



Buddy Gray

May 8, 1958 - December 30, 2022

Gregory Richard "Buddy" Gray, age 64, of Russellville, AL went to be with Jesus on Friday, December 29, 2022.

He was humble, sweet, and kind. His love for this little town and the people in it was amazing. If you are over the age of 20 and played Rec ball, he was either your coach, your umpire, or your referee. He might have been your second Dad. Many times, kids were hurt during a game and found crying for Buddy instead of their parents. To this day, he and his summer workers have remained close and loved him through his illness.

He was a warrior and fought more pain than I hope any of us ever must endure. His bravery and faith have been an inspiration to so many. God picked him to tell his story in His glory. What an honor.

He is preparing a place where he can take care of his wife of almost 44 years, Denise Rainey Gray. He will be waiting to take care of her as he always has.

He leaves broken hearts for miles, his wife, Denise Gray; son, Gregory T. Gray (Erin) - Athens, AL; mother, Juanita Gray - Lexington, AL; brothers, Joey Gray (Nancy)- Decatur, AL; Chris Gray (Katrina) - Killen, AL; sister, Allison Gifford (Greg) - Lexington, AL; in-laws, Chrissy & Niles Cooper, Charles Rainey; father-in-law, Billy Williams; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews; as well as a host of friends..

Waiting patiently for him are his dad, Joe Gray, sister, Lisa Gray Thomason; mother in law, Sharon Williams, and multiple aunts and uncles.

The visitation will be 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 03, 2023, at Spry

Memorial Chapel The funeral will follow at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel, with Pastor Todd offering prayers, Bro. Chad Green, and Bro. Matthew Reed presenting the message, and Pete Smith and Peaches Winston doing the eulogy. Burial will be at Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

The pallbearers will be Matthew Reed, Matt Hampton, Bobby Hyde, Jackie Bradford, Pete Smith, and Rodney Bolton.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Diane Hyde, Greta Boutwell, Kayla Hudson, Dr. Kelly, Bonnie Bendall, and staff; Dr. Daugherty and staff of NW Cancer for the care shown to Buddy these last few years.

Also, the family wishes to thank members of First United Methodist Church of Russellville, our friends, family, and neighbors for your many acts of kindness shown. A special thanks to Rodney Bolton for caring and willing to go on many trips with Buddy to MD Anderson.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider making a donation to St. Jude's Children Hospital.

Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family. To have us sign the book for you, please free to call or to leave private condolences, please visit our website at www.sprymemorialchapel.com.

Tribute Wall

DT

“ I met buddy because he was a teammate/friend of my older brothers. Through FB, he became my friend. 💎I?m going to miss his kind words. He really is a special soul, a kindness that this world needs. 💎



Deanna Tidwell - January 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Prayers for the family.

Brian Schweighardt - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Dear Denise & Family,

I am at a loss for words at the loss of Buddy. Even being so far away I feel the loss of my childhood schoolmate and friend. You have all been in my prayers since Buddy and I reconnected and will continue to be. I can't be there with you tomorrow but know that I will be there in thought. Take care and may God bless you.

Sincerely,
Beth Little Wesley



Beth Wesley - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ We are thinking of you and praying for you to have strength during this difficult time.

Jimmy and Cathy Kuykendall - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Denise and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Praying for your peace during this time.

Debbie Kennedy - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ So sorry for your loss. Buddy was a very special person to our family. My grandparents Leon & Maggie Lee Mathheus thought the world of him. Will be keeping your family in our prayers

Glenna Bagwell - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I met Buddy when I was 14 yrs. old. He was the kindest person I had ever met. He was never known to judge others and treated everyone the same.
My heart breaks for the family. They are all wonderful people.
Rest in peace Buddy!



Jeannie Crunk Fox - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ My condolences to Greg and his mother on your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Brian Schweighard - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ So sorry for your loss. Buddy was a very special person to our family. My grandparents Leon & Maggie Lee Mathheus thought the world of him. Will be keeping your family in our prayers

Glenna Bagwell - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss.* ”

DENNIS MASONIA - December 31, 2022 at 12:00 AM