



Dolson "Doc" H. Ayers, Sr.

November 29, 1930 - April 1, 2023

Lafayette - Dolson "Doc" H. Ayers, Sr., age 92, passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at Newton Medical Center. Born in the Pelletown section of Frankford Township to the late Dolson A. and Flossie M. (Ryker) Ayers, Doc has lived in Sussex County all of his life. He played soccer, basketball, and baseball in high school, but baseball was his favorite. Doc attended Seton Hall University, where he played on their baseball team and received his Bachelor degree in Physical Education. He served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War and also continued to play some baseball during that time. Doc eventually signed with the Philadelphia Phillies organization and was one of their players for 5 years. When he returned to his hometown, Doc coached many youths playing on the local town teams, as well as the American Legion Team. He also played some baseball with the local Sussex and Newton teams. Doc lived out his dreams ending with mentoring and coaching many High Point Regional High School students. He also was active with the Sussex County Sports Hall of Fame.

Doc was also an active member of the Lafayette Federated Church. He was a letter carrier for the Sussex Post Office for 28 years before his retirement.

He was predeceased by his "high school sweetheart" and devoted wife, Barbara (Smith) in 2019 and his brother, Roland Ayers in 2008. Doc is survived by his son, Dolson "Howard" Ayers, Jr of Fife, Washington; his

daughter, Dianne Drew and her husband Robert of Lafayette; his sister, Mary Clark of Venice, Florida; his grandchildren, Kristen Carucci and her husband James of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, Lauren Conklin and her husband Ernie of Wantage, Jenna Bruffy and her husband Kyle of Manassas, Virginia, and Mackenzie Ayers of Tacoma, Washington, Kyle Drew and his wife Heather of Frankford and Patrick Drew and his wife Keara of Damascus, Pennsylvania; his great grandchildren, Taylor, Cara, Alivia, Mikayla, Brady, Chase, Jase, Ellie, Finn, Liam, Jacob, Gavin, Benjamin, Lily, Brantley and Tanner.

Funeral services will be held at 12 noon on Friday, April 7, 2023 at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex, NJ. Internment to immediately follow at Frankford Plains Cemetery. Friends may pay their respects to the family prior to the service on Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in memory of "Doc Ayers" to the High Point Baseball/Softball Booster Club, 299 Pigeon Hill Road, Wantage, NJ 07461

Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Frankford Plains Cemetery

Plains Road
Frankford Twp, NJ

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.
31 Bank Street (Route 23)
Sussex, NJ 07461
(973) 875-3272
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

Service

APR 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

KE

“ I spoke to Doc Ayers for the only time about a month or so before his passing. I was working on a research project about the first African American player ever signed by the Phillies, and came across a box score of a Fort Campbell game in which the gentleman I was researching and Doc were mentioned. I cold called Doc on a whim and he graciously spoke with me for a half hour about his playing days and gave me invaluable insight on the player I was researching. Coincidentally, I also have the same last name- we joked about that on the phone. I will never forget the kindness and help Doc showed a total stranger that day

Ken - January 21, 2024 at 10:18 PM

SF

“ I was one of the thousands of young baseball players lucky enough to have had Doc in my dugout in high school. To be honest, it was a very stressful time for me...But Doc was a special guy and he always knew how to take the edge off any situation. We all knew that he had seen it all on the ball feild, and he could still throw batting practice, hit, and run around with us in his 70s. He was our "natural."
I was also lucky enough to know Doc's late wife when I worked with her at space farms. What a lovely, inspirational couple they were. See you in Heaven Doc and Barbara!

Sean Ferguson - April 07, 2023 at 02:52 PM

JJ

“ Doc and Barbara were wonderful people and will be missed. So Sorry

Jan Jorritsma - April 06, 2023 at 02:10 PM

PS

“ I was only little but I remember his huge beautiful smile and friendliness when he delivered the mail to my grandparents (Ross) and he sometimes would hand it to me and it made me feel important. You were an all American guy, devoting your life to so many and you touched so many of us in so many different ways. R.I.P Doc!

Penny Belcher Snook - April 05, 2023 at 07:53 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dolson "Doc" H. Ayers, Sr..



April 04, 2023 at 12:04 PM

JD

“ I am truly sorry to the Drews and the Ayers family. He was a kind soul, with a big Heart. He and Barbara went to my Dad's funeral, but he came to my mom's, with Bob and Dianne. Thank you sir for being a good neighbor, and friend to my folks. Joanne Price DeGroot



Joanne DeGroot - April 04, 2023 at 08:21 AM

BW

“ Words alone can not explain the wonderful person Dr was. A man with a love of God, nd he sharednthat love in everything he did. I had so many good times with him at hymn sings at church, ball games and other events. He is finally home with Barbara and living in the glory of Heaven. Our prayers are with the family.

Betty and Jeff Willis - April 04, 2023 at 08:07 AM

MF

My deepest condolences to the Ayers Family. I first met Doc when I was 14 years old and played American Legion baseball for him in Sussex. He became a dear friend. I will miss him terribly. Rest in Peace my friend.

Mike Caldarella, Venice Florida - April 04, 2023 at 05:52 PM

TH

Doc was a good man. When he played for the Sussex Cardinals back in the 1960s, he gave me tips on playing better even though I was on the competing Hamburg team. Got to know him and his family later in life. RIP

Ted Hessler - April 05, 2023 at 07:27 AM

SB

Deepest sympathies to Howie and all the family... 'Doc' (and Barbara), sweet folks who will be greatly missed. Had known them as friends for many years, and to my surprise one day was going to Space Farms, where they were serving up soda and goodies and hugs! Blessed to have known them as my friends! – Susan (Little) Bryan, Sophia NC

Susan B - April 06, 2023 at 10:48 AM