



## Velton Vernon Hodges

April 6, 2021

Velton Vernon Hodges passed away Tuesday afternoon April 6, 2021. Born in Sarasota, Florida he was a son of the late Woodrow Hodges and the late Linda Fidler Hodges.

Velton lived his entire life in Sarasota. He attended Sarasota County Public Schools and graduated from Sarasota High in 1971. He earned an AA degree from Manatee Junior College, a BSED degree from the University of Georgia in 1975 and a MED from the University of Georgia in 1977.

Velton was a catcher on the baseball team and played throughout his college career at both MJC and UGA.

Velton met his loving wife- Richa while completing his Master's degree in Physical Education. He was completing an internship for his graduate program at Mary Persons High School in Forsyth, Georgia as one of the coaches in the athletic department. The two got married November 19th, 1978 in Forsyth and moved to Sarasota, Florida where they raised their two daughters, Ashley and Kalen.

Velton began his teaching career in 1978 at Brookside Junior High School. He remained at Brookside during the district's move to Middle School. During his time at Brookside, he taught Physical Education and spent two years teaching

science in both the 6th and 8th grade. He also worked at Garden Elementary School in Venice where he was a Physical Education teacher. He was very active in the Sarasota Classified Teachers Association and was elected President in 1990. He served as the elected President for 12 years.

Velton spent the last ten years of his career teaching at Brookside Middle. Velton retired in 2012 from the Sarasota County School district with 34 years of service. In 2014, Velton ran for Sarasota County School Board District 1.

In addition to his teaching career Velton served on the Education Foundation Board of Directors and The United Way Board. He served two terms on The Education Standards Commission for the state of Florida.

Velton loved his family, playing golf, watching Georgia football, telling stories and being a part of so many lives through his work in education.

In addition to his parents- Velton is preceded in death by his sister, Prudence Hodges and brother-in-law Kelly Joseph Jr., (Kell).

Velton is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Richa Joseph Hodges; brother, Bruce Hodges (Deborah) ;children, Ashley Hodges (Herman Rucker) and Kalen Wilkerson (Colin); three grandchildren, Chloe Rucker, Easton and Alyssa Wilkerson and five nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be held at 2 pm Saturday April 10, 2021 at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, 40 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34236.

Interment will follow at Palms Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to be made to the Brookside Middle School Athletic Department or Exceptional Student

Education department on Velton's behalf.

# Tribute Wall

AB

“ Velton was always there supporting the teachers. He was such a kind man. My prayers go out to you and your family. May all your memories help.

*Andrea Blosser*

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**Andrea Blosser** - April 11, 2021 at 03:16 PM

NK

“ I have such wonderful memories of the years Velton and I traveled on union business. He was the ultimate gentleman- holding doors open, introducing me to family. In general being thoughtful and the gentleman his parents raised him to be. Always talking about his girls. So sorry he's no longer with us. His memory will linger on.

*Noreen klang*

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**noreen klang** - April 10, 2021 at 07:41 PM

TH

“ Velton you will be missed by a lot of us including me. RIP my good friend. Tony

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**Tony Harris** - April 10, 2021 at 08:53 AM

MF

“ Richa, Ashley, Kalen , Aunt Nell, Uncle Kelly, Jenna , Jason, and family, please accept our deepest condolences at this time. What can I say about Velton that everyone in his life doesn't already know? I first met him at Mary Persons where he was coaching our football team, and was known as “ Coach Caan” ( he kinda resembled the actor James Caan, his curly hair maybe?) , then he married Richa and became an important part of our family, always a smile on his face, making you feel like you were the only person in the world when he talked to you. I think of all the lives he influenced as being a lifelong educator, and I'm sure that number has to be in the thousands . I cannot imagine him being anything other than that, being a positive role model to his students. He was patient, loving, understanding , generous.... all the things that I want to be myself. I feel lucky to have known him. There will be a huge hole in the hearts and lives of all who knew him. May Our Lord Jesus Christ help you all through the toughest of times. God bless you all.

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**Michael Joseph and family** - April 10, 2021 at 08:08 AM

WF

“ I always loved playing golf with you and listening to your funny jokes as well as amazing stories. You will be deeply missed my friend. Enjoy the 19th hole and save a cold one for the boys!



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**Wayne Ferris** - April 09, 2021 at 08:30 PM

KW

*Awesome picture*

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**Kalen Wilkerson** - April 12, 2021 at 05:41 PM

GG

“ Thinking of you Kalen & Family.



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**Grace Gibbs** - April 09, 2021 at 03:39 PM

KW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

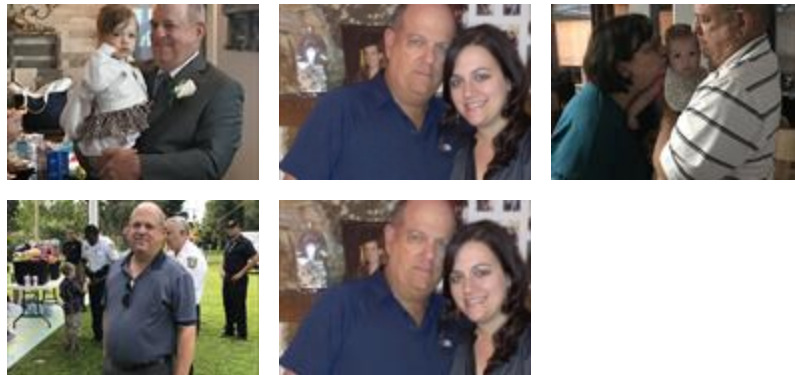


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**Kalen Wilkerson** - April 09, 2021 at 02:11 PM

KW

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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**Kalen Wilkerson** - April 08, 2021 at 11:04 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**bob silverman** - April 08, 2021 at 04:20 PM

MS

“ Velton (Mr. Hodges)

- His smile always lit up a room and would instantly make you feel like family.
- He cared about what you had to say and made you feel special in every interaction with him.
- A contagious laugh, which you would recognize a mile away, and would warm your heart to hear.
- His daughters and wife were his everything and he would do absolutely anything for them.
- Raised incredible daughters with Richa who are some of the sweetest, kindest, and smartest individuals you will ever meet.



*These are just a few words to describe him. He embodied so much more. We will never forget him, as he will always live on in our hearts forever.*

*We miss you so much already, Melissa Silverman*

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**Melissa Silverman** - April 08, 2021 at 03:45 PM

BS

“ *The world was so blessed to have you in our lives. You brought so much love and class to you family and friends.I know you are very loved . My thoughts and prayers go out to your family. I knew you in high school but also followed you throughout your teaching career and school board status. thank you for a wonderfull daughter kalen. We will miss you deeply.*

*Bob and Claudia silverman*



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**bob silverman** - April 08, 2021 at 02:51 PM

TA

“ *Velton has been there for me and my family when I came down with severe pancreatitis. He took the burden off of my wife so she can tend to me and my needs at the time. Velton would give the shirt off his back at any time. You just ask and he'll be there in a heart beat. RIP my dear friend. God bless you and your family.*

*Tony & Betsy Abreu*

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**Tony Abreu** - April 08, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Velton Vernon Hodges.



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April 08, 2021 at 01:51 PM



“ I am so deeply sorry for your family’s loss. Mr. Hodges was such a loving and generous man. His laugh and kindness was easily spread because he brought joy with him everywhere. I immediately fell in love with Kalen as a friend. Meeting her parents made perfect sense since why she is such a good person. Over the years, my family has had the blessing of spending time with Mr. Hodges. His encouragement and words of wisdom have been so meaningful. He was always so supportive of our family and my husband’s time in the military, which meant a lot to us during times of separation. Mama Richa and He had such a loving and fun marriage. They were a testimony of true love and friendship and the importance of that bond. Kalen and Ashley could not be better people and I’m so honored to know and love them. I pray that you all be comforted in the moments to come with the knowledge of Christ’s love for you. We are praying for you all. I know that his legacy will be honored through all of our lives as we love one another and our community, in word and deed. God bless you all. With everything, Joshua and Leah Martinez and children.

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**Leah & Joshua Martinez** - April 08, 2021 at 12:39 PM

SB

“ Dear Richa , Kalen , Ashley and family .. we are thinking about you all and sending our love and prayers to each of you! Velton was a amazing man . We are so sorry for your loss . We love you all ..  
Shavon & Rick Buck❤️🙏❤️

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**Shavon Buck** - April 08, 2021 at 12:16 PM

GG

“ Dear Kalen, Your school family is thinking about you! Love, Grace & Specials Team



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**GG** - April 08, 2021 at 11:15 AM

WP

“ Rest in peace old friend. Praying for your family. I will miss talking to you and will hold our memories at UGA in my heart for the rest of my days.

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**Walter Pitts** - April 08, 2021 at 11:02 AM