



## Gary Coker

December 11, 1943 - April 13, 2020

Gary Coker, age 76, of Dawson, passed away Monday, April 13, 2020 at Collinsville Health and Rehab.

His family will have a private graveside service Thursday, April 16, 2020 at Dekalb Memory Gardens.

He is survived by his wife, Marie Coker, son, Robi Coker (Melissa), grandchildren, Lily Kate and Rob Coker, sisters, Jane Brooks (Jearl), Nancy Hall and Becky Willoughby (Johnny), sister-in-law, Freida Coker and a host of nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Bob and Elsie Coker and his brother, Billy Coker.

The family has requested no flowers; donations can be made to Big Oak Ranch or Skirum United Methodist Church.

Crossville Memorial Chapel Directing

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss...God's blessings & peace to you.*

*Love,  
Margie Phillips Lewis*

---

**Margie Lewis** - April 16, 2020 at 09:10 PM

DD

“ *So sorry to hear about the loss of my classmate  
. He was such a fun person to be around.  
Sending love and prayer to his family. God  
Blessings to all.*



---

**Dorothy ( Tidwell ) Delgado** - April 16, 2020 at 01:45 PM

CF

“ *Carolyn Clifton Fields lit a candle in memory  
of Gary Coker*



---

**Carolyn Clifton Fields** - April 16, 2020 at 09:07 AM

CF

“ *DEKALB COUNTY (AL) SPORTS HALL OF FAME 2006: Gary Coker*

*Born December 11, 1943 - A pioneer of high school sports coverage, Gary Coker was part of a three-man team, who brought changes to not only sports sections in DeKalb County and the Sand Mountain area but across North Alabama. A 1961 graduate of Geraldine High School, Gary began covering Geraldine and Crossville High School sports in 1968. Soon enough, his articles were picked up by daily newspapers, increasing high school sports coverage across North Alabama. His writings have carried from local schools to the University of Alabama head football coach Paul “Bear” Bryant’s, and to interviews with NASCAR racer Richard Petty. Still dedicated to local sports almost 40 years later, it’s unlikely anyone his age has seen more games or written more stories about DeKalb County teams. As a youngster, Gary played on Crossville’s very first Little League Baseball team, and later not only coached but was the director of Crossville Dixie Youth Baseball. He played in his first independent baseball game, when he was 12 and played for over 16 years. He also played independent basketball for 12 years, and the softball team he coached and played on for 13 years won over 800 games.*

---

**Carolyn Clifton Fields** - April 16, 2020 at 09:04 AM

CF

“ *DEKALB COUNTY (al) Sports Hall of Fame GARY COKER Born December 11, 1943 - A pioneer of high school sports coverage, Gary Coker was part of a three-man team, who brought changes to not only sports sections in DeKalb County and the Sand Mountain area but across North Alabama. A 1961 graduate of Geraldine High School, Gary began covering Geraldine and Crossville High School sports in 1968. Soon enough, his articles were picked up by daily newspapers, increasing high school sports coverage across North Alabama. His writings have carried from local schools to the University of Alabama head football coach Paul “Bear” Bryant’s, and to interviews with NASCAR racer Richard Petty. Still dedicated to local sports almost 40 years later, it’s unlikely anyone his age has seen more games or written more stories about DeKalb County teams. As a youngster, Gary played on Crossville’s very first Little League team.*

---

**Carolyn Clifton Fields** - April 16, 2020 at 08:57 AM

CL

“ *Carol Laney lit a candle in memory of Gary Coker*



---

**Carol Laney** - April 15, 2020 at 08:59 PM