



## Frank L. Hester

April 27, 1945 - October 23, 2025

Frank L. Hester of Las Vegas departed this life to the embrace of God at 6:16 a.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2025, surrounded by family. He was born on Friday, April 27, 1945, to JoAnne and Ira Joe Hester in humble beginnings on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation in Oklahoma, the eldest of thirteen siblings. His first baby bed was a dresser drawer.

At the age of five, the family moved to the small town of Clinton, Oklahoma, where Frank grew up fishing, hunting, excelling in football, basketball, and track. A natural athlete and fierce competitor, he became a hometown legend whose records in high school and college remain unbroken. He graduated a year before the construction of what is now known as the Tornado Dome. Stories of his All-State and All-Conference performances are still told today. He was inducted into the Clinton High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2024.

Frank attended Colorado State University Pueblo (then known as the Indians) on an athletic scholarship, lettering all four years and earning his varsity sweater and a bachelor's degree in education. Later, he would receive a master's degree in science. His talent drew interest from several NFL teams, including the Oakland Raiders. During college, he met his best friend, Patricia J. Vanduvall, affectionately known as Patti Jo. They married on June 17, 1966, following her high school graduation. Their first child, Carri DeNein, was born on May 29, 1968. Drafted during the Vietnam War, Frank enlisted in the U.S.

Army on June 18, 1968, taking his young family to Germany, which ended his future professional football career. After returning to the United States in 1970, Frank and Patti welcomed two more children, Adrienne Nichelle on July 8, 1970, and Frank Lee Jr. on May 25, 1973.

A proud U.S. Army veteran, Frank held his service close to his heart.

In 1971, the family settled in Henderson, Nevada, where Frank began his career in education. With his keen sense of humor and easy charm, he was the kind of teacher and coach people naturally gravitated toward. He taught at the Southern Nevada Vocational Technical Center and served as Head Track Coach at Basic High School, while also working at Safeway. In 1972, he moved into full-time teaching and coaching at Basic, shaping the lives of countless student-athletes. Frank later served as Dean at Kenny C. Guinn Middle School and Basic High School, always leading with respect, positivity, and a gift for making others feel at ease. He eventually returned to his first love, teaching, where he found the greatest joy connecting with students every day.

Frank also became an avid golfer after being asked to “inspect” Black Mountain Golf Course weekly to ensure it was ready for the school’s golf team. He took that responsibility with a smile, enjoying the game for over 40 years and winning just as many friends on the fairway as in the classroom.

Frank was preceded in death by Patti and his daughter, Carri. He is survived by his children, Adrienne Nichelle and Frank Lee Hester Jr.; five grandchildren—Mario, Alex, and Jaslyne Jones, Sierra, and Dorian Hester; six great-grandchildren, Brielle, Orion, Amaré, LaVea, Landon, and Nevaeh; siblings, Robert Hester, Lynda McCarty, Johnny Hester, Donnie Coward, Bobbie Ray Coward, Janell Lister, and Tyrone Lister, and a host of relatives and friends who will forever treasure his memory.

There will be a Memorial Service held on Wednesday, November 5th, 2025, at 02:00 PM (PST)

The cemetery chapel at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery is currently closed due to renovations. Because of this, the service for Frank L. Hester will not take place inside the chapel.

Cemetery Committal Shelter (Outdoor Pavilion)  
Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
1900 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Boulder City, NV 89005

What to Expect on Arrival:

- The service will be held at the Committal Shelter, located in the lower portion of the cemetery.
- This area is outdoors and open to the elements — please dress accordingly.
- Seating is limited to 40 people. (Additional standing room is available.)
- Parking is limited near the shelter, so please allow extra time for arrival.

# Tribute Wall

GB

“ Mr. Hester was my favorite teacher at Basic High school. Its beeb 51 years since I was his student but whenever someone asks who my favorite teacher was the answer is Mr. Hester. Rest well sir. 🕊

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**Gina Bascomb** - November 07, 2025 at 06:26 PM

PM

“ What a gem us students at Basic High had in Mr. Hester. He was my favorite teacher. Truly watching out for our future and helping us to become better. His sincere approach and genuine love for teaching really made a difference. May he rest in peace.

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**Patricia McCartney** - November 06, 2025 at 12:44 AM

LC

“ Coach Hester—what an amazing impact that you made on decades of students, parents, and colleagues. You welcomed me as a new member of the Basic Wolves tribe, and always had a smile and a joke ready whenever the need arose. You will be missed, sir. Keep running with the angels. 💙

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**Linda Casillas Cavazos** - November 05, 2025 at 02:47 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Affordable Cremation & Burial Service - November 04, 2025 at 12:40 PM



“ I met Frank in the fall of 1973 when I became a coach and teacher at Basic High School and we remained the best of friends until his passing. We coached together and played together. Our families growing up together, our kids were the same age. I miss him terribly. Rest in piece good friend.

Dan Cahill - October 30, 2025 at 04:42 PM



We love you Mr. Cahill xo

Adrienne Hester - October 30, 2025 at 05:14 PM



“ Coach Hester was a legend and one of my favorite coaches. Can never forget him and how he impacted my football career. Rest up Coach

Deshawn Henderson - October 30, 2025 at 02:11 PM

AH

*We appreciate your sentiment, Deshawn. Thank you.*

**Adrienne Hester** - October 30, 2025 at 05:14 PM

RB

“ *One of the best coaches Henderson has ever seen. Coach Hester will be greatly missed and forever loved.*

**Rob Brisendine** - October 30, 2025 at 11:16 AM

AH

*Thank you for your kind words, Rob.*

**Adrienne Hester** - October 30, 2025 at 05:13 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



**Affordable Cremation & Burial Service** - October 29, 2025 at 05:40 PM

BM

“ *Bill and Matt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank L. Hester.*

**Bill and Matt** - October 28, 2025 at 10:08 PM

BM

“ *Bill and Matt purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Frank L. Hester.*



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**Bill and Matt** - October 28, 2025 at 10:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frank L. Hester.*



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October 28, 2025 at 09:43 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Frank L. Hester.*



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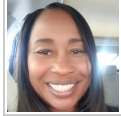
October 28, 2025 at 08:44 PM

JO

“ *Not a memory, but a mention of gratitude for his Daughter who, has been a great pleasure to have come to know. Great people come from great families, thank you Frank Hester & Family, my condolences to all the family and friends who were fortunate to have known this man and thanks for his service and to those that support those and their families, I wish you all the strength to carry on in celebration of his contributions and for him to continue be proud.*

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**joe** - October 28, 2025 at 07:49 PM



*Thank you for your kind words. It means a lot.*

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**Adrienne Hester** - October 29, 2025 at 03:33 PM



“ 26 files added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Affordable Cremation & Burial Service** - October 28, 2025 at 06:35 PM