



Charles Michael Tatum

March 26, 1946 - April 12, 2026

Charles Michael “Mike” Tatum, 80, passed away on April 12, 2026. He was born on March 26, 1946, in Nashville, Tennessee, to the late James Black Tatum and Evelyn Anderson Tatum.

Mike grew up on Sinking Creek in Perry County, where he learned the value of hard work at an early age. He attended the Warren School and graduated with the Class of 1964. He often talked about farming with his dad, starting when he was just 12 years old—something that stayed with him his entire life.

After high school, Mike played baseball for two years at Freed-Hardeman College, which was a junior college at the time. He later transferred to Bethel College, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree. He later earned his Master’s Degree in Education from Austin Peay State University in 1975.

Mike spent his life in education. He began teaching in Perry County when it was still possible to step into the classroom before being fully licensed. He later moved to the Lewis County School System, where he spent most of his career. Over 5 decades, he served in many roles—teacher, bus driver, principal, and for 29 years, Athletic Director. He was also proud to serve on the TSSAA Legislative Council for many years.

He was a faithful member of the Lomax Church of Christ, where he was a

regular and devoted participant in worship, living out his faith in his daily life.

He was a man who could do just about anything. Mike loved to build and took great pride in constructing the home he and his wife lived in, doing most of the work himself from the foundation to the roof. He was a skilled handyman who could handle concrete, plumbing, and electrical work, even holding an electrician's license. He also enjoyed gardening and being outdoors. He was a big University of Tennessee fan and loved supporting the Lewis County Panthers.

More than anything, Mike was known for being there for people. If someone needed help, he didn't hesitate—he was there. But his favorite role in life was being "PopPop." He loved his grandchildren dearly and would do anything, even dress up, just to make them smile.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Tatum; his son, Phillip Tatum of Linden; his sons, Elliot Hamm (Jessica) of Red Boiling Springs, TN, Kyle Hamm (Jeanie), and Colby Hamm (Lauren), both of Hohenwald; and his ten grandchildren, Lily, Bella, Kamri, Klara, Dallas, Brinley, Paisley, Braylon, Ellie, and Madi. He is also survived by his aunt, Martha (Billy) Edwards, and a cousin who was like a brother, Bill Marbet.

Visitation with the family will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 2:00 p.m. Burial will follow in the Graves Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Lomax Church of Christ Day School. Donations can be made through McDonald Funeral Home or by mailing checks to 320 Darbytown Rd, Hohenwald, TN 38462.

Cemetery Details

Graves Cemetery

Sinking Creek Rd
Linden, TN

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 15. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Lewis County
20 West 2nd Avenue
Hohenwald, TN 38462
(931) 796-2207

Funeral Service

APR 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Lewis County
20 West 2nd Avenue
Hohenwald, TN 38462
(931) 796-2207

Burial

APR 15. 3:00 PM (CT)

Graves Cemetery
Sinking Creek Rd
Linden, TN

Tribute Wall

DF

“ *It seems like I have known Mike all of our lives! His grandfather and my grandfather were best friends as were our parents! Rest easy my friend!* ”

Debby Floyd - April 15 at 08:42 PM

JH

“ *Joanie Holtsford lit a candle in memory of Charles Tatum* ”



Joanie Holtsford - April 15 at 12:04 PM

JB

“ I had the pleasure of getting to work alongside Mike at 2 separate times, but he & I would still laugh at that first stint. We were both 6th grade teachers at the Waynesboro Middle School, it was an unforgettable first teaching assignment for me. When warm weather arrived in the spring, we (the 6th grade teachers) decided our students were not getting enough exercise. And furthermore, we found a solution! Since each homeroom teacher taught his/her own Reading class, we decided we could do that job well and still have time to go outside. So, we came up with the idea of a walk, crossing the Green River (shallow part) and continuing down the GR road to a church building, then back the same path to school. And that's exactly what we did on every beautiful day! When I run into students today who shared that experience they all say the same thing: "I can't believe yall did that for us!" Looking back now, neither can I! By the way, did I tell you we didn't get permission or tell a soul besides one another!! And furthermore, can you believe that not one time were we ever asked where we were nor did a parent come to pick up a "missing" child!! The year was 1977, and yes! things were different then. When I next worked with Mike (Mr. Tatum), at LCHS, he was my athletic director, and what a hard worker he was! But the most enjoyable conversations we shared were those that recalled our days at WMS --- our Green River adventures and the joys of teaching those particular classes. By the way, I have followed that class of students for whom we educators dared to interject more movement and joy and laughter, and guess what, they not only excelled in academics but also in LIFE!! Mike and I were so proud of those adventures together, and I will miss sharing them with my friend! I know he was so many things to so many people, and my heart is breaking for the family. I'm just so grateful for the memories he & I made through teaching that will forever bring smiles to my face and joy to my heart! To Lisa, and all his wonderful children and grandchildren, you have my constant prayers. He was above all, my brother in Christ, and this community is so much better because Mike was here!

Jan Brewer - April 15 at 10:10 AM

MS

“ *Always smiling a great guy influence others to help others. Will be missed by them sweet grandkids the loves of his life and wife Lisa*



Mary/Mike Simmons - April 14 at 10:02 PM

JH

“ *So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He had such a kind, sweet, humble spirit. We always enjoyed talking with him wherever we saw him. Prayers for Lisa and all the family.*

Jerry and Diane Harper - April 14 at 07:33 PM

RG

“ *Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of Charles Tatum*



Ronald Gammons - April 14 at 04:47 PM

MJ

“ *To have known him was a true blessing!*

Marie Ruthsatz Jackson - April 14 at 04:03 PM



“ *Iva Farris lit a candle in memory of Charles Tatum*



Iva Farris - April 14 at 07:50 AM

JP

So sorry-have not seen Mike since early high school days. He was friends with my cousin, Ann Breeding.

jane pruet - April 14 at 07:42 PM

DH

“ *DH sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Tatum*



DH - April 13 at 11:40 PM

RC

“ *Mister Mike, that's what myself & other kids called him when he taught at Linden Elementary. He came to my Aunts funeral in 2020 in Linden Good man!*

Reginald Craig - April 13 at 11:35 PM

JA

“ So Sorry to hear of Mike’s passing. My prayers to Lisa and all the family during this time. Mike lived a life of purpose and will certainly be missed.



Joe Ashmore - April 13 at 10:19 PM

PG

“ Mike Tatum was a great asset to our school system. He was so loved by and respected by everyone who meet him . And my husband and I were lucky to know him and are very sorry for his family he will be missed a lot . Your friends Michael and Pat Galloway

Pat Galloway & Michael Galloway - April 13 at 09:06 PM

MJ

“ So very sorry, Mike was a good man, had many conversations with him around school, I know he will be missed by many



Marlene Johns - April 13 at 04:25 PM

MB

“ Michael Bates sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Tatum



Michael Bates - April 13 at 01:30 PM