

# Farris Lee Strambler

June 15, 1945 – August 15, 2015



USATF West Texas is deeply saddened to announce the death of our friend, Coach Strambler, founder of Tall City Christian Track Club in Midland. For 37 years Farris mentored, taught, coached, spiritually guided, and led individual athletes to heights of achievement and personal success through the sport of track and field. He will be missed by the entire track community and especially those of us in the West Texas region.

The Tall City Christian Track Club will honor Coach Strambler with a balloon release on Thursday, August 20, 2015 @ 7:00pm, at the Memorial Stadium parking lot.

Memorial service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 22, 2015 at First Baptist Church with Pastor Michael D. Wheeler officiating.

Condolences can be sent to

[http://www.lewallengarciapikinfh.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o\\_id=3282855&fh\\_id=14239](http://www.lewallengarciapikinfh.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=3282855&fh_id=14239)

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, son, brother, Uncle, Minister, Coach, and dear friend, Reverend Farris Lee Strambler was called home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Saturday, August 15, 2015.

He was born in Winters, TX on June 15, 1945 to the late Alexander and Bessie Strambler. Farris grew up in Midland, the son of a Baptist minister. While in high school, Farris had caddied at Midland Country Club and he also worked at the YMCA, learning to give massages under the masseur, Bill Tully, a blind man and a wonderful masseur and teacher, according to Farris.

Farris met the love of his life, Ella Weise Strambler, while they were both attending Carver High School. They were childhood sweethearts. In 1966, they were wed at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church, where his father was minister. Before earning a football scholarship to Northeastern State University at Talequah, OK, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree as a History major, Farris served a brief term in the United States Navy branch of the military. He was stationed in San Diego, CA. However, he was not able to continue military service duties, due to the fact that, according to military regulation, law and policy, his top obligation was to his family, not the country. Therefore, he returned to his hometown to look after his then 10 siblings until the Lord instructed him otherwise.

In 1970, Farris and Ella moved to Vian, OK, where his stellar coaching career began, earning him many honors. Coach Strambler took a tiny Class A school in Vian, OK, that had been completely integrated since 1953, to a state championship. The same team made state playoffs another two years. This is when Farris discovered he loved working with kids. He had a way of getting more out of them than they

thought they had to give. He later took a team from Frederick, OK to the state playoffs for two years as well.

The Lord led Farris and Ella back to Midland in 1979, with a divine plan to lead his family in such a way that the family ties would bind from generation to generation. While building a solid rock foundation through the knowledge and wisdom of God's principles and the spreading of God's word to the members of his large family, Farris continued his coaching and teaching career with the Midland Independent School District. He taught and coached football and track at Midland Freshman High School and Midland Sr. High School for a span of 4 years. He finally decided to finish out his career as an educator, teaching and preaching to under privileged, down-on-their luck, repeat-offending juvenile detainees, "snot-nosed kids" as he would call them, at Culver Detention Unit. After 30 years of teaching and coaching in the field of education, Farris Strambler retired in the year 2008 at the age of 63.

The divine journey back to Midland in 1979 would also call Farris to start a track club with his own kids and his nieces and nephews, so that they would be afforded the opportunity to participate in competitive track and field. This is where the Tall City Christian Track Club tradition began. For 37 years Farris mentored, taught, coached, spiritually guided, and led individual athletes to heights of achievement and personal success through the sport of track and field. Achievements included but were not limited to ribbons, moments of recognition, medals, plaques, and awards of full athletic scholarships to colleges and universities of all divisions.

The Reverend Farris Strambler became an ordained minister in 1977. For 36 years, Farris served as a faithful and dedicated member of the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, where Reverend Michael D. Wheeler is pastor. Alongside serving as an associate minister, he fervently devoted his energies in worship by serving in the youth and Sunday school ministries, various committees, as well as the Minister's Alliance. He also served as church janitor and cleaned the church carpets for several years. He gave of himself generously, living and loving life with all his heart; a kind man, full of laughter and wisdom near and dear to many hearts. There was nothing above God, his wife, his children, and the closeness and unity of family that brought him more joy and peace of mind. Reverend Coach Farris Strambler was the epitome of a "Good and Faithful" servant. He was truly loved and cherished by all and will be eternally missed.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ella Weise Strambler, his daughter, Shena De Mell Cooper, 4 brothers, Bobby Ray Strambler, Teddy Strambler, Charles Ray Strambler, and Willie Lee Strambler. To cherish his memory, he leaves his children, Tekeira Strambler and Chris Strambler, both of Midland, TX. Four sisters, Gladys Thompson of Big Spring, TX, Gracie White (Tommy White), Margie Goodley, Hattie Tennon (L.E. Tennon) all of Midland, TX. Four brothers, Pastor Allen B. Strambler (Aretha) of Hobbs, NM, Alexander Strambler Sr. (Jackie ), Jerry Strambler Sr. (Letha ), Marcus Strambler Sr., all of Midland, TX. Six grandchildren, Brittany and Tara Cooper, Anique Strambler, Avion and Kasia Strambler and Tekorian Ray. One great-grandson, Karter Malik Ivy. To further cherish his memory, he leaves a host of extended family, nieces, nephews and friends.

A wake will be held in the Chapel of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Chapel on Friday, August 21, 2015 from 6-8pm. The Tall City Christian Track Club will honor Coach Strambler with a balloon release on Thursday, August 20, 2015 @ 7:00pm, at the Memorial Stadium parking lot. A memorial service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 22, 2015 at First Baptist Church with Pastor with Pastor Michael D. Wheeler officiating. Interment will follow to Fairview Cemetery.

Services are under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be e-mailed to [pipkin@nts-online.net](mailto:pipkin@nts-online.net).