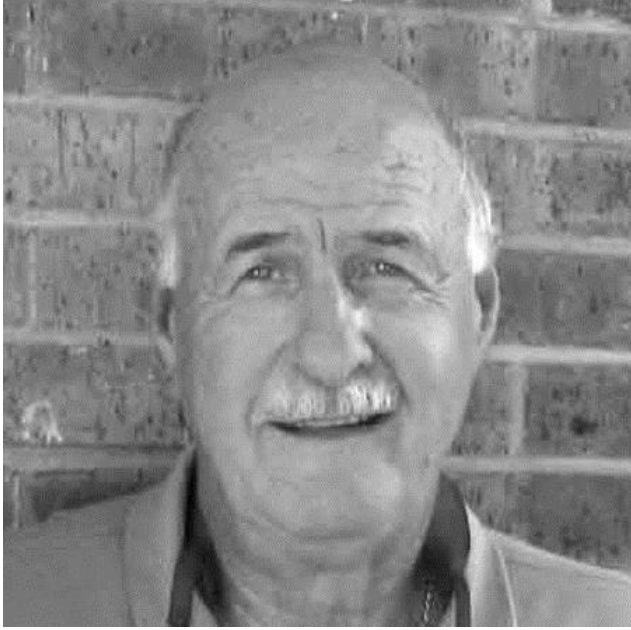


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**SAMUEL RALPH KNISLEY Jr.**

KNISLEY, JR.,  
SAMUEL RALPH, 78

Ocala - Samuel Ralph Knisley, Jr. (aka 'Dokie' to his family), 78, of Ocala, FL, died suddenly April 18, 2016 at his home in Ocala Palms. Born in Baltimore, MD, July 19, 1937 to Samuel and Elva (Souder) Knisley, Sam grew up in Savage, MD, graduated from Howard High School in 1955, and earned a B.S degree on an athletic scholarship from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He played pro baseball for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1960 and pro basketball for the Baltimore Bullets in the eastern basketball league in 1961.

As associate professor of wellness, Sam taught and coached at Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville (CCBC) for 36 years (1966-2002). During that time he was a tremendously successful basketball and tennis coach for both the men's and women's teams. He also founded and coached the CCBC Catonsville wrestling program 1966-67. He completed coursework toward an M.S. degree at the University of Maryland. Sam was inducted into the CCBC Athletics Hall of Fame in 2013 and had previously been inducted into Howard High School's Athletics Hall of

Fame. As a coach, he mentored hundreds of young men and women in the Baltimore area, many of whom kept in contact with him.

In 2002, Sam married Marilyn (Hewitt) Knisley and retired to Ocala, FL. He soon returned to work as a school bus driver for Marion County and retired again in 2009 to enjoy tennis and golf with his family and many friends.

Sam was preceded in death by his son, Samuel Ralph Knisley, III.

He leaves to cherish his memories his devoted wife, Marilyn; her children, Alan (DeAnn) Sullivan of Destrehan, LA, Sean Sullivan of Portland, OR; her grandchildren, Laura, Paul, Patrick and Hewitt Sullivan; his brother, John (Joe) Knisley; sister, Catherine (Kitty) Engel both of Sparta, TN; children, Robin Hollifield of Dallas, GA and Kevin Knisley of Charlotte, NC; stepdaughters, Cheryl (Jon) Sinnott of El Paso, TX, and Kelly Palicki of Tahoe City, CA, five grandchildren; four great grandchildren; aunts; uncles; cousins; teaching colleagues; friends; and last but not least his beloved toy poodle, Phoebe.

Memorial donations may be made to The First Tee of Greater Ocala, 3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470, phone 352-362-2258, [www.thefirstteegreaterocala.org](http://www.thefirstteegreaterocala.org), or The First Tee of Greater Baltimore, 303 International Circle, Suite T119, Hunt Valley, MD 21030, phone 410-218-4616, [www.thefirstteebaltimore.org](http://www.thefirstteebaltimore.org).

Condolences may be sent to Marilyn Knisley, 5097 NW 19th Place, Ocala, FL. 34482. The family sincerely appreciates the many expressions of kindness and sympathy. At his request, Sam was cremated and no services are scheduled at this time.

'I was very fortunate to be paid for what I loved to do.'

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