December 14, 2015

Dr. Kenneth Varner Superintendent Brewton City Schools

Dear Dr. Varner,

Please accept this as my letter of resignation as physical education teacher, head football coach and athletic director at T.R. Miller High School. It is my intent to retire effective April 1, 2016.

I will work hard to ensure that this time of transition in our athletic program is as smooth as it can possibly be. Even after my retirement, I will always be available to help T.R. Miller High School in any way that I can. I hope that you, Mrs. Bell and our coaching staff will feel free to call on me at anytime.

During my 27 years at T.R. Miller I have been fortunate to work with administrators and faculty members who have understood the importance that athletics, and particularly football, can play in the lives of our students. The community of Brewton and members of the T.R. Miller Quarterback Club have shown tremendous support to our teams over the years.

The assistant coaches who have worked on my staff during these many years have been an inspiration to me. They loved our players and worked tirelessly on a year round basis to give them the tools they needed to be successful. They made a difference in the lives of many young men during my tenure here. The success that we all achieved was a direct result of their work ethic and dedication to the T.R. Miller Tigers.

Football is about relationships and I have been blessed to be able to work with some of the finest young men that our community has produced for over a quarter of a century. They represented our school with toughness, courage and sportsmanship. T.R. Miller has always played with a special spirit that existed here long before I arrived. It has always allowed us to put the team first and helped sustain us during the tough times that all squads experience. It is the uncommon spirit of the T.R. Miller players that kept me here for 27 seasons.

A football coach cannot be successful without a supportive family that allows him to spend many hours away from home. Coaching is a lifestyle that my wife Becky and my children Mikel and Wil embraced with enthusiasm, even though it required sacrifice. My parents and my sister Sherry were always supportive of me as well. I spent most of my career trying to teach my players the lessons that my parents provided for me as I grew up.

As a graduate of T.R. Miller, this was always more than just a job to me. I had great training from my high school coaches. Coach Mack Wood taught me that football was a tough game that was meant to be played by tough people. In 1972, I played for Coach Larry Rampey. Coach Rampey showed me the importance of building confidence in players through hard work and preparation. My senior year I got the opportunity to play for Coach Frank Cotten. He was a great motivator, and he taught me the importance of inspiring players to be their best. Early in my coaching career, I was hired by Larry Mickwee, one of our assistant coaches during my playing days at Miller. Coach Mickwee taught me about positive attitude and how to organize practices. In 1983, Mike Sasser hired me as an assistant coach at T.R. Miller. From Coach Sasser I learned the importance of having composure during games, and to conduct myself with class both on and off the field. The success that our teams had at Miller during my tenure was a direct result of the training I received from the Miller coaches that had come before me.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Dale Garner, our superintendent who hired me in 1989. My first head coaching stint was not overly successful, but he believed I was the one who needed to be the coach of the Tigers, and hired me anyway. I would also like to thank our manager emeritus, Andrew Johnson, for his many years of help and support. He is possibly the only person I know that loves T.R. Miller more than I do.

The name *T.R. Miller* is synonymous with excellence in our state. Although some may look at this legacy as a burden, our school and our teams have always embraced it with a courage that is very uncommon for young people today. May it always be that way!

If I could live my life over again, and do anything I wanted to do, and go anywhere I want to go, I would be a high school football coach all over again. And you better know, I would be a T.R. Miller Tiger!

Sincerely

Jamie Riggs