



Mr. Gary Durward Denley

November 5, 1952 - January 23, 2021

It is with shattered hearts we announce that Gary Durward Denley (G), age 68, passed away January 23, 2021, in Birmingham, AL. He was born November 5, 1952, in Millington, TN.

He is preceded in death by his parents Oonna (Ma) and Durward (Pa) Denley, and recently his 16-year-old beloved Siamese cat, Kahn.

He is survived by wife, Lisa Renea; sons, Duane Denley (Courtney) and Dakota Rogers (Felicia); daughters, Dana Denley and Melissa Alexander (Stacy); seven grandchildren; baby sister, Ellen Bingham (Dennis); "other" brother, Randy Denley (Kathy); favorite aunts, Ida Mae Jones and Shirley Jones; nephews, Ryan Denley (Bree), Chris Denley, Jon Bingham (Allison), and Corey Bingham (Whitney). He also leaves behind a host of friends dating back to high school and Navy days, as well as his highway-rescued cat, BG. Gary always said he wanted to write his own obituary because no one would get it right. As you will read, he lived, loved, and experienced life for all it had to offer. Our words will never be able to capture his true essence or the impact he had on each one of our lives.

Gary served in the United States Navy and full-time Tennessee Army National Guard- he often recounted tales of his adventures on ships, submarines, and tanks.

He continually had a passion to learn new things. He earned his bachelor's degree and various technical certifications throughout his education while attending JSCC, Ole Miss, UT Martin, and Fleming Training Center.

He enjoyed many occupations over the years including working as a paperboy, police officer, deputy sheriff, truck driver, and field service representative for a data processing company. In 2003, he discovered his niche for water treatment. He obtained his Grade IV water treatment license and held positions in Lexington, TN, Alabaster, AL, Upton County, GA and lastly, Calera, AL. He truly enjoyed the work and the friends who became family. To quote a colleague of Gary's, "His great attitude and optimism was contagious. We always said 'if you're having a bad day, call Gary!'"

Gary was a self-taught guitarist, traveling everywhere with at least two guitars! He and his wife bonded and fell in love over music, later marrying at Graceland in Memphis, TN. Over the past two decades, he started every day with her by saying "let's go have fun!"

He often enjoyed the simple pleasures in life: picnics, books, movies, museums, sporting events, and live concerts. He loved talking about history and space events- often sharing and reciting facts in such detail, you felt he had experienced these events firsthand.

He was a believer of Jesus. He believed in and was grateful for love- never missing a day of letting you know he loved you. At all times, he was thoughtful, asking how you were or how your day went. He was always full of happiness and laughter, often having a joke or a story that would cause you to fall to your knees laughing. He was a selfless individual who never put himself first. To Gary, no one was a stranger, they were a friend he hadn't yet met.

Through his support and unconditional love, Gary made us better people. Forever in our hearts, always our Superman.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Frances H. Hensley Animal Shelter.

Tribute Wall



“ Pafford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Gary Durward Denley



Pafford Funeral Home - February 02, 2021 at 04:30 PM

LM

Tremendous loss of a genuinely great man. Rest In Peace, sir. We will take it from here.

Lynn Mace - February 05, 2021 at 01:02 PM

EM

“ Gary and I met as water treatment associates in Birmingham. Although both are admittedly chemistry geeks, we had more fun talking music, football, pets, and family. I pulled for Ole Miss for him and I suspect he pulled for Bama for us locals (no one from TN does otherwise haha).

I never met most of his relatives, but I can tell you all he was very proud of his family -- from kids to grandkids down to his four legged children. Here was a man who spread happiness and oozed contentment every time we visited. Not much more needs to be said than that. RIP my friend.

Eric McGee - February 05, 2021 at 06:21 PM

RH

“ *RICKY D HENRY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary Durward Denley*



RICKY D HENRY - February 05, 2021 at 02:48 PM

EA

“ *Eddie Akins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary Durward Denley*



Eddie Akins - February 04, 2021 at 01:11 AM

PW

“ *Paula Wisinski lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary Durward Denley*



Paula Wisinski - February 03, 2021 at 09:55 AM

TT

“ *Tammy Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary Durward Denley*



Tammy Thomas - February 02, 2021 at 09:06 PM

PC

“ *Ricky & Phyllis Clayton*



Phyllis Clayton - February 02, 2021 at 06:06 PM

KW

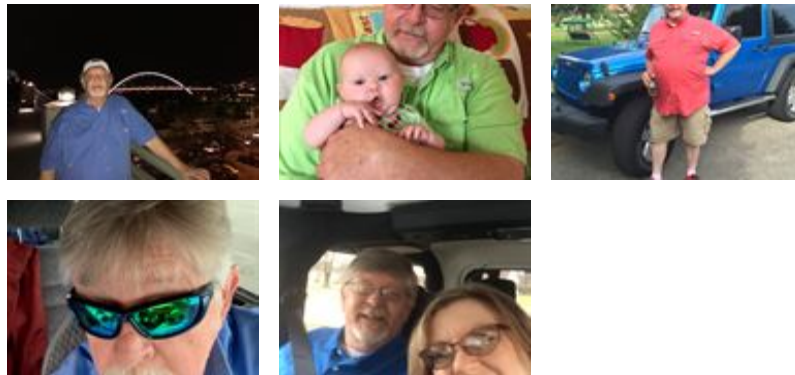
“ *Prayers for peace and comfort for the days ahead. May God wrap his arms around all the family*❤️



karen Weatherford - February 02, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ *125 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Pafford Funeral Home - February 02, 2021 at 04:31 PM

SM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss, I only knew him a short time but he really left an impression on me. God Bless to all of you and we will keep you in our prayers.*

Shirley Martin - February 02, 2021 at 04:22 PM

RS

“ *Rhonda Sanders sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Gary Durward Denley*



Rhonda Sanders - February 02, 2021 at 01:52 PM