

The Mid-South Tribune Sports & Entertainment

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Head coach Charles Huff is named Bear Bryant National Coach of Week



Charles Huff

HOUSTON, August 31, 2026 – University of Memphis head coach Charles Huff has been named the Bear Bryant National Coach of the Week after leading the Tigers to a comeback victory over UNLV in his Memphis debut.

In his first game with the Tigers, Huff's squad came back from a 14-7 halftime deficit with explosive offensive plays through the air from Marcus Stokes to Stonka Burnside and on the ground with Jaylin Carter.

His Memphis defense, featuring

Huff became the first head coach in program history to win his debut game on the road with the Tigers win over RV/RV UNLV

a large constituent of Southern Miss transfers, took over in the second half, sacking UNLV quarterback Jackson Arnold six times throughout the game and helping Memphis outscore the Rebels 20-7 in the second half. In the win, defensive ends Elijah Kinsler and J'Mond Tapp anchored the defensive line with 2.5 and 1.0 sacks, respectively, with Tapp also being named the Shrine Bowl Defensive Player of the Week.

Huff became the first head coach in program history to win his debut game on the road with the Tigers' win over RV/RV UNLV.

BUY TICKETS NOW

Season tickets for the 2026 Memphis Football season can be purchased by visiting www.go-memphis.com

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The University of Memphis Athletics selects Sodexo Live! as new hospitality partner

MEMPHIS, Tenn., September 1, 2026– University of Memphis Athletics has selected Sodexo Live!, the premier hospitality partner to the world's most iconic sports, entertainment and cultural destinations, as its new food and beverage partner in a multi-year agreement that will elevate the fan experience at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium.

Launching alongside the completion of Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium's transformative \$226.5 million renovation, the partnership marks an exciting new chapter for Memphis Athletics and its fans. Together, Memphis Ath-

letics and Sodexo Live! will introduce an enhanced food and beverage program featuring locally inspired culinary offerings, new premium dining experiences and innovative hospitality concepts that celebrate the unique culture and spirit of Memphis, while ensuring there are high-quality, high-value options accessible to every Tiger fan.

"At Sodexo Live!, we know great hospitality is never one-size-fits-all. It should feel personal, local and true to the community," said Belinda Oakley, CEO of Sodexo Live!. "The University of Memphis is excited to partner with Sodexo Live! to provide our fans with an exceptional game-day experience."

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Memphis mourns loss of Hall of Famer and Pioneer Kippy Brown

See article on sports page 4

A Salute to Dolly Parton...see sports-Entertainment page 5

American-bred legend Dolly Parton supported America's military for over 50 years!



World-famous American icon Dolly Parton is shown here performing at 2016 The Hollywood Bowl in Hollywood, California. See statements from Lee Greenwood, Kid Rock, Don McLean, Oakridge Boys, Nancy Jones, and others in the music and entertainment industry on sports-Ent. page 5. (Photo by Jeremy Westby / 2911 MEDIA)

By Army Sgt. Katherine Devereaux, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve

August 31, 2026 - Dolly Parton, the singer-songwriter whose six-decade career made her one of country music's most recognizable voices, died Aug. 25 in Nashville, Tennessee. She was 80.

President Donald J. Trump directed American flags at all public buildings, military installations and U.S. territories to fly at half-staff in her memory through sunset tomorrow.

She never wore the uniform, but for more than 50 years, Parton found ways to reach those who

did.

In the early 1960s, a teenage Parton fell for a young Nashville man serving in the Army National Guard. Carl Dean completed his service, and in 1966, the couple wed, beginning a marriage that lasted nearly 60 years.

In the 1970s, a syndicated radio program called "Country Cookin' with Lee Arnold" carried a single line before every broadcast: "Presented by the United States Army Reserve."

Surviving recordings list Parton among the featured country artists.

In 1991, weeks after soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, returned from Op-

eration Desert Storm, Parton drew cheers and chants after climbing onto the shoulders of an Army major near a pair of M1 tanks. "I've got an all-American heart," she told Vanity Fair, the magazine covering the visit.

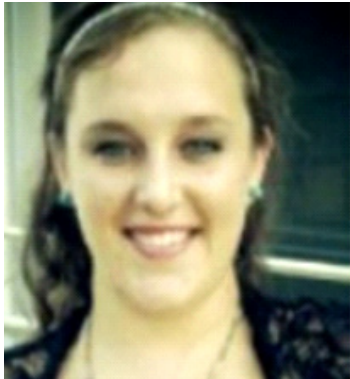
On Veterans Day 2003, Parton released "For God and Country," an album pairing patriotic standards with original songs, among them "Welcome Home," written for a parent waiting on a son deployed overseas. "We can't give them enough praise and honor and thanks," Parton said of veterans, service members and military family members.

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Meet some of BIHMST Sports Correspondents



William M. Larsha, Jr.



Ashley Braun Gendek

BIHMST Travelers, join correspondents William M. Larsha, Jr. and Ashley Braun Gendek in their sports coverage of The University of Memphis Tigers, Memphis Grizzlies, TN Titans, Southern Heritage Classic, and more!



Johnson & Garrett Win Bass-master Randy Moss Pro-Football Hall of Fame Pro-Am... see sports page 3

SAF Celebrates 52 Years of Advocacy for 2nd Amendment... see sports-Military 2

Memphis Safe Task Force August Report... see sports-Military 2

U.S. Marshal Tyreece Miller in Virtual Meeting on Sept. 23... see sports-Military 3

Grizzlies Announce Multi-Year Contract with Campbell Clinic...see sports page 3

Nashville Predators & View-Lift Launch Streaming Platform... see sports page 4

Tapp Gets Defensive Player of Week... see sports page 6



UP NEXT

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

6:00 PM CT

SIMMONS BANK LIBERTY STADIUM
901 GAME

MEMPHIS FOOTBALL

