



John Hamilton

March 5, 1951 - June 22, 2020

Hamilton, John, of Columbia, Missouri, was born March 5, 1951 in Callaway, Missouri to William and Charlotte (nee Farquhr) Hamilton and entered into rest Monday, June 22, 2020 in Columbia, Missouri at the age of 69 years, 3 months and 17 days.

He is preceded in death by, his parents,

He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years Linda (nee Crowe) Hamilton

Two (2) siblings, Brownie Hamilton, and Martha Hamilton .

along with numerous extended family and friends.

He will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Private graveside services will be held at Hillcrest Cemetery in Fulton, Missouri.

Family and friends can review and share stories, photos and condolences online at www.stlfuneral.com and follow details of this event and others in the community at www.facebook.com/stlchapelhill.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Hamilton*

January 06, 2023 at 10:46 PM



“ *Always enjoyed Coach H. He was a good man and cared about his athletes. I'll remember him with fond memories. Thanks for everything..RIP, CC Class of 84*

Chris - October 12, 2021 at 04:02 PM



“ *I have only recently learned of Coach Hamilton's passing. My condolences to the amazing Linda Hamilton and his entire family. Coach Hamilton was a warm and gentle soul who would always say hello and chat whenever our paths crossed. He and Linda were such a beautiful and loving couple. May peace be with Linda and all of his loved ones.*

Nick Henson

Columbia, MO

Nick Henson - July 16, 2020 at 05:01 PM

CB

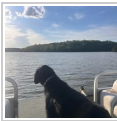
“ I am so grateful that my children were able to swim with Coach Hamilton. Teaching them to be better swimmers was the least of the great lessons he taught. He was more concerned with their character than he was with with strokes. He really loved his swimmers; he'd often shed tears at the graduation ceremonies. When my kids moved on to college, Coach Hamilton was one of the first people they wanted to check in with during semester breaks. Thanks Coach, for making all the Bergins a little better! You are missed.

Christi Bergin - July 10, 2020 at 02:58 PM

TB

“ I swam for Coach Hamilton from 80-82. He was an inspirational leader with impeccable character and integrity. He inspired me to excel in life. Thank you coach for your service and leadership.

Terry Baumann - July 10, 2020 at 12:29 PM



Coach Hamilton was my swim coach for RBHS from 83-86. And then when I came back for grad school, I ran into home and Linda and I worked for them at CCMO for three summers. They were both very inspirational in my life and I know in every athlete's life they touched. He will be sorely missed. Hugs to you, Linda and the rest of your families.

Ann Schlemper - July 18, 2020 at 08:55 PM

PC

“ The Hamiltons have forever been known for having the kindest hearts and positive attitudes. Many students benefited from their interactions with them. Linda, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this really hard time in your life. John will be missed by so many but no more than you. He was a caring and kind servant. Well done John. Rest now in His loving arms. ❤️ Patty Cornell

patty cornell - July 04, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ Coach Hamilton was an amazing Coach and father figure to so many. He encouraged every person to be their best on and off the sport. I feel so very blessed to have been coached by both John and Linda in my life. When I joined the cross country team I could barely run around the block. Through their support I somehow ran in meets and got to be part of an amazing team. He taught me to aim high, visualize the race, stay steady with a plan, and press on with faith—lessons that stick with me everyday. He and Linda dedicated their lives together to so many and loved with their lives. Linda, my heartfelt condolences to you. Love, Ricarda Ganjam

Ricarda Ganjam - July 04, 2020 at 08:20 AM

“ Having just found out about coach's passing on Wednesday evening, I felt compelled to search for any information I could. Thankfully I found this site. I have submitted the 1981 track picture from RB too. As most of us former athletes know, Coach Hamilton wanted the best for all of us. He wanted us to do the best we could and he took an interest in our well being. There were quite a few nights after track practice in 83' when he stayed an extra hour with me just talking, making sure that I was doing ok during a tough time. So while we all know how great of a coach and person he was, I just want to share how fun he was. He was always willing to share in the laughter. Track in the early 80's was not like it is today. We had just two coaches, Coach Hamilton and Coach Judy. Coach Judy was strictly long distance. Coach Hamilton took the rest of the team and found a few volunteers such as Austin Miller who helped with the triple jump. My senior year there were a few times when I finished my workout early (i was a thrower along with Randy Ray and Barb Darkow, the other seniors). On one occasion the baseball team was playing Hickman for the district title. I hopped in the truck with coach and waved to the long distance runners as we drove by. Their workout was to run to Hickman. I'm not sure if that would happen today, but we were able to get our work done, support the baseball team, and have a good time together. Another time I went with coach to drop off the long distance runners by Rock Bridge State Park. We took the long way home trying to look for morels on the road banks. He was always game to have fun. I remember Linda coming to our practices and helping out. They met during that time and she would volunteer as well. I knew Coach was very happy to be with Linda. Over the years I would see Coach teaching PE at the lower field at JJHS and I would give him a honk. Whenever I would see him, I have to say I would smile and get a good feeling remembering all the times we had. The last time I got to talk to him was a few months back at Aldis. He was in his truck waiting on Linda. It was ALWAYS good to see him and Linda. So while this is bittersweet to know that he has passed on from this world, I know that he went to the good place; the right place; the righteous place!. And I pray I will get to see him again. But for now, all I can do is

thank him in memory and thank God he was a part of my life. Here's honking to you coach. You were always fun.



Barry Nichols - July 04, 2020 at 12:12 AM



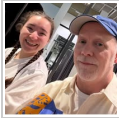
“ *I am not sure where to begin. This has all been such a sad 10 days since hearing of Johns passing. Linda,my heart goes out to you and I can't imagine how you heart is broken In two. Rick and I loved John and trusted him with our kids, and saw how much love he (you both) gave to all the swimmers!! We couldn't have asked for anything better. The 90s rocked cause of all his love and tenacity and kindness and leadership and heartfelt wisdom you both gave to our kids!!! I can visualize you both standing on Hickmans pool deck during meets and practice (Of course we were all as sweaty and hot as could be in there too!!) You both have such big hearts and spent so much time investing in the swimmers and we have better people in this world now because of you both!! The Bohon family thankS you for all you did for Our kids ! John,you will be so missed. Linda, please know that Rick and I are here for you ! ❤️Betty and Rick Bohon*

Betty Bohon - July 03, 2020 at 06:29 PM

ML

“ I heard the news of Coach’s passing yesterday. An emptiness has been with me since. I see these notes posted in his honor and feel compelled to do likewise. It’s hard though. I write and I erase. Words don’t suffice. Tears make the page blurry. My heart hurts. I miss someone who I haven’t spoken with this century that influenced my life and those lives I touch to this day. He moved us to be better. He moved us to be the best version of us we could. He destroyed limits. He inspires us today. Goodbye Coach. Say hello to Bo from your team.

Marvin Lopez - July 02, 2020 at 09:39 PM



We’re all feeling it Marvin. Thanks for your words. They help.

Hudson Murrell - July 03, 2020 at 05:16 AM

MS

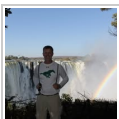
Likewise. He could be tough at times, but was fair. My life would not be the same today without swimming. Taught me how to handle a number of physical and mental hurdles I have met since those days. R.I.P Coach & thank you!

Michael Simon - July 05, 2020 at 05:02 PM

KB

Well said Marvin! I just heard yesterday (July 8th) from my parents. I only swam for two years, but Hickman Swim team was easily the highlight of my time in high school. Lesson learned and experiences from my time swimming, have stayed with me since. Coach Hamilton was the main reason for that. So sorry for your loss Linda. My heart goes out to you. -Kevin Blake ('88)

Kevin Blake - July 09, 2020 at 09:03 AM



So true Marvin.

James Guptill - July 09, 2020 at 12:05 PM

AJ

“ Coach Hamilton had a gift of coaching. He was a tough coach always pushing his athletes to be better - both at swimming and as people, and yet he was a wonderful, warm person with a smile that brought joy to your heart. I always appreciated Coach as he was so welcoming to me as a swimmer on the team even though I did not swim club swimming. One thing that I will always remember was how Coach could get a whole bunch of girls to scream when he would turn off the locker room lights after practice. He sure had a great sense of humor, especially while working with a group of teenage girls. He had a gift. Linda and Coach were so encouraging as they sat back and noticed each swimmer's character and personality. I'm thankful to both of them for encouraging me to be a tough swimmer, always pushing myself to be my best, and shedding such positive encouragement when I needed it most. I remember bringing my fiancé back to the pool so he could meet such influential people in my life. Coach instilled in me lifelong character traits that I'm still thankful for today. Bless you Linda and thank you!



Amy (Kennedy) Junk - July 02, 2020 at 08:21 PM

DR

“ Coach Hamilton was one of a kind. He earned the admiration of his swimmers through his hard work and loyalty to them. Linda, the Rubenstein family sends our love and sympathy to you.

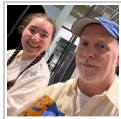
Diane Rubenstein - July 02, 2020 at 03:55 PM

TC

“ It's already been said so many times in this tribute string how we all felt about Coach. I certainly cannot say it any better myself. All the nice comments bring back so many memories. Coach was always the guy that got the respect that teenagers often have a hard time giving their own parents. I don't know how he did it, but he did it for me and so many of us over the years and in so doing helping create the values and work ethic that helped so many of us achieve our goals over the long haul. I've told many people over the years how thankful I was to have a swim coach (and not to forget Linda's influence as well!) that kept me out of trouble in high school and on the right track. I credit a large part of where I am now to his influence during some critical years. He will never be forgotten. RIP

Tim Coyle

Tim Coyle - July 02, 2020 at 01:23 PM



Spot on Tim.

Hudson Murrell - July 02, 2020 at 05:30 PM



Amen Tim

James Guptill - July 09, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ There are far too many former Cyclone, Bruin, and Kewpie athletes alive today that could stand up today and tell you what a great man Coach John Hamilton was to them.

We are all hurting. The sadness we are feeling is unexplainable because it seems so unfair that a man that helped shaped our early lives is gone. We looked up to Big John. He was our coach. In my case, he was a role model, a mentor, colleague, and at times a friend. As an athlete, John never stopped trying to reach me and inspire me to do more. As a colleague, he was a soft voice of experience and reason.

I will miss you John. You were a great servant to your community and you will be greatly missed.

Russell Crane - July 02, 2020 at 01:05 PM

AS

“ Linda, I'm sorry to learn of Coach's passing. He pushed so many athletes to achieve their personal bests. His teaching still shapes me today. I was lucky to have both you and Coach in my life. Ann Gurucharri Saudek

Ann Gurucharri Saudek - July 02, 2020 at 12:48 PM



“ *Linda -*

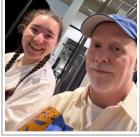
So sorry to hear of Coach's passing.

He was a wonderful cross country coach and honorable individual. He truly inspired each student athlete to commit to their personal best. He was a caring man who knew how hard to push to help you understand everyone's limits are farther than they imagine. He understood that performance was not just about how hard you worked during practice, but what was going on in one's personal life as well. He was always interested in both— happy to talk, listen and share advice. He was personally vested in the success of each individual and the collective team. A truly genuine and lovely man. I feel very lucky to have been on his team in high school and to have had him as a role model in my teenage years.

My thoughts are with you, Linda. Wishing you strength and comfort during this sad time.

Lydia Gaston Ballenger

Lydia Ballenger - July 02, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“Wow. This hits me hard. Coach had a way of connecting with each swimmer, each student in his class, that was both rare and inspiring. He made me (us) want to excel so that he might notice us. He held us to higher standards than most of us were accustomed to at that (high school) point in our lives. He called us men and women, not boys and girls. He gave us respect, and encouraged us to earn that respect. We all lifted our heads a bit higher due to his lessons, or due to experiencing and surviving, his workouts. He encouraged me to be the best ME that I could: not to compare myself to others, but to challenge myself to be better, to do better, both as a swimmer and as a man.

After I graduated, I returned year after year to swim with him. I know now what a wonderful compliment that is, to return to him, post-graduation, to spend time with him, and share memories. When I first arrived in Columbia, I was a bit lonely. I was in 10th grade, but didn't really know anyone (the Ragsdells arrived at the same time, but we didn't KNOW each other), but Coach opened his life to me. We watched some New Year's Football together at his apartment on Demaret at Lake of the Woods. Went to a few midnight movies at the old Missouri theater. The best times were later, sharing a coffee at Lakota. I'd send a yearly birthday email to him, and update him on my life.

As a swim coach and now professor later in life, I find myself passing along many of the lessons that I learned from him. I'll also tell stories in the fashion that he did; humorous, yet educational. Other teachers at my university wonder why so many graduates return to talk with me (and have a cup of tea or coffee). Every time it happens, I think of Coach, and how HE inspired so many to return to pay their respects to him, the one that helped us grow into upstanding contributing members of society.

I owe so much of the person I am today to the lessons that I learned from him. So many wonderful memories. Early morning workouts, with Bo jumping in the water when someone did a flip turn. Linda

coming in to help with practices, to put us through our ab exercises (still do those). Then Bo getting older, and needing help to get in/out of the back of Coach's truck. The banquets. Meeting at Nowell's. We were actually in the Nowell's parking lot about to head to a swim meet in St Louis when we heard that the space shuttle crashed.

He helped us through difficult times and through happy times. He taught us all to hold our heads high, and to respect not only each other, but ourselves as well.

We are all better people for having encountered Coach. The world is a bit darker today.

We'll all miss him, but I (we) still think of him all the time (every graduate that comes back to visit). He's with Bo again now.

We love you Coach. Have fun up there.

Hudson Murrell - July 01, 2020 at 10:27 PM

ZH

“ *Coach Hamilton was a great teacher and a very inspiring guy to be around. I had a lot of fun conversations with him in my time at Jeff Jr. His students and players always felt better after a little time with Coach Hamilton. RIP Coach. My condolences to the family.*

Zach Holden - July 01, 2020 at 05:08 PM

RW

“ Sharing in sadness for the loss of Coach Hamilton, a great man who profoundly touched so many young lives. For me he was a patient teacher, caring mentor, motivating presence, purveyor of integrity, unrivaled coach and father figure. He left an indelible mark on Columbia High School Swimming for countless young people. He will be sorely missed.



Ross Wade - July 01, 2020 at 02:20 PM

LD

Wonderful tribute Bro! Coach had a huge impact on all of us Wades! May he Rest In Peace knowing that his powerful legacy lives on through us!

Lynn Wade Dotson - July 01, 2020 at 10:43 PM

JT

Linda I am so sorry for your loss. I enjoyed working with John. He always so kind to me. I will always remember him as being a very kind, big hearted guy. May he Rest In Peace.

Jackie Thiemann - July 02, 2020 at 12:17 PM



Linda- I was just told about Coach's passing. I am so sorry for your loss. Coach was an extraordinary swim coach. I valued him so very much. Even when I quit the team my Sr. Year at Hickman due to issues I was going through, he might not have approved, but was understanding. He was concerned about the welfare of ALL of his kids he coached. I am just sorry I didn't stay in touch. Love and Prayers Linda.

Don Steiner-LaRoue - July 02, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ Coach will be dearly missed by those of us who had the good fortune to swim on his team. He expected our best, and he got it. He led us to a state championship in '95, and today I am still so proud to have been apart of that team. As an adult I realize how lucky we were to have a coach that held us to high standards, respected us, and encouraged us. He had the patient of a saint. I'm not sure how remained calm while coaching a team of 50-60 teenage girls. He made the world a little brighter.

Molly Critchlow Liberto - July 01, 2020 at 02:07 PM



“ Coach Hamilton helped me grow. Like most growth it was at times painful. My actions as a young man put him in tough spot. He did the right thing. At the time it really sucked! As time went on I started to understand how hard Tough Love can be. I started to realize it was the best thing he could have done for me at the time. Today I am very grateful that he had the character to do the right thing. Thanks for everything Coach and rest in peace.
Aaro

Aaro Froese - July 01, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ Coach Hamilton was a good man. A carrying man and what I always admired about him was he wanted the best for his swimmers, no matter what their ability was. He pushed and challenged all of us to be a better version of ourselves and for that I am forever thankful.

Linda, I am so sorry for your loss.

Chris Bess

Chris - July 01, 2020 at 12:51 PM

JC

“ *John Hamilton was an incredible coach. I only swam one year at Hickman, but Coach Hamilton welcomed me and a couple other cross country runners to the swim team. His ability to get the most competitive swimmers to peak at the right time while still inspiring lesser swimmers to work our hardest stands out to me.*

Later, I was able to work with John as a colleague at Jeff Junior. He and Linda were always great resources when things were not going as well as I hoped. Rest in peace coach!

John Clowe

John Clowe - July 01, 2020 at 11:55 AM

CM

“ I suspect that many of the memories and notes that will be left here can be summarized by the following: "I don't know where I'd be in life without Coach." This is also true for me. I first met Coach as a five-year-old when he was coaching for Columbia Swim Club. As the youngest swimmer on CSC (by far) at the time, I'm sure he wondered how to coach a young child barely in control of her motor skills next to high school and college swimmers. But he included me. He encouraged the older swimmers to take me under their wings. He helped make the pool my home. Later on, Coach helped revive my love of swimming in high school. He encouraged team camaraderie above all else and helped me form lifelong friends. Swimming with Coach was the highlight of my final two years of high school, and I am so grateful to him for it. He helped me see the good and beauty where, as a natural pessimist, I fail to see it. He made me believe in myself when I otherwise could not. He was a true gift, and I will miss him immensely. "May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

My dearest Linda, sending you the biggest hugs. You are inextricably linked to every memory I have of Coach. You too are such a profoundly important part of my youth; I am so grateful to you. Thank you for always bringing light to every room and sharing your passion and vivacity with the world. "Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again, and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." -John 16:22.

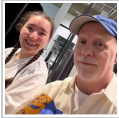


Corey Lynn Murphey - July 01, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ I have so many fond memories of this man I don't even know where to start. As a little boy in club swimming I used to dream of the day I would swim for Coach and for Hickman. I looked up to all the high school guys from an early age. When I made to high school Coach and I formed a tight bond and it would soon carry over to club swimming when he became the Head Coach for Columbia Swim Club. It's not only what he gave us as athletes, but as people, the life lessons that I will always remember. Thank you Coach, you will never be forgotten. RIP

Ty Hubbard - July 01, 2020 at 11:23 AM



Yup.

Hudson Murrell - July 02, 2020 at 07:47 PM

CW

“ When Jeff Junior desperately needed a football coach, John the swimming coach volunteered. His football teams were winless but every student he coached was a winner. John did not know football but he knew young athletes. When I finally found a football coach, John told me, half seriously, if he had one more year he thought he could win a game. John's eternal optimism was a gift to his students. I will remember him. Dr. Roy Willard

Charles Willard - June 30, 2020 at 05:25 PM

DK

“ Dr. Roy Willard & Dr. Nyle Klinginsmith purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of John Hamilton.



Dr. Roy Willard & Dr. Nyle Klinginsmith - June 30, 2020 at 05:20 PM