



Mr. Gerald Gene Tillett Jr.

September 4, 1950 - August 3, 2020

Gerald Gene Tillett, Jr., one month shy of his 70th birthday, passed away on August 3, 2020, at Huntsville Hospital Hospice of Redstone Village, after a brief but fierce battle with cancer.

Gerald was preceded in death by his father, Gerald Gene Tillett, Sr., and mother, Betty Iris Adams Tillett, both of Shelbyville, TN. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Marikay Howard Tillett; daughters, Caroline Tillett Roeber (Dana), of Southaven, MS; and Julie Tillet Turner (John), of Meridianville, AL; step-daughter, Lauren Johnson; and step-son, Evan Johnson, of Huntsville, AL.

Grandchildren include Ireland, Leyton, and Gavin Roeber; Katherine, Abigail, and Emma Grace Turner; and Weston, Marissa, and Vivienne Coffelt. Gerald is also survived by his sister, Barbara Tillett Cooke (Phil) of Shelbyville.

Spending a good part of his life in his hometown of Shelbyville, Gerald graduated from Shelbyville Central High School. Later he went on to serve in the military as a helicopter pilot after training at Fort Rucker, AL. He then began his long career in road construction with Tillett Brothers Construction Company in Shelbyville, working with highway construction crews and rising through the ranks to management. He was fond of telling how his dad Gerald, Sr., and his Uncle Joe put him to work at age 14 planting kudzu along

Mississippi and Alabama highways. Kudzu - the miracle plant that would help prevent erosion. He certainly did a grand job!

Gerald ventured out to Huntsville and eventually went to work in heavy construction equipment sales for Joe Money Machinery Company. Almost no piece of heavy equipment was ever a challenge for him to operate, from small front-end loaders to highway pavers. He worked for Joe Money Machinery for close to 20 years, moving to sales manager after several years in sales. He retired in 2014.

Gerald was a member of Weatherly Heights Baptist Church in Huntsville. He loved flying the Tillett Bros. company plane, traveling, riding his motorcycle with his buddies, and flower gardening. His reputation as a smooth dancer endured for decades, following him from Shelbyville to Huntsville. He simply would have never missed a dance.

Of course, he loved his grandchildren too, and enjoyed being their Papa as much as they loved being his grandchildren.

A graveside service for family and close friends will be Thursday afternoon, August 6, 2020, at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, in Shelbyville, TN, with Reverend Ron DeWitt officiating. The family requests use of masks and social distancing.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital www.stjude.org/donate/pm or 1-800-478-5833 where his son-in-law is a research lab operations manager or <https://ddx3x.org/the-ddx3x-foundation> (granddaughter Vivi's genetic disorder). Please state in memory of Vivienne Coffelt's grandfather, Gerald Tillett.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 6 (CT)

Hillcrest Memorial Gardens
Shelbyville, TN 37160

Tribute Wall

RS

“ Our deepest sympathies during this very difficult time. The Tillett family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

“Gone from our sight but never from our hearts”.

Roy & Cathy Stallings
Savannah, Georgia



Roy Stallings - August 10, 2020 at 03:26 PM

JC

“ Our deepest condolences to our sweet Caroline and family your y-weights family much prayer 🌹🌹❤️❤️



jackie crutcher - August 07, 2020 at 10:34 AM

JB

“ Joy Rollins Bledsoe lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gerald Gene Tillett Jr.



Joy Rollins Bledsoe - August 06, 2020 at 11:15 AM

JB

Prayers for the Tillett family.

Joy Rollins Bledsoe - August 06, 2020 at 11:16 AM

D6

“ Donna Edens, Shelbyville Central High, class of 68 purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Gerald Gene Tillett Jr..



Donna Edens, Shelbyville Central High, class of 68 - August 06, 2020 at 09:53 AM

DE

“ I am so sorry for your loss of your husband, father and grandfather. It is a loss for his classmates of Shelbyville Central High as well and a loss for everybody that knew him. Marikay, I lost my husband when he was only 49. I sympathize with you and your family and pray that God will help you through this. Sincerely, Donna Edens, Class of '68

Donna Edens - August 06, 2020 at 09:41 AM

CV

“ Although I haven't seen Gerald in many years, I have fond memories of time spent with he, Barbara, and Judy in Shelbyville. Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers to his family. Cean Tillett Villamena (a cousin)

cean villamena - August 06, 2020 at 09:37 AM

VR

“ Gerald was a kind and generous man who will be greatly missed by many. Please accept my sincere condolences. I wish I could be with his beloved family at the service but I cannot. Much love to you all. Valerie Roberts

Valerie Roberts - August 06, 2020 at 04:41 AM

KR

“ *Sending our Sincere Condolences for your loss of Gerald. He was always a kind good hearted man and loved by many. We will miss our visits with Gerald in Mississippi. May Gerald Rest In Peace in the loving arms of Jesus. No more pain. Dancing in Heaven. Till we meet again. Love Dennis and Kathy*

Kathleen Roeber - August 06, 2020 at 12:25 AM

AB

“ *MK-I'm so sorry for your loss. You were a good and faithful companion and partner. I will be thinking of you. Call me any time.*

Arthur Paul Bowen - August 05, 2020 at 07:10 PM

GR

That is a beautiful tribute to Gerald. I will add that he was one of the kindest men I've met . And he exuded gentle love for his children and grandchildren who adored him .

Gloria Henker Rotan - August 05, 2020 at 08:08 PM