



Wayne Lockett

April 3, 1946 - February 6, 2026

Wayne Lockett, 79, of Westfield, Illinois, passed away on February 6, 2026, at Copper Creek Cottages Memory Care Facility in Mattoon, Illinois, surrounded by his loving family and his cherished puppy, Isabella.

A funeral service celebrating Wayne's life will be held at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938. Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 PM, Monday, February 16, 2026, at the funeral home and from 10:00 AM until the time of the service on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Pastor Brad Brown and Chaplain (Col, Ret.) Kevin Lockett will officiate.

Wayne was born on April 3, 1946, in Kirksville, Missouri, to Bobby and Eva "Peggy" Lockett. He grew up in Rockford, Illinois, and graduated from Rockford East High School. Wayne earned Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degrees in Physical Education from Eastern Illinois University. Wayne married the love of his life, Julie Ferguson Hills, on August 15, 1992, in Mattoon, Illinois.

Wayne is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Julie Lockett and his four children: Julie Hoyt (David) of Orlando, Florida; Katie Alfieri (Victor) of Canton, Georgia; Jace Hills (Jennifer) of Newton, Illinois; and Jenna Orrell (Harley) of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He was a proud grandfather to eight grandchildren: Allie Hoyt of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Jack Hoyt of Orlando, Florida; Sofia, Gigi, and Stella Alfieri of Canton, Georgia; Joleigh and Jeremiah Hills of Newton, Illinois; and Anna Orrell of Ponte Vedra Beach,

Florida.

Also surviving are Wayne's father, Bobby Lockett; brothers Mike (Jan) Lockett and Kevin (Peggy) Lockett; sister Peggy Jo (Steve) Anderson; brothers-in-law Jed (Barb) Ferguson, Jim (Joy) Ferguson, and John (Cindy) Ferguson; and sister-in-law Hollene Ferguson.

Wayne was preceded in death by his mother, Peggy Lockett; his father-in-law, Jim Ferguson; his mother-in-law, June Ferguson, and his brother-in-law, Jeff Ferguson.

Wayne dedicated more than 35 years of his life to teaching and coaching, leaving a lasting impact on countless students and athletes. He taught and coached at Kansas Junior/Senior High School in Kansas, Illinois, conducted motorcycle safety and emergency vehicle safety classes at Eastern Illinois University, and spent 28 years as an instructor at Lake Land College in Mattoon, Illinois, until his retirement in 2010. There, he taught Physical Education, Health, First Aid, Recreation, and Education courses. He also served as Head Men's Basketball Coach at Lake Land College from 1982 to 1989.

An Army veteran, Wayne served during the Vietnam War. He carried his sense of service and discipline into every part of his life.

Known affectionately as "Hoss" to his family and "Papa Hoss" to his grandchildren, Wayne had a lifelong love of horses. For more than 30 years, he raised and worked with Quarter Horses and was the steady, behind-the-scenes presence preparing horses for shows for his two youngest children. He also competed in Cowboy Action Shooting. He loved being outdoors, caring for the horses and working on his ranch.

Wayne was also an avid fisherman and a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan who enjoyed attending games when possible and faithfully watching them on television. His greatest joy in life was spending time with his children and grandchildren.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to Dr. Shakir, Michelle Delrossi, and the staff at the Sarah Bush Lincoln Regional Cancer Center in Mattoon,

Illinois, whose expertise and dedication allowed Wayne to live comfortably for 13 years following his Multiple Myeloma diagnosis in January 2013.

In addition, heartfelt thanks are extended to April Stephens and the staff at Copper Creek Cottages in Mattoon for their compassionate care as Wayne battled dementia. Their kindness and commitment meant more than words can express.

The family would also like to thank Transitions Hospice, who were a great comfort to Wayne and his family and went above and beyond to ensure Wayne was comfortable, respected, and cared for with compassion during his final days.

Wayne will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
(217) 234-8828
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Visitation

FEB 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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Mattoon, IL 61938
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Service

FEB 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Wayne Lockett



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - February 17 at 11:46 AM



“ 102 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - February 16 at 11:28 AM



“ Your HONK family purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Wayne Lockett.



Your HONK family - February 16 at 10:39 AM

YF

“ Your HONK family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Lockett.

Your HONK family - February 16 at 10:39 AM

DG

“ Diane Grove purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Wayne Lockett.



Diane Grove - February 15 at 08:00 PM

DG

“ Diane Grove planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Lockett.

Diane Grove - February 15 at 08:00 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wayne Lockett.

February 14 at 10:24 PM

JL

“ Justin & Kristin, Hollene, Todd & Lauren purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Wayne Lockett.



Justin & Kristin, Hollene, Todd & Lauren - February 14 at 12:54 AM

JL

“ Justin & Kristin, Hollene, Todd & Lauren planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Lockett.

Justin & Kristin, Hollene, Todd & Lauren - February 14 at 12:54 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Wayne Lockett.



February 13 at 01:38 PM

KF

“ Kevin and Peggy, Nathaniel, Mary, Sarah, Lizzy and Their Families purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Wayne Lockett.



Kevin and Peggy, Nathaniel, Mary, Sarah, Lizzy and Their Families - February 12 at 03:39 PM

DH

“ So sorry to hear about Wayne's passing. My deepest sympathies to the family and Julie. Wayne and I were coworkers at Lake Land College for a lot of years and have a lot of good memories. He was a great instructor/basketball coach and friend.

Jay and Debbie Hines

Debra Hines - February 12 at 03:24 PM

TD

“ Wayne was a best friend and teammate on the JV and Varsity Baseball Teams at East Rockford High during our formative years. We shared events and experiences such as our first prom dates, first home run in a league game, first (and last for a while) cold beer, a ride in Wayne's new 64 Mustang, a run or two up to Lake Geneva, receiving our draft notices - and many more. God Bless him and his extended family. He was the best of friends and left a trail of goodwill along the way. I hope all can feel our love and support all the way from Big Canoe, Georgia.

Thomas (Tom) DiPuma - February 12 at 01:48 AM

JU

Tom,

What a beautiful tribute to our dad. Thank you so much for sharing that memory—it truly touched my heart. I grew up hearing his stories about the days of the Mustang and about navigating the draft process as such a young man. Seeing your post brought all of those memories rushing back in the very best way.

Knowing that our Pop is remembered and loved by others the way we love him means more than I can say. He really did leave a trail of goodwill wherever he went—quietly, steadily leaving people better than he found them.

Thank you for honoring him. It means the world to our family. 🧡

Julie - February 12 at 08:29 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wayne Lockett.



February 11 at 08:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wayne Lockett.

February 11 at 08:49 PM



“ Julie and family,
We are so sorry to hear of your loss! Sending prayers of comfort
your way!
Rick & Debbie Seaman

Rick & Debbie Seaman - February 11 at 08:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Wayne Lockett.



February 11 at 11:28 AM



“ Dane, Dirk and Deanna's families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in
honor of Wayne Lockett.

Dane, Dirk and Deanna's families - February 11 at 11:28 AM

KM

“ *Kay, Marian, Bill, & Mindy purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Wayne Lockett.*



Kay, Marian, Bill, & Mindy - February 11 at 10:12 AM

JU

“ *Julie lit a candle in memory of Wayne Lockett*



Julie - February 11 at 04:20 AM

JS

“ *My deepest sympathy for the Lockett family! Coach Lockett was a true competitor as I enjoyed our rivalry at Danville Area Community College when he was at Lake Lake Land! His humour as had me in great mood after I visited with him!*

john spezia - February 09 at 03:09 PM