

Hugh Black

July 4, 1947 - February 6, 2026

Dr. Daniel Hugh Black, 78 of Arab passed away Friday, February 6, 2026, at his residence. He was born July 4, 1947, in Arab the son of Lehmon Ray Black and Lillian Geneve Divine Black.

After graduating from Arab High School in 1965, he attended the University of Alabama, where he earned his bachelor's degree in history. Demonstrating a strong commitment to furthering his education, he went on to pursue and complete his master's and his sixth-year certificate in history and social studies from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville. Continuing his academic journey, he ultimately achieved the highest level of scholarship by earning his PhD from Vanderbilt University. He then went on to receive a second master's degree from Saint John's University in philosophy. After nearly 30 years of teaching at Grissom High School, he retired from the Huntsville City School system. He later taught as a professor at A&M University, Calhoun College, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

After his retirement in 1998 he began working alongside his father at the family business, Black's Furniture. After the passing of his father in 2002 the family continued the business until its closure in 2012. The following year, he was instrumental in converting the store into Black's Old and New Mall. He continued to work in daily operations until his health started to decline.

He is survived by his sister: Joan King; niece: Tanya King; nephew: Brad King; great nieces and nephews: Peyton Hill, Brodie Hill, Brooklyn Hill and Olivia King; aunt: Linda Lou Glenn and an uncle: John Black; host of cousins, other relatives and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law: Tommy King; niece: Ashleigh King and a special friend: Emily Quillen.

Funeral Service was 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Gober Funeral Chapel with Bo Shedd officiating and eulogy by Raymond Burke and John Black. The burial was in Arab Memorial Cemetery, Gober Funeral Chapel directing.

Visitation was 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Thursday at Gober Funeral Chapel

Pallbearers: Brad King, Chris Ponder, Trevor Mitchell, Clay Mitchell, Judson Stewart and Craig Dunn.

Cemetery Details

Arab Memorial Cemetery

450 South Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 12. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Gober Funeral Chapel
1331 Guntersville Road
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-8111
goberfuneralhome@otelco.net

Funeral Service

FEB 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

Gober Funeral Chapel
1331 Guntersville Road
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Tribute Wall

AW

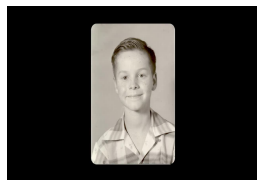
“ I feel fortunate to have had so MANY wonderful teachers growing up in S Huntsville. Dr. Black stood out by asking questions, listening, and pushing student’s “buttons.” At the time I thought it was very harsh yet entertaining. He certainly couldn’t teach the same way in 2026, but it was a very effective/engaging classroom. Blacks’s class changed the way I think, how I define and process my beliefs and (more importantly?) the beliefs of others. My narrow view of the world changed to a pretty big lens after that class. We were in our little homogenous Huntsville bubble thinking we were smart and grown up, we had no idea what the real world held for us ;-) He pushed our beliefs, made us define and defend our thoughts. It was great preparation for the varied and crazy world we encountered post graduation.

I will never forget how ANGRY I was after he told the story about Nazis marching in Skokie Illinois where many Jews lived. I think I was probably yelling and spitting during that “discussion.” It was a good lesson about the design of our Government and the importance of Constitutional Amendments. Hugh Black took us from personal beliefs and teenage indignation/anger to see the larger ideas, philosophy and logic behind US Government. He showed me imperfections in a very imperfect world. He taught me to think critically. Thank you Dr. Black.

April Richardson Wells - February 14 at 04:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gober Funeral Chapel - February 11 at 12:39 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear this. Dr. Black was a great man and an incredible teacher; I was his student in 1983 and never forgot the amazing class I had under him. You all are in our prayers.

Lynell Aycock - February 10 at 04:26 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Gober Funeral Chapel - February 10 at 04:24 PM

CS

“ So very sorry for your loss. Prayer

Carl and Peggy Brooks Saint - February 10 at 12:32 PM

JL

“ I am sorry to hear about this news. There are not many of us left from the AA and BB pods. I opened with Grissom in 1969 and he came a few years later. Many fond memories of our history trips and firearms activities. A man to remember. JIM LYNN

James Lynn - February 10 at 11:26 AM

AW

Yep, ya'll were a great team who did an excellent job for many lucky students.

April Richardson Wells - February 14 at 04:17 PM

JC

“*Dr. Black was an inspiring teacher at Grissom who first exposed me to civics and political philosophy and planted the idea of pursuing a doctoral degree. I still remember how he encouraged us to participate in competitions such as the Civics Bee. I likely would not have followed my current path to become a professor of modern European history without him. He really cared about his students and challenged us to think critically, something all the more needed in today's world. He will be sorely missed. May his memory be a blessing.*”

James Casteel - February 10 at 11:09 AM

FN

“*Dr. Black's way of inspiring critical thinking in his students is one of the reasons I went on to get my undergrad degree in philosophy, which also served me quite well through my technical career. I feel honored and lucky to have had him as a teacher. May he rest in peace.*”



Fritz Neumann - February 10 at 09:20 AM

SP

“ Dr. Black was one of my favorite teachers at Grissom. For years after I graduated i return just to visit him. One of the most profound realizations i ever had was in his Government class, and i never forgot it. To this day I tell people about the day he blew us all away on the first day of class with a simple historical observation that changed the way I saw the world and western civilization for the rest of my life. He laid a large part of the foundation of my understanding, and my respect for quality beer. The man was a true educator, and I am the better for having been in his class. Rest in peace, sir.

Steifon J. Passmore - February 09 at 09:23 PM

SS

“ Dr Black was my teacher in high school and then again at Calhoun for a class. He was a very dear man of great integrity and I cared very much for him in the time I knew him. I pray peace and comfort for his family that rest in the knowledge that Dr. Black left a huge footprint on so many lives. God be with you all!

Shy Slaton - February 09 at 04:46 PM

KD

“ Hugh was my 11 th grade American history teacher . he had a way of taking what kids of the 70's cared about and making it relevant in our American history. He told us our four fathers all had hemp farms ... he got our attention and we loved his history class . He had a sense of humor . I will never forget him telling ginger to move her desk a little closer to mine so she could cheat off my exam, and saying you need to get a good grade to pass ... ginger said thank you Mr. Black and bounced her desk closer to mine She got a good grade. Years later I ran into him and drank a beer with him ... he was saying he really missed teaching the kids of the 70's we were rebellious ,,like out American for fathers. he said the kids of the 90's were sheep . He was a great teacher and a wonderful person . He was one of my favorite teachers of all time. Our children today need a history teacher like him . you will be missed
Kathy Rand Devier

kathy rand devier - February 09 at 03:37 PM

AW

What a great memory. I have a big smile on my face (and tea in my eye) Thanks for sharing.

April Richardson Wells - February 14 at 04:19 PM

SJ

“ Dr. Black was an outstanding teacher - suoer smart and caring with a wicked sense of humor. We are so fortunate to have been under his tutelage (I feel he would approve this verbiage 😊) at Grissom back in the early '80s.

Sally Jacob - February 09 at 02:28 PM



I've been teaching political philosophy for 25 years because of his free-thinking inspiration. A blessing to know him.

Art Rush - February 09 at 10:22 PM

B6

“ Betty King Whisenant Class Of 65 lit a candle in memory of Hugh Black



Betty King Whisenant Class of 65 - February 09 at 01:31 PM

AS

“ Hugh Black was a gifted teacher who challenged his students to think critically and fostered deep engagement in U.S. government and civics. (Our nation would be far better off if every high school had a Dr. Black.) He inspired me to explore my positions on issues (like the death penalty) through crisp writing and sound debate. I hope he knew the lasting impact he left. Pax vobiscum.

Angie S. - February 09 at 01:28 PM

SH

“ I have known him all our lives! Went to school with him. I have many memories to numerous to mention! He will certainly be missed! Till we meet again! RIP. Our friend known to me as Danny Black! Love you! Sarah



Sarah Hazel - February 09 at 08:21 AM

JA

“ Hugh was a wonderful fellow teacher and friend who supported me at a critical time in my teaching career. He was a teacher of the highest caliber whose great influence on his students will live on. I am sorry to hear of his passing! My condolences to his family and friends. Jean Arndt

Jean Humphrey Arndt - February 08 at 09:51 PM