



Greenleaf Friends Academy

Special Edition

CLAW MARK

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School coach's life and death has profound impact on many lives

Watching and playing basketball was a love of Mantia Callender's life. On the same Twin Falls court in which Mantia played, Mantia watched Marck, adopted son, play a game. It was there he suffered a brain aneurysm.

Callender played college basketball at the College of Southern Idaho and Middle Tennessee State University. He went on to play professional basketball in Europe for several years becoming a leading re-

bounder before his final year in England.

During his days of playing basketball he married Rebecca Carrillo. Rebecca remembers, "His CSI roommate introduced us because Mantia was homesick and needed a friend." They were married for 15 years. They adopted Marck, 20, and then had



Fleeta Mantia Callender
July 14, 1973-
November 22, 2011

two daughters (Jalen, 10, Tamar, 5).

Since living in Wilder, Idaho, Callender has continued in his love of basketball by first coaching JV boys at Wilder and then for the last two years coaching the Greenleaf

Friends Academy varsity boys. His first year's season was a growing year where

the team winning 12 games and losing 10. Last year the team improved to placing second in conference and fourth in district with 15 wins and 8 losses.

This year's GFA basketball team began Callender's rigorous team conditioning and practicing. However, Callender will also be absent from the Caldwell Freshman Academy where he taught business course.

Callender was born in England where many of his extended family resides.

Student's thoughts about Mantia Callender

"One memory that I have of coach is when he called me at my house to encourage me. I was going through a rough patch in basketball. He told me that the previous year I was an ugly caterpillar still in my cocoon. But now I was a beautiful butterfly and I was flying through the air. He made me laugh," Brandon Fisk.

"I always had a good time with him in practice...And he could get scary when he got mad. But I always had a good time talking to coach," Josh Kelly.

"I remember when we were playing Cascade and

down at half. Coach was furious! He started pounding on the white board and he hit it so hard that we could hear the room on the other side of the wall breaking apart. We came



back and won the game," Nate Pool.

"Coach always said, 'It's not how you start; it's how you finish.' This has been my motto ever since." Dave Larson.

Memorial Fund Donations

An account has been started for the daughters of Mantia Callender, Jalen and Tamar. The funds will be set aside for the girl's future college education.

Donations can be made for this fund directly to



Bank of the Cascades. You may mail the donation in to the attention of the Callender family account or walk it in person to the bank.

The bank address is:
1110 Blain St.
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Basketball Quotes on Mantia

"Callender has a great jump hook and often scores through contact on stick backs."—Walters Tiger Tuebingen, Germany

From Mantia

"I am someone who has been given so much from this game. It has taught me lessons on the court but also how to handle life lessons off the court. Basketball is beautiful to watch. It helps our youth to handle adversity and face their fears—to be responsible, accountable."

One of the Greats

(a tribute to Mantia Callender)

By Sheree Armstrong

When the gym is vacant,
Silent, complacent
The walls whisper the names of the greats.

The stories of old and gaining the gold,
Made men out of tots, brave and bold,
Though most of these men have gone to their fates.

Yet when the word great is used or is said,
Only the players you hold is your head,
And you don't try to think past the teammates.

I implore you, look farther ahead
There are more than the players akin to the dead,
That man on the sidelines who watches and waits.

I speak of the coach, the teacher of babes
Who exists after many have gone to their graves
Because this man is known as one of the greats.

He trains them to run and work like slaves,
Instructs them in stamina, and energy saves
And wins every match regardless of dates.

This man is a hero in every sense,
A man of God whose sin he repents,
And St. Peter welcomes him right through the gates.

When the gym is vacant,
Silent, complacent,
The walls whisper the names of the greats.

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