



## Donald Steven "Steve" Cole

April 27, 1943 - August 21, 2025

Donald Steven "Steve" Cole, 82, affectionately known as "Coach Cole," passed away surrounded by love on August 21, 2025. Born April 27, 1943, in Toledo, he was the fifth of six children of the late Amy (McClure) and Elwin Cole. He was preceded in death by brothers Emerson, Emmit, and Isaac Stanley, and sister Gloria. He is survived by his sister Brenda Cole.

A 1962 Jesup W. Scott High graduate, ("Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog") Steve distinguished himself in football, basketball, track, and as a standout pole vaulter. He stood among the thousands at the 1963 March on Washington to hear Dr. King's dream and, just four years later, welcomed him to Scott High School—moments that forever shaped his spirit and purpose. Soon after, Steve answered the call to serve, spending two years in the U.S. Army before being honorably discharged as a Specialist E-5.

He went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Toledo and devoted his career to Toledo Public Schools, especially Scott High, where he coached tennis and basketball to championships, earning "Coach of the Year" honors and induction into the Ohio High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

He often reminded others of his mother's words: "People can't smell flowers after they're gone." That wisdom guided his life, urging him to give, love, and encourage while he was here. Whether at The Classic or The Grenadier Club, over pool, chess, backgammon, or with simple laughter, Steve lifted people up with his warmth, humor, and Bulldog pride.

He also chronicled community and family history through DSC Video Unlimited and was active in Alpha Phi Alpha: Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter, Prince Hall Masonry, and the Scott Alumni Association. His greatest joy was his family—daughters Kecia Cole of Brooklyn, New York, Aimée Laramore (Aaron) of Fishers, Indiana, and Melanie Harris of Baltimore, Maryland, his beloved grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Known for his motto "Do It Now," he leaves a legacy of kindness, encouragement, and Bulldog pride that will never be forgotten.



# Cemetery Details

**Forest Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

SEP 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Dale-Riggs Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
572 Nebraska Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43604  
(419) 248-4254  
info@dalefh.com

### Funeral Service

SEP 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

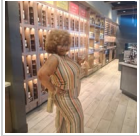
Dale-Riggs Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
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info@dalefh.com

# Tribute Wall

MQ

“ *My condolences sending prayers to your family. You will be miss God bless*

**Marcia Quinn** - September 04, 2025 at 11:39 PM



“ *Coaches coaches one of the best Tennis coaches I had.I remember when I first started playing Tennis.He called me by my last name which is mcneal and told me you too cute to play tennis with all those rings on when you get done being cute call me I took them off that second and he shaped me to be the best and I won a mvp award the 2nd year playing I will never forget coach Cole my he rest in peace*

**Zakiya Mcneal** - September 02, 2025 at 09:24 AM

ED

“ *Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Steve Cole. May God continue to strengthen and comfort you during this difficult time.*

*Eddie & Barbara Stodghill*

**Eddie** - September 01, 2025 at 11:15 PM

ND

“ *Natalie and Todd DeBoe purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donald Steven "Steve" Cole.*



**Natalie and Todd DeBoe** - August 30, 2025 at 03:57 PM

AH

“ 🙏 *Sending my deepest condolence and sympathy to the family and friends he will be truly miss 🕊️🕊️🕊️*



Alice Hood - August 29, 2025 at 05:52 AM

JJ

“ *BIGGEST HUGS and Condolences to all that knew and loved (Uncle) Steve. He will be well remembered and thought of. My receive plaque, “Do it now” has just again reminded me of its importance. May the journey that we all continue to travel, have its greatest memories to sustain us until we meet again. God Bless*



Jeanine Jones - August 28, 2025 at 04:46 PM

DG

“ *Steve's presence among us will be greatly missed. His long-time commitment through teaching, coaching and assisting students, families and community is greatly appreciated and will be long remembered in the future. His quiet, firm and consistent manner was only excelled by his gentle smile and caring concern for others, especially youth. May his soul and spirit now have eternal peace. Yes, indeed, once a bulldog, always a bulldog. Doris Scott Greer*



Doris Greer - August 28, 2025 at 01:20 PM

CS

*My sincere condolences to Steve's family. May God continue to bless you and give you strength during this most difficult time 🙏🙏  
ONCE A BULLDOG ALWAYS A BULLDOG!!! C/O '62*

**Carmen (Hawkins) Sanders** - August 29, 2025 at 05:20 PM

GJ

“ *May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord  
Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones & Family*



**Gwendolyn E.March Jones** - August 28, 2025 at 10:12 AM

CS

*My sincere condolences to Steve's family, he was always a nice guy in school. May God continue to bless you and give you strength during this most difficult time 🙏🙏🙏  
ONCE A BULLDOG ALWAYS A BULLDOG!!! C/O '62*

**Carmen (Hawkins) Sanders** - August 29, 2025 at 05:15 PM