 a.m. Interment will be in Shady Grove Cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home Bald Knob-Judsonia

Cemetery Details

Shady Grove Cemetery

Bald Knob Lake Road
Bald Knob, AR 72010

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 9. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)
1272 Highway 367 North
Bald Knob, AR 72010
(501) 724-3201
baldknob@powellfuneralhome.net
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)
1272 Highway 367 North
Bald Knob, AR 72010
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Burial

DEC **9** (CT)

Shady Grove Cemetery
Bald Knob Lake Road
Bald Knob, AR 72010

Tribute Wall

SG

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Coach Shimek. I played football for him for three years at Forrest City High School. He was a great coach and friend. I learned a lot from him. My condolences to his family.

Scott Gunn - February 19, 2025 at 05:53 PM

LG

“ So sorry to learn of Coach Bill Shimek's passing. I spent 3 years playing and as a manager in Forrest Coty under him learning great lessons not just in football but life as well. He would push us to be better players and people especially during a very racial time when the black high school was closed and merged into one high school. He worked through it and taught us to work together as one leading us to the conference championship. His success followed him wherever he went and many of the young men he taught became very successful including stints in the NFL. May his memory be a blessing to those who came to know him and his family.

Larry Gruner - February 19, 2025 at 03:15 PM

JH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, Johnny & Mary Hodges

Johnny & Mary Hodges - December 09, 2024 at 07:28 PM

PJ

“ We lost a very good man!, Pat Jones, Tulsa, Ok

Pat Jones - December 09, 2024 at 05:21 PM

JM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Coach gave me my first coaching job at Forrest City in 1972 which started a long and lasting friendship. He will be missed.
Jim Morgan

Jim Morgan - December 08, 2024 at 11:46 PM

JM

“ Judith & Dino Car Town of Monroe purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Otis William "Bill" Shimek.



Judith & Dino Car Town of Monroe - December 06, 2024 at 05:38 PM

QB

“ Quincy & Trish Britt purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Otis William "Bill" Shimek.



Quincy & Trish Britt - December 06, 2024 at 01:21 PM

ER

“ Eldon and Rebecca purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Otis William "Bill" Shimek.



Eldon and Rebecca - December 06, 2024 at 09:46 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Otis William "Bill" Shimek.



December 05, 2024 at 04:22 PM