



Gary Edward Ackerson

October 18, 1943 - April 4, 2016

Gary Ackerson, aged 72, passed away on Sunday, April 3, in Georgia. Memorial Services will be held, Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Concord United Methodist Church, with Rev. Karon Compton Officiating. The family will receive friends following the service.

Survived by his sons Roger , his grand-daughter, siblings Patricia, Geraldine, Ann, and Jeffrey, brother-in-laws Ed and Jimmy, sisters-in-law Jane and Lynda, several nieces, nephews and cousins, and his dear friends CJ and Angela. He will be reunited in heaven with his soulmate Carol, his brother Kevin, and his parents Gerald and Frances.

Gary was born in Glens Falls, NY and spent his youth in Middletown, NY. He enlisted in the Navy in 1961 which led him to the love of his life, Carol. They married in 1963 in Coronado Island, CA. He proudly flew a P2V in Vietnam during his tour of duty. Carol and Gary returned to NY after their service, where they both attended SUNY New Paltz graduating with a Bachelor degree in Psychology in 1970. They relocated to Arizona, where he completed his Masters in Educational Psychology in 1974. Gary, like his siblings and mother before him, dedicated his life to serving the mentally-ill. He worked for Mental Health Resources, Incorporated in Tucson, AZ for forty years, and upon retirement, moved to Eatonton, Georgia.

Gary was a storyteller who loved Carol, Roger, his extended family, his dogs, his faith, his fellowship, the Navy, and the Arizona Wildcats. He savored the simple things in life, like reminiscing of his trips following Carol on her journeys to Mexico, fishing on the lake, walking his dogs, watching college football, and spending time with those he loved dearly.

Gary will be missed by so many, but his family is at peace knowing he is again with his soulmate. Gary touched the lives of so many people, all of whom are invited to attend his memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to the Fisher House (www.fisherhouse.org/donate), a charity which helps military families.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Concord United Methodist Church
Pea Ridge Road
Eatonton, GA 31024

Service

APR 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Concord United Methodist Church
Pea Ridge Road
Eatonton, GA 31024

Tribute Wall

 Gayle
Saunders
Griffiths

“ I stumbled upon Gary's obituary by accident while searching for information about the mental health agency Gary directed for so many years. I was Gary's Administrative Assistant from 1985 to 1988. He had a rather gruff appearance if you didn't know him which made me nervous when I first started working for him. I was horrible at dictation and he would easily spot any word substitutes. However, I was quickly put at ease when I saw how much he loved Carol. They adored each other. During funding season he sometimes told the receptionist to hold calls "Unless," he said, "it's my wife." Nothing was too busy or important for him to not take her call. One time, he was having me make some changes on a contract. He was seated and I stood above him, poised with my fountain pen, ready to write down the changes. Little did I know that my pen was dripping ink on his white shirt. "Look what you did!" he shouted, but then quickly wave off the problem with "Don't worry, I'll call Carol. She has a recipe to get rid of any stain!" He called her and she arrived in minutes with a new white shirt. I was so flustered, but he put me at ease, acknowledging my clumsiness with a quip, "You, of all people, should never own a fountain pen!" When he gave me my first perfect review, I looked shocked. He said, "Don't be so surprised, you're the best damn secretary I ever had... but get rid of that pen!" I learned soon what everyone else in the office knew... Gary had a stern look, but was a complete teddy bear underneath. We all respected and loved him. He led the agency so well and knew how to steer a divided Board of Directors his way over important agency matters. I had more respect for him than anyone else I have worked for. I read his Facebook page this afternoon and was happy to learn he and Carol adopted and that his life in Georgia was free of the stress of directing a large mental health agency. I hope my memories will ease the pain of losing such a special person, devoted to the mental health community.

Gayle Saunders Griffiths - June 22, 2021 at 10:45 PM



“ *Sending very deepest sympathies. Gary was a great guy & a joy to know.*

Erica Carr

Erica Carr - April 14, 2016 at 11:33 AM

KH

“ *Until We All Meet Again..Sending Love to My 2nd Family...*

Karen F Hughes - April 14, 2016 at 11:11 AM

VT

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Gary Ackerson. May you find comfort in your loving memories, and in God's promise to soon "swallow up death forever" and "wipe away the tears from all faces." (Isaiah 25;8) With deepest sympathy,*

v. thompson - April 10, 2016 at 07:46 PM