



# Jack Eaton

MAR 14, 1929 - FEB 3, 2016



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## Jack Eaton

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Jack Eaton, longtime sports director and sports anchor for WMC-TV Channel 5 and play-by-play announcer for University of Memphis basketball and football for many years, died Wednesday. He was 86. Mr. Eaton, born in Warren, Pa., was known for his unabashed partisanship for the Tigers, his unabashed hatred of Louisville, and his exclamations of “Great Scott” and “Great Caesar’s Ghost” during the Tiger broadcasts. He was also recognized for his short, sports-themed poems, many of which he read on the air. His love for poetry led to the publication of 100 of his poems in 2008 in a book titled: “Great Scott, I Rhyme a Lot.” Mr. Eaton began his broadcasting career in 1954 in Columbus, Ga., and moved to Memphis in 1956. He served as sports director and anchor at Channel 5 until his retirement in 1991. He called Memphis Tigers basketball from 1959-87 and added football from 1964-86. Mr. Eaton also handled play-by-play of local high school football games and Memphis Chicks pro baseball games in the late 1950s. In 1959, he handled the first Memphis television broadcast of professional wrestling, which would become a Saturday morning staple at the station. In February 2011, Mr. Eaton was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame along with, among others, former University of Tennessee football coach Bill Battle. The family will receive friends on Saturday, February 6 from 9:30-11:00 at Christ the King on 5296 Park, Mphs, TN with the service to follow at 11:00. All services will be held at Christ the King. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38119. “Celebrating Life... Behind the Stone Wall” The service will be live webcasted. Please use link below <http://www.ctkmemphis.com/live-video-streaming>



## Tribute Wall

**Jack Eaton**

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SH

**Shekinah** posted:

My deepest condolences to Mrs. (Erma) Eaton, Lisa & Dave, and Todd & family. I live in Michigan, and just discovered this news of Jack's passing as i was trying to track down his daughter Lisa. As Lisa's jr. high pal, I have great memories of hanging with the family, including the times Jack would let us girls tag along with him, to the tv station and watch him give his nightly broadcast live on the air. Time passed, and we girls maintained our friendship, became young women ,,and brides. I was so pleased and proud when the Eatons were able to attend my little wedding at the MSU Episcopal chapel. And watching the recording just now of Jack's Memorial Service at the family's Lutheran church, I remember how proudly he walked Lisa down that same aisle. Yes, family, faith, friendship, fun & kindness were at the core of this memorable man, and all that he contributed to an entire community- as he inspired sports fans, and enriched life as we all knew it in Memphis. - Shekinah Errington [Carol Orwick (Gregg)]

August 25 at 8:39 AM

DO

**Donna** posted:

Todd and family I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you during this time. Todd you had a wonderful dad and he will missed by all. Todd if you see this and are on Facebook look me up. Love and Prayers Always, Donna Gregory Bricco aka... DG

February 12 at 10:41 AM

BE

**Betty Baldrige Edgar** posted:

I lived on the same street as Jack Eaton as a child. Mr Eaton was a very tall man. I can still remember him getting into his car. He drove a volkswagen beetle. I still to this day was amazed at how he managed to fit into the car. I can see it just like it was yesterday. I was very good friends with Lisa, his daughter as we played together. I am very saddened to hear of Mr Eaton's passing and would like to express my condolences to the family. Lisa, if you are reading this... I am on facebook. I would love to hear from you. Betty Baldrige Edgar.

February 8 at 9:01 AM

KB

**Kathy B** posted:

Todd and Family, I am saddened by your dad's passing, I know how you feel. Your dad was always so nice to me at half time of the MSU basketball games when my dad would have me run the "stats" to him and cousin George. He was usually trying to cram a hot dog down at the break. What a great smile he had. Prayers and thoughts go out to you all. Kathy Bugbee

February 6 at 6:54 AM



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CL

**Charlotte Lancaster** posted:

He was the best. Our prayers are with you Todd and your Mom. David, Charlorre, and Clay Lancaster.

February 5 at 10:57 AM

AB

**Ann Bugbee** posted:

One of our best memories was on a basketball trip to New Orleans and my Jack and yours were at Gallatore's for a fine meal. After looking over the menu very carefully Jack (Eaton) spoke up "Great Scott, I want a cheeseburger and a coke." The dignified waiter smiled and went to check with the chef. We will all miss his wonderful way with people. You had one of the "good guys." Ann Bugbee

February 5 at 4:58 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Jack by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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