



Dr. Jeannine "Doc" Butler

October 9, 1935 - January 2, 2023

Dr. Jeannine ("Doc") Butler, age 87, passed away on January 2, 2023. She was born on October 9, 1935, in Stuttgart, Arkansas to Joe Lee and Mary (Knoll) Butler. She spent most of her childhood years in Terre Haute, Indiana, graduating from Wiley High School. Upon graduation from high school, she attended Indiana State University where she received her B.S. in Health, Physical Education and Recreation. She later received a master's and a Ph.D. in Health, Physical Education and Recreation and Educational Leadership from Indiana University.

Dr. Butler's career spanned 53 years in public education. She began her teaching and coaching career at Adams Township High School (Sheridan, Indiana). She taught in Akron, Ohio before moving to the Monroe County Community School Corporation where she taught and coached at University High School. She moved to Bloomington High School North the year that it opened in 1972. There she served as Dean of Students, becoming one of MCCSC's first female administrator and high school volleyball, basketball, and track coach.

A pioneer in women's sports, she was a strong advocate for equal opportunities for women. She coached prior to Title IX when females were relegated to intramural sports. She worked tirelessly throughout her life to bring attention to the unequal treatment of women and continued to support

many female athletes in Monroe County. She expected her players to excel in the classroom as well as on the court and taught them to believe in themselves.

She touched hundreds of lives as Dean of Students and was loved by many, including those who experienced her tough, stern yet fair discipline. Often, while at dinner or out in the community she would be approached by a former student who would stop to let her know what a positive influence she had on their life. Most often she would remember the student's name and would let them know how proud she was of them. She was a champion for students who faced unique challenges in life and strongly believed in creating inclusionary schools where all students belonged. She wore the maroon and gold proudly as Bloomington North was always in her heart.

Dr. Butler served the community in numerous ways. She served as a member of the MCCSC School Board from 2006 to 2018. She volunteered for the Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County board, Bloomington Restorations, Inc. board, Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission, and the Community Corrections Board. She participated in many Habitat Women's Builds and volunteered for many years for AARP Tax Service. She also served as a student teaching supervisor for IU's School of Education. Her awards are numerous. In 1979 she was the Hoosier Hills Conference Coach of the Year; in 2005 she was the recipient of the Bloomington City Council Women in Government Lifetime Achievement Award; in 2006 she was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame; in 2008 she received the Anita Aldrich Distinguished Alumni Award from IU's School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation; in 2009 she was the recipient of the Chamber of Bloomington's Lifetime Achievement Award; and most recently she was selected to be inducted into the Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame. While Jeannine loved her career, it was the joy that came from being a grandmother to Amilea and Kylee Cole that completed her life. She enjoyed

sharing a meal with her Bloomington “family”, woodworking in her basement workshop, IU woman’s basketball, and traveling. She is survived by her longtime friend and companion Sandi Cole; her “adopted” son, Brad Cole; her niece Deb (Steve) Butler and nephews Jamie (Rosa) Butler, Jerry (Cindy) Butler and Don Butler. She is preceded in death by her parents, a niece, Melissa Butler; a sister, Marlyn Butler, and brothers Don and J.L. Butler.

A celebration of life will be held at Woolery Mill, 2250 West Sunstone Drive (Bloomington) on February 11 at 3:00. A reception will follow the service. Memorial contributions can be made to the MCCSC Foundation to the Dr. Jeannine Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund. This can be accessed here <https://mccsfoundation.org/> where you can click on the donate tab and find the drop down for the Dr. Jeannine Butler Memorial Scholarship. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 South Old State Road 37, Bloomington, have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

LR

“ I had the privilege of growing up across the street from “Doc” Butler and Sandy. Wonderful neighbors and always welcomed my brother and I over to play with Bradley. My mom was a single mom, and she enjoyed Doc’s supportive talks and friendship. I enjoyed having someone I trusted in high school and knew I could go to for a pep talk. Doc really cared about every student and really enjoyed reaching out and helping those who were struggling. I am truly sorry to you Sandy and Bradley❤️, Lynne

Lynne(Berry) Rahe - January 06, 2023 at 08:53 PM

KS

It is ironic that I went to the tribune star website today, and looked at the obituaries, because just last night I had been on classmates.com and had thought about reaching out to Jeanine. I graduated from Wiley High with her. She was one of the nicest and sweetest girls in the class. I was only 16 when I graduated, which made me younger than the others in my class, but Jeanine never made me not feel included. Prayers for her friend and companion and rest of her family.

Kay Stephens - January 30, 2023 at 05:44 PM

CP

It was an honor to know Dr. Butler. I remember going out to her house in Stanford on the west side of Bloomington for many gatherings. My father being a retired teacher he was very good friend with Dr. Butler. She certainly had a love and passion for all and loved what she did. My deepest condolences to all who knew her and who were touched by her.

Christopher Philippsen - October 09, 2025 at 01:35 PM

LO

“ You changed my path as a young student many years ago. I thank you for your loving, kind and caring ways of leading students. You will forever be remembered as one of the great ones. Rest easy Dr. Butler, you will be missed.
Lori



Lori - January 05, 2023 at 04:00 PM

LI

“ Jeannine (Doc)/Coach Butler: She touched sooo many lives, including mine. She will be greatly missed by all. We were all so very blessed by how she touched and influenced our lives. Being part of her 79 team at BHSN, it was truly an honor to have been coached by her and the positive impact she had on my life. I am forever thankful. Rest in Peace Coach Butler.



Lisa

Lisa - January 04, 2023 at 10:51 PM

BY

“ I spent quite a bit of time in Dr. Butler's office as a middle schooler but after things changed for me later in high school I was so honored that she recognized it and gave me the Comeback Kid of the Year Award. She obviously cared about her students so much. She will be missed.

Brooke Yarber - January 04, 2023 at 10:26 PM

BR

“ *I can only imagine the number of lives she touched, including mine. She has left a piece of herself in all of us that had the pleasure of crossing paths with her. Rest in peace Ms. Butler, you will be missed.*



Beth Rosenbaum - January 04, 2023 at 05:25 PM