



Henry Mark Coyle

March 13, 1940 - September 17, 2023

Henry “Mark” Coyle, 83, passed away in his Sopchoppy, Florida home, surrounded by his family on September 17, 2023. He was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on March 13, 1940. Where he lived with his seven brothers and sisters, until he joined the U.S. Air Force, where he served from 1960-1964.

Mark met the love of his life, also known as his “girlfriend” or “beautiful bride”, Mary “Cookie” Haas in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. They were married August 13, 1964, then moved to Hartford, Connecticut, where they had their two daughters Dawn and Pamela. They made the decision to return to Florida in 1969 for Mark to continue his education. He graduated from North Florida Community College with an Associate degree then went on to attend Florida State University, where he received both his Bachelor and Master Degrees.

Mark was employed by the Wakulla County School System from 1974-2000, as a chemistry and physics teacher at Wakulla High School and a principal at Sopchoppy Elementary School. He referred to all of his female students as “princesses” and all of his male students as “fine young gentlemen”. He began each of his classes with a poem, if you had him you will remember that “Today Is the Beginning of a New Day.” He was often known for teaching his students “something he learned in the war.” Mark had many students go on to become successful in their chosen fields; he was very proud of them all.

During his tenure as a teacher, he coached many sports: basketball (where he may have broken a toe kicking a bleacher to keep from getting a technical called), softball, and volleyball to name a few. He also coached football, baseball, and softball for the Wakulla recreation league. If he wasn't coaching, you could find him on the sidelines or listening to a game on the radio, while sitting on his back porch.

Mark traveled with Cookie to 49 of the 50 states (No Hawaii) tent camping on the majority of their travels. He loved the great outdoors and was an avid sportsman. Mark had a fishing license in 49 states and enjoyed tying a fly for fly fishing on the White River in Arkansas or casting a reel in a mountain streams in North Georgia with his wife and daughters. He loved sharing time with his many friends and children of friends over the years in the Sopchoppy "hunt woods." They may have all shared a "bump" or two along the way. During the most recent years, he listened to "the hunt" on his radio so he could tag along with the fellas even though he couldn't be there in person.

Although he enjoyed his travels, Mark always loved returning to the "easy living" of Sopchoppy, Florida. He and Cookie were involved in many local organizations over the years that supported the city. He was instrumental as the first "Yankee Mayor" of Sopchoppy, along with the other members of Sopchoppy City Council, in expanding the Sopchoppy water system project.

Mark enjoyed traveling on the "Mark Coyle Highway" (also known as Forest Road 365) through the woods for his afternoon meetings of the Old "FART" club that met at Dux every afternoon. He even managed to get to these "meetings" when he was in rehab at Eden Springs thanks to his dear friend James Revell.

Mark is preceded in death by his parents, John and Bernice Coyle, his

brothers, John, Tom, and Jerry; his sisters, Charlotte and JoHannah. He is survived by his wife, Mary "Cookie" Coyle, his daughters Dawn and Pamela (Joseph), his Granddaughters Mary (Ahmad) and Michele, his great grandchildren, Myles, Mya, Zayne and Kalliah. His brother, Jay Coyle and sister, Beatrice Coyle-Lumma.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 29, 2023 at 12:00 PM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Lunch will follow the service. An Irish Celebration of Life will be held at 4:00 PM at Dux, 3332 Crawfordville Highway.

In lieu of flowers donation can be made to the Wakulla High School Academic Boosters at Post Office Box 448, Crawfordville, FL 32326.

Skip and Trey Young, along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family with arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **29**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
3609 Coastal Hwy
Crawfordville, FL 32327-4210
(850) 745-8359

Lunch

SEP **29**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
3609 Coastal Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Irish Celebration of Life

SEP **29**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Dux
3332 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL

Tribute Wall

AC

“ I remember when Mark Coyle first joined the science faculty at Wakulla High School. In the early 70's, the school had tremendous turnover in faculty every year so 6 months later, Mark was the senior science teacher and anointed department chair! He could be depended on to be open-minded and always dedicated to his students, in whom he took a personal interest. He was a thoughtful educator who came up with the idea to recognize WHS honor students at graduation with the designation of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude. I am proud to call him a personal friend and valued colleague. He and my husband Mike, Robert Roddenberry, Merwyn Jones, Stan Heaton and others spent many wonderful weekends at the "Red Neck Hunt Club" in the Sopchoppy woods. I'm sure there will be a joyful reunion of the group members already on the other side of life. We love you, Mark. God bless you, Cookie and your family.

Andrea Carter

Andrea F. Carter - September 28, 2023 at 08:20 PM

TA

“ Dear Cookie and Family, We were so sorry to hear about Mark's passing. We will always remember Mark's kindness to Daddy and our family. I was going through some photos of the 'Sopchoppy Gang' over the years and they certainly brought back some wonderful memories. May all those special times make you smile and laugh... as they do us!
See you on Friday as we celebrate your wonderful man! Tony and Tink Adams

Tink Adams - September 22, 2023 at 02:26 PM

JM

“ Mr. Coyle was my favorite teacher at WHS. He made Chemistry and Physics fun and engaging. He made a bigger impact on me that he may have ever realized. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

Joseph McCarthy - September 22, 2023 at 01:25 PM

TF

“ I remember so many fond memories of Mr. Coyle! One of which I have used when teaching my own Sixth Graders several years ago. Students would ask what the date is.... I would reply....Well, if it rains, sleets or snows, it's still September 19th.” It never failed...there was always someone in class that would ask the date. Mr. Coyle was consistent with this statement and I chuckle when some kid asks what the date is...
Our family sends our condolences to Mrs. Coyle, Dawn and Pam!
Dawn and Pam: Your father was one of a kind. He will be missed.

Theresa Fuller - September 21, 2023 at 11:53 PM

BD

“ Mark and our Dad, Charley Payne were good friends and they enjoyed a “drink” together and made awesome salsa together for several years. I bet the two guys are talking about the easy living they had in Sopchoppy.
Our condolences to Cookie ❤️
Bunny Dutton, Tink and Tony Adams

Bunny Dutton - September 21, 2023 at 11:19 PM

KT

“ My heart and prayers go out to the family. I was a student of Mr. Coyle's at wakulla high. He was a dedicated and fun teacher. His class was one of my favorites. Keith Thomas, class of 77

keith thomas - September 21, 2023 at 05:20 PM

SM

“ I remember Mr. Coyle’s poster in our science classroom: “The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.” It does indeed! Blessings and prayers for comfort and grace during this time of remembrance.

Susan LeeAura Updegraff Marcum - September 21, 2023 at 07:45 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Henry Mark Coyle.



September 20, 2023 at 08:17 PM

LF

“ Love, Your Dux Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Henry Mark Coyle.



Love, Your Dux Family - September 20, 2023 at 06:09 PM

LF

“ Love, Your Dux Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Mark Coyle.

Love, Your Dux Family - September 20, 2023 at 06:09 PM

RN

“ Sorry you are gone, I'm glad I got to meet you at the OLD FARTS club with Marcus Clark 🙏 Condolences to the family 🙏🕊️

Roxanne Nelson - September 20, 2023 at 03:56 PM

BB

“ *Many years of working with Mark in the science dept at WHS, helped me be a better teacher. He was a wonderful guy who loved life and a great laugh. My sympathies to Cookie and the girls, Pam and Dawn. Bob Blanton*

Bob Blanton - September 18, 2023 at 07:27 PM

DC

Thank you, Bob. ❤️

Dawn Coyle-Rybski - September 20, 2023 at 03:35 PM

TC

“ *Teresa B Carnley lit a candle in memory of Henry Mark Coyle*



Teresa B Carnley - September 18, 2023 at 02:24 PM