



Mr. Gary Robert Daves

April 14, 1945 - February 6, 2021

Gary Robert Daves, 75, passed away peacefully at home following a brief illness and surrounded by his devoted wife and family. Born April 14, 1945, in Dillon, SC, he was the son of Georgia Ellen Shytle and John Robert Daves.

Gary graduated from Wofford College in 1967 with a degree in economics and business administration. He was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He participated in the ROTC program and received his commission as an officer in the U.S. Army. Service to his country was deferred so he could attend law school. He graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1970.

Shortly after marrying the love of his life, Sara Bea Johnson, Gary began his tour of duty in Da Nang, Vietnam. He received the Army Commendation Medal and Bronze Star Medal and attained the rank of Captain.

A faithful and active member of Shandon United Methodist Church, Gary was guided by his unwavering love of the Lord. He missed attending services in person during Covid but was present online every Sunday and for Bible study during the week, with Bea by his side and sometimes his grandson popping up in the background. At Shandon, Gary was a member of the J.O.Y. Sunday school class and Sons of Thunder, the men's ministry. He served on the Board of Trustees, Administrative Board, Adult Council, and Long-Range Planning Committee and as First Sunday Usher Team Captain.

During his legal career, he was a partner at Woodward, Leventis, Unger, Daves, Herndon & Cothran and Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. In recent years, he had his own practice on Main Street across from the courthouse. Real estate agents throughout Columbia will fondly remember his care and professionalism in closings, as he helped clients complete the process of buying their first home or selling a beloved family home.

Gary enjoyed practicing law, though his favorite job was as a father to Chris and Walker. He was seen cheering at almost every sporting event – and his athletic boys had many.

Watching them grow up and celebrating their marriages in recent years kept a permanent smile in his heart. His heart grew even bigger (who knew it could?!) with the birth of his grandson, Rhett, in 2018. As his family recently discovered, Gary printed out every photo they emailed him and adorned them with comments like his own personal Facebook. At the beach this summer, Rhett always picked “Granddaddio” to put him to bed, because Granddaddio was the one who’d keep reading him books for an hour, or two.

Gary was known for his kindness, integrity, and servant’s heart. Earlier in life, he was also known for his high stepping skills as the drum major for the Dillon High School band, which he led in the Orange Bowl Parade. An avid birder, he kept his backyard friends happy with overflowing bird feeders and enjoyed teaching Rhett how to identify all the colorful species that came for meals.

Community service was central to Gary’s life from a young age. He was an Eagle Scout, as were his sons, and he served as cubmaster and scoutmaster to their troops. He was a longtime member and past president and board chairman of the Columbia Sertoma Club, with whom he worked tirelessly to support Carolina Children’s Home, receiving the Service to Mankind Award. For 40 years, he volunteered as a house manager at Town Theatre.

Bea and Gary marked their 50th wedding anniversary last Saturday with a brief hospital visit, where they talked about how blessed they were to build a life together. On the phone later that night, with their children eavesdropping, they spoke of love and gratitude and their trust in the Lord.

Gary is survived by his wife, Bea; sons, William Christopher Daves (Elizabeth Wolfe) and Gary Walker Daves (Jill Armbruster) of Columbia; grandson, Rhett Wolfe Daves; brother, Ronald Dean Daves (Paula Eargle) of Columbia and Trade, Tenn.; brother-in-law, Weldon Johnson (Elaine), and sister-in-law, English Folsom (Johnny); and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and younger brother, John Blake Daves.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, The Reverend Smoke Kanipe will officiate a service for family only at Shandon United Methodist Church on Wednesday, February 10, at 2 p.m.

A livestream may be viewed by visiting his tribute page at ShivesFuneralHome.com.

Memorials may be made to Shandon United Methodist Church, 3407 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205, or the charity of one’s choice.

Events

FEB **Service** 02:00PM

10

Shandon United Methodist Church
3407 Devine St, Columbia, SC, US, 29205

MAR **Service**

7

person during Covid but was present online every Sunday
US

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Shives Funeral Home - February 10 at 10:44 AM



“ A webcast video has been added.



Shives Funeral Home - February 10 at 10:44 AM



“ What a sad shock to see Gary's obituary... I knew both of you in the Joy class at Shandon and what a blessing. Gary was always so kind and did so much for the church and others. Of course, when someone does as much as Gary, he had his kind wife helping and supporting him. I was happy to find out so much about him, that I didn't know. As a Conway girl, I would have liked to have discussed his Dillon roots! There is also no surprise that he was an Eagle Scout. Bea, my heart goes out to you and your family. You all have my deepest sympathy.. Love to you,
Ellen (Harris-then) Faris

Ellen Faris - March 01 at 09:54 AM



“ We have learned that Gary Daves passed away. This is truly sad news. We just want you to know we are very sorry to hear about “Gary. I was always impressed with Gary, and loved to talk with him about politics, sports, and academics. He had a wealth of knowledge. He was our Attorney since the first Closing he performed in 1992. For some moments in life there are no words to express our thoughts. Bea, I know this is especially hard for you.

What Gary Robert Daves did for others will remain immortal. Our prayers are with you and your family.

With caring thoughts

Dr. Don & Susan Jordan

Don M Jordan PHD - February 26 at 08:58 AM



“ Sincere condolences, I remember Gary as a fellow 1963 graduate of Dillon HS and a fellow member of the Wildcat Band. Robert Fass, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Robert Fass - February 14 at 12:21 PM



“ To the Gary R. Daves family: I just recently learned of Gary's passing--something I was not prepared to hear. I would like you all to know that he was both a friend and one of the most professional colleagues I've known. He handled several real estates closings for me and provided pro bono advise when I needed it. He and you all will be in my thoughts and prayers during what I know has to be a difficult time. May he Rest in Peace. Professor Kenneth W. Gaines.

Kenneth Winchester Gaines - February 11 at 05:15 PM



“ Always with a smile and encouragement seemed to pour forth from Mr. Daves. I count myself lucky to have been a scout under his guidance.

I'm so sorry for y'all's loss. All my love.

Rob McCue - February 11 at 08:00 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Gary's passing. We were classmates at Wofford. I remember him well I married a Dillon girl, Sallie Kate Hamer, and met him in Dillon before wofford. Accept my deepest sympathy in your loss. Eddie Watford

Edward C. Watford, Jr. - February 11 at 09:33 AM



“ Bea, Jeanette and I just saw the notice of Gary's death in today's paper. Our hearts and prayers are with you.
Rudy and Jeanette Barnes

Rudy Barnes, Jr. - February 10 at 08:16 PM



“ Sending love, hugs and prayers to all of Gary's family! The Service was such a beautiful tribute to who Gary was in all walks of his life!!
Aunt Georgia, Uncle Bob and Blake are all smiling down!! I love you Gary!
Donna Benfield



Donna Benfield - February 10 at 05:10 PM



“ I remember growing up in Dillon with my family the Traywicks spending Fourth of Julys with the Daves. Gary, Ronnie, and Blake were there. Gary was a fine big brother and a good person. May his memory be a blessing.
Anna Traywick McFadden

Anna Traywick McFadden - February 10 at 03:42 PM



“ Jan and I were very sorry to hear about Gary. We knew him through the Joy Sunday School class at Shandon Methodist. He was very likeable and I always enjoyed our conversations.

David N. Jordan - February 10 at 12:08 PM



“ Susan purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. Gary Robert Daves.



Susan - February 10 at 12:00 PM



“ Bea, Walker and Chris, Dickie ani are so sorry! We have so many good memories of times spent with y'all! Love, hugs and prayers!

Kathy & Dick Unger - February 10 at 10:34 AM



“ Nancy and I are thinking of all of you. We are so sad of Gary's loss to you. We know you have many cherished memories that will always be with you.
Nancy and Bob Peele

Nancy and Bob Peele - February 10 at 09:05 AM



“ The Columbia Sailing Club sends its sincere condolences. Eight bells, Gary.



James Edwards - February 09 at 10:46 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Robert Daves.



February 09 at 09:22 PM



“ I am sorry to hear this. Although I did not know him, his dad was my best friend when I lived in Dillon. My sympathy to his family.

Eddie Howell - February 09 at 07:13 PM



“ As CFO of Russell & Jeffcoat Real Estate my interactions with Gary always resulted in highest level in professional handling of real estate transactions. So sorry to learn of his demise and my condolences to the family on the loss of a first-class guy.
Ed Billings

Ed Billings - February 09 at 07:13 PM



“ Mr. Daves helped us close on our first home in 2004 & our forever home ten years later. He was so kind to us. What a servant leader he was and a dear soul. Our love & prayers to his beautiful wife, sons, grandson & their families.

Catharine Aitken - February 09 at 06:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Robert Daves.



February 09 at 05:56 PM



“ Such a wonderful person . We had the good fortune of being friends and neighbors of Gary and Bea . In seven corporate moves over the years Columbia was my favorite place to live . Gary , Bea and their two wonderful sons played a big part in that . Russ Dejulio Pittsburgh

russell Dejulio - February 09 at 05:41 PM



“ Condolence Snacks was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Robert Daves.



February 09 at 05:10 PM



“ I'm am so saddened by Gary's death, and send condolences and love to Bea and the family. Practicing law with Gary was a pleasure, and he will be greatly missed in the legal community.

Darra Cothran - February 09 at 03:36 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Robert Daves.



February 09 at 01:51 PM



“ Rarely have I known someone that could absolutely be counted on to be the same person whether the setting was social, business or professional. Gary was that kind of person. In my job in banking I worked with him many times when he represented mutual clients. When I needed an attorney for my own loan closings I called on Gary to represent me. Over the years Gary and Bea became friends that we always looked forward to seeing whatever the occasion. In every case he was the same bright, warm, honest, loyal and optimistic guy captured so splendidly in this picture.

Patti and I pray that this great loss for all of us is soothed by wonderful memories!

Bill Barker - February 08 at 07:22 PM



“ I had the honor and privilege to work with Mr. Daves at the Richland County Register of Deeds for over ten years. Whenever I saw him I was greeted with a beautiful smile as he asked me how I was doing. Although he was a busy gentleman, he took time to chat a little while with me and always ended our conversations with ‘take care of yourself, Grace’. I understand the feelings of having a loving family member transition, please know you have my heartfelt prayers and condolences.

I'll miss my friend, Mr. Daves.

Respectfully,

Grace A. Thomas



Grace Thomas - February 08 at 02:51 PM



“ Dear Daves' Family - What a beautiful picture! As sad as I am of the news, looking at him makes me smile. Mr. Daves has been one of my favorite people that entered Richland ROD. I will remember him as a kind gentleman who graciously shared his lighthearted laughter with us. A man who loved his work, on most days, and loved his family deeply. He had to be an amazing husband, father, grandfather, brother, cousin and friend because he is an unforgettable colleague.

I am truly sorry for your loss and offer each of you my heartfelt condolences and prayers.

Mr. Daves was one of the good guys!

Respectfully,
Sharon Steele
Richland ROD



Sharon Steele - February 08 at 02:02 PM



“ Your Director's Peer Group purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mr. Gary Robert Daves.



Your Director's Peer Group - February 08 at 10:15 AM



“ During my nearly ten years of tenure at Forest Lake Club, I had many wonderful encounters with Gary and his wife Bea. Gary was the epitome of a gracious, appreciative and supportive Club Member. He was an excellent listener and when he spoke, people paid attention.

We will also miss his warm smile when he greeted Nancy and I when arriving at Shandon United Methodist church on Sunday mornings. We include Bea and the Daves family in our prayers. God Bless! Kurt and Nancy Bischofberger

Kurt Bischofberger - February 07 at 11:58 AM



“ Gary was a gentleman and a gentle man. Wherever he was in the world, it was a better place. He loved God, his family and his friends and was loved in return. All of us at SUMC and the JOY Class will miss his warm smile and gracious personality.

Donna and Major Pearman - February 09 at 02:29 PM



“ So many great memories of Gary and his family growing up across the street from them in Dillon... his mother Georgia befriending my mother who was new to the area, our younger brothers, Larry and Ronnie digging this massive "fort" in the lot next to the Daves home where Mr. Daves planted his garden , Gary shooting basketball in our back yard with other guys on the team and my Dad, and on and on. Gary was always the fun, positive person in our class... the ultimate gentleman ! We are certainly thinking of the entire family in this time of sadness. Regret times do not allow big hugs!

Joyce E. Rawls

Joyce E. Rawls - February 07 at 11:00 AM



“ I grew up with Gary through Dillon High and the First Baptist Church and have so many fond memories of a wonderful person. He was always smiling and saw the cup half full. I never met a more versatile , talented individual. Still laugh with memories of he and I playing sweethearts in the senior play. My parents and Gary's parents were the best of friends. We were fortunate to grow up in a small town during those times. Condolences and blessings to the family.

Anne Baker - February 08 at 10:40 AM



“ Chris,

We are so sorry to hear about the passing of your Dad. Your "work" family & friends are sending prayers to you, Elizabeth & Rhett. Our deepest sympathies!

Marty Baltzegar - February 08 at 11:59 AM



“ Although i hadn't seen Gary since high school, I treasure wonderful memories, going all the way back to fourth grade. He was such an impressive person that one could never forget him. Deepest sympathies to his family.

Nancy Blue Breese

Nancy Blue Breese - February 08 at 03:40 PM



“ The photo does him justice. Each time I saw him he was always exactly the same. The same as in the photo. A most pleasant man, a gentleman and a scholar

Jim Kelly - February 08 at 08:54 PM



“ Mary Jo and I had dinner with Gary and Bea just several weeks ago. He knew then that he was seriously ill and faced tests, and uncertainty. He was firm and optimistic in his outlook. We left and hoped and prayed for a good outcome. It wasn't to be. He was a good friend and a gentleman. Our thoughts, and wishes are for his family and those who knew and loved him, as we did. God be with them.

Ned Pendarvis - February 08 at 10:39 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing, He was a cousin that anyone could be proud to call family. The last time I talked to Gary was when my brother passed away. My condolences to his family and friends that will surely miss him.

Jack Shytle
Polkville, NC

Jack Shytle - February 09 at 10:57 AM



“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Gary's homegoing, but I know that he heard "Well done, my good and faithful servant." I have known Gary since I first began my career as a paralegal in 1983, and have had the pleasure of recommending him to clients and also using his services. He was always professional and courteous, and a true gentleman. I valued his wisdom and experience and his willingness to help in any situation. I share your sorrow, but I know that you have many special memories that you will cherish during this lifetime. And, we have the confidence that we will see him again, in the eternal.

Julie Houston - February 09 at 03:53 PM



“ I am very proud to call Gary Daves my first cousin. He leaves a remarkable legacy that should make his family and friends proud. I offer my condolences and love to his family. I wish we could be there in person. Ethel Shytle Pedersen

Ethel Pedersen - February 10 at 12:08 PM



“ My husband and I know Gary and Bea through the JOY Class at Shandon United Methodist Church, through mutual good friends, and through the legal world. Gary was a gentle and comforting light always shiningwherever he went. He was such a dear man, beloved by all....and we will miss him terribly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Bea, and your dear boys. May God comfort you and give you peace.

Jan and Biff Sowell - February 10 at 02:54 PM



“ My primary connection with Gary was through the church, and as a fellow head of one of the usher teams. He was a good person and always ready to help. It is with pleasure I also see among these comments some from the Register of Deeds at the courthouse. I just watched the lovely service. Bea and the family, please accept my sincere condolences.

Jim Bogle

jim bogle - February 10 at 02:57 PM