



## John T. Pataky

March 12, 1932 - September 13, 2022

John T. Pataky, 90, of Lookout Mountain, GA, passed away suddenly at his home on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

Mr. Pataky was a graduate of The McCallie School and Georgia Tech. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and returned to “The Ridge” where he taught all levels of mathematics for 50+ years to “his boys.” John was a head coach for 46+ years, coaching and mentoring thousands of McCallie boys who remained close to his heart. He coached Cross Country, Track, Soccer, and Swimming for 106+ athletic seasons. The Math Center, as well as the McCallie Aquatics Center, are named in his honor. John lived by a lifelong motto of “Honor, Truth, and Duty “! As well as Excellence which he strived for in life, the classroom, As well as in the pool or on the field . The list of his accomplishments would be too long to list here.

John made a huge impact on the lives of over 6000 McCallie students He taught and coached in a career span of over 50 years. They will never forget Coach Pataky. John was a numbers guy all his life and could tell you the times and wins set by so many of ‘His boys” that He was SO very proud of.

Mr. Pataky was preceded in death by his parents, Tibor & Ellen Pataky, first wife, Alice Pataky, “daughter-in-love”, Vickie White, and a precious granddaughter, Ashleigh Lusk.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of “20 glorious years” as he just remarked last week, Debbie Martin Pataky; sister, Mary Haynie of New Hope, PA; nieces & nephews, Karen, Brian, David & Keith; Debbie’s daughter that he loved as his own, Melissa (Jimmy) Bryant; son-in-law, Bill White; grandsons, Robert Lusk, Tripp White, & Rhett White; great-granddaughter, Alyissa Sue.

Mr. Pataky will be laid to rest in a private service at the Chattanooga National Cemetery.

Should you choose to contribute to John’s memory, these are two funds that were dear to his heart. The Faculty Support Fund, The McCallie School, 500 Dodd’s Avenue, Chattanooga, Tenn.37404

Or to the Vickie White Memorial Fund, North Lafayette Elementary School, 610 N. Duke Street  
Lafayette, Ga 30728.

A Memorial Service will be held 2 PM ET in the Chapel on the McCallie School Campus on Sunday October 2.

# Cemetery Details

## Chattanooga National Cemetery

1200 Bailey Ave  
Chattanooga, TN 37404

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

McCallie School Chapel  
500 Dodds Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37404

# Tribute Wall



“ *John T. Pataky*

October 09, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *John Pataky coached me in the grueling(for me) sport of Cross Country along with John McCall! Because of this introduction to running, I was also involved in and spectated some of the Track events. It was there that I learned a valuable lesson from a valuable man. There was a jamboree of sorts in track and field held at McCallie's Spears Stadium. John Pataky noticed a very talented and undercoached discus and shot put competitor from another team. I witnessed Coach Pataky offer to coach this kid from another school after hours at McCallie's Campus. The kid followed through and so did John Pataky. I recall seeing the two of them on the field practicing technique as dusk was setting on many late evenings. This young man set a new state record this same year because of the initiative and follow through of Coach Pataky and the young man. This display of selflessness and giving of his time made a very good impression on me. Thanks, Coach Pataky!!!*

*Tom Thomas  
Class of '83*

Thomas Williford Thomas - September 29, 2022 at 03:40 PM



“ *John taught me math at McCallie. He was typical of all my professors during my four-year tenure: Good-hearted, God fearing Christians who want young men to be successful.*

*Chuck Niehuss, class of 1964.*

Charles Niehuss - September 29, 2022 at 01:17 PM

RL

“ Being from a Spanish-speaking country (Nicaragua), adapting to my new English-speaking home (McCallie), Professor Pataky's Algebra classes were always like an oasis, (Math is the international language). He always taught us mathematics with great patience and making sure we finally grasped the concepts, all with a fine sense of humor.

*He actually made you like mathematics!*

*He is one of the Profesors I remember most fondly from McCallie School. May he rest in Peace and I send my condolences to his family and his loved ones*

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**Raul A. Lacayo** - September 29, 2022 at 10:44 AM

S'

“ Of the many memories pf JTP-Mid-South Cross-Country Championship, Tennessee State Swimming Championship, scuba diving in the Bahamas, my favorite was when I was struggling with a Math problem. JTP looked at my work and said "who taught you how to add." He deflected criticism away from me and focused on the error itself, which was easily corrected. He taught me much in the classroom of life. Farewell JTP Strib '71

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**Strib '71** - September 21, 2022 at 09:29 AM

DP

*Oh what great memories ! He spoke of you often !*

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**debbie Pataky** - September 23, 2022 at 11:10 AM

KM

“ A great teacher, coach and person..

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**Kenny Michaels** - September 18, 2022 at 09:24 AM

DP



**Debbie Pataky** - September 23, 2022 at 11:13 AM

WN

“ *Coach Pataky was a fantastic advanced math teacher . My love for the subject grew greatly because of him. I became a CPA and then a deal lawyer- in large part due to him. Although I never had him as a coach, i know he was also superb at that as well. Just an outstanding person who gave his life to make boys into men.*

**ward nelson** - September 17, 2022 at 06:37 AM

DP

*Thank you for these kind words !*

**Debbie Pataky** - September 23, 2022 at 11:11 AM

PF

“ *Pamela Farmer purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of John T. Pataky.*



**Pamela Farmer** - September 15, 2022 at 03:42 PM

GY

“ Mr. Pataky and I worked many years together on the Optimist Club of Chattanooga track program. I enjoyed his dry humor and warm personality! I will always remember the box full of freshly sharpened pencils, new and used, that he brought to every track meet ! He also could recall, without notes, many of the statistics, record times and distances, etc., for events of previous meets dating 10 plus years back. That was amazing indeed. To Mr. Patakys family, I want to say what a fine man he was. I enjoyed his friendship and his dedication to work with the Optimist Club to provide the club sponsored track meets to the high school track programs in our area. Greg Yeoman, past president of the Optimist Club of Chattanooga.

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**Greg Yeoman** - September 15, 2022 at 10:15 AM

DP

*Thank you so much for these kind words !*

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**Debbie Pataky** - September 23, 2022 at 11:12 AM

DP



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**Debbie Pataky** - September 23, 2022 at 11:13 AM

RB

“ *"Death is of no concern here for he is with the risen Lord Jesus Christ and the people he has loved and was loved by."* Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, 61st Chaplain, US Senate

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**Robert Bruce Betz** - September 14, 2022 at 10:04 PM

DP

*Thank you Rob ..He thought the world of you .*

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**debbie Pataky** - September 17, 2022 at 09:05 AM

S'

*Robert-well said. Strib '71*

**Strib '71** - September 21, 2022 at 09:17 AM

DP

*He spoke often of you !*

**Debbie Pataky** - September 23, 2022 at 11:12 AM

TW

*There are some people in life that you think of, often and fondly, over the years. Mr. Pataky was one of those special people. Above and beyond teaching about the quadratic equation and binomial surds, Mr. Pataky clearly cared about his students as people, and gave good advice about matters outside the classroom. Did I listen at the time? To my chagrin, no -- but his words stuck with me and sunk in over time. He was a giant at the school and will be dearly missed.*

**Thomas Wang** - September 29, 2022 at 08:17 PM

WS

*John Pataky was a great teacher, coach and friend. His steady hand and eye brought remarkable leadership and wisdom to every endeavor he assumed. He gave his students and his athletes firm instruction, guidance and support always. He was a model for any young man under his tutelage, as he was for me during my years at McCallie while a boarding student in school and a counselor at summer camp. He left a lasting mark on so many. Wes Shofner, Class of '69*

**Wes Shofner** - September 30, 2022 at 12:39 PM