



Gail Williams

March 9, 1930 - November 14, 2019

Gail Williams, longtime Terrell resident and beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend passed away November 14, 2019. Gail was born March 9, 1930 in Potts County, Oklahoma to John R. and Clarabel Williams. He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Georgia Hart and Evelyn Branscum and brother, Boyce Williams. Gail grew up near Shawnee, Oklahoma and on August 8, 1948, he married the love of his life, and constant companion, Betty Sue Blevins in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He and Betty moved to Terrell when he was 20 years old and she was 18 to open Terrell's first Dairy Queen store which they owned and operated until 1963. He later co-founded Y-Not Better Papers which was eventually acquired by Bunzl Papercraft USA. Gail continued with Bunzl until his retirement 1997. In retirement Gail was able to spend more time with those he loved. He and Betty were his grandchildren's greatest fans and supporters. Regardless of the activity, they could be counted on as taxi drivers, cheerleaders or counselors. Gail was an active member, teacher and deacon of East End Baptist Church, later known as First Missionary Baptist. In his later years, he became a member of First Baptist Church. From 1998-2010 they were involved with Baptist Church Builders in various locations helping to design, build and repair worship centers for smaller congregations in locations across the United States. Gail's many hobbies included coaching little league baseball, girls' softball, church basketball, officiating high school football, golfing and hunting. These activities created wonderful memories and lifelong

friends. Gail leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 71 years, Betty Williams of Forney; son, Steve Williams and wife, Debbie, of Terrell; daughters; Suzan Wooten and husband, Terry of Forney and Pam DeFord and husband, Jim of Justin, Texas. Grandchildren, Matt Williams and wife Angela; Marty Williams and wife, Michelle; Kristen (Wooten) Higginson and husband, Dan; Stephanie Wooten-Quijada and husband, Andrés, Jamie (DeFord) Wallum and husband, Jason; and Jeremy DeFord. Great-Grandchildren, Eli, Emerson, Easton, Everett, Colby, Gabe, Emily, Wyatt, Addison, Trace and Chloe; sister, Eleanor Munn; brother-in-law, Delbert Mueller and wife, Paula, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends. Funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 19th, 2019 at First Baptist Church, 403 North Catherine, Terrell, Texas with interment to follow at College Mound Cemetery. The family will receive friends at 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday at Max Slayton Funeral Chapel. Memorials may be made to Jacksonville College, 105 B. J. Albritton Drive, Jacksonville, Texas 75766.

Cemetery Details

College Mound Cemetery

15010 FM 429 South
Terrell, TX 75161

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **18**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Max Slayton Funeral Chapel
642 N. Rockwall Ave.
Terrell, TX 75160

Funeral Service

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Terrell
403 N. Catherine
Terrell, TX 75160
<http://www.fbcterrell.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Gail Williams*

October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *He was a part of us going up from toddlers to adults and again with my kids. Like having another grandfather. Very fortunate to have known him. Loves his stories*

Larry Rigglin - November 21, 2019 at 07:12 PM



“ *Dear Williams Family, I am so sorry for your loss. I pray that God will put his arms around you all during this time and that family and friends will surround you with love.*

Darlene Wells (Jimmy & JoAnn Sheppard's daughter).

Darlene Wells - November 21, 2019 at 05:30 PM



“ *Steve and Family-
Sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad. I, as well as my Mother, thought so much of your parents, as she worked at the Dairy Queen in the early years. Lots of good memories.
With our sympathy, and friendship,
Rick and Lauree Morgan*

Rick Morgan - November 18, 2019 at 09:52 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.



November 18, 2019 at 09:35 PM



“ Betty you and your family are in my prayers so sorry for your loss , wish I could give you a hug we are not in town

Alice Patton - November 18, 2019 at 09:35 PM



“ Condolences and prayers 🙏 for all the family. Came to viewing and there were so many people that there was no parking @vailable. Your Grandfather was well loved by so many. He was a good man! I know he will be waiting for you in Heaven. God bless you all in this time of sorrow. May all your precious memories lift you up. Praying.

Allen & Doniece Angell

Wayne & Angie Angell O'Haver

Angie Angell Ohaver - November 18, 2019 at 08:59 PM

KR

“ Gail will always be in our memories. We were so lucky to grow up next door to him and Betty. They were always so sweet to us. The Riggin girls will miss you a great deal! We are with you in spirit and love you always Gail and Betty!
-Kaitlyn, Emily, and Rylee.

Kaitlyn Riggin - November 18, 2019 at 04:56 PM

JK

“ Sometimes in life we feel so blessed for knowing someone special. That's how Ali and I felt about Gail. We always looked forward to his visits at our store and loved it when he shared memories of my childhood and kept me up to date on all of his dear family. We are going to miss this kind, funny, and sweet man so much, but we'll forever be thankful that Gail was our friend and our lives were happier because of him. We send our love and prayers to sweet Betty and all of his dear family.

Jan and Ali Karimi - November 18, 2019 at 03:31 PM



“ 116 files added to the album LifeTributes



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - November 18, 2019 at 03:06 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.*



November 18, 2019 at 02:24 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.*



November 18, 2019 at 12:53 PM



“ *Thank you Gail for all the memories!*
Rose Bodin Baldree

Rose Bodin Baldree - November 18, 2019 at 12:34 PM

BM

“ Like so many, I came to know Gale first at the Dairy Queen but our friendship grew as I became a football official after college. Gale, Raymond Sparks, Gerald Gale and myself spent many a night traveling the area, calling football games together and it was during these times I really got to know and love Gale. Later, Rayford Harwell joined us and those stories are way too many to try to write but strong bonds were made. Patsy and I would see Gale and Betty at the Red Barn frequently these later years and always enjoyed our visits with them. Both are wonderful people blessed to have been able to live great lives together as such inspiring examples for so many. As with many, my health is not the best these days and I have been summoned to one of my doctor's office Tuesday at 10:30 in Dallas, all unexpectedly on Friday, so I will not be able to attend the funeral but will look forward to seeing the family tonight at the visitation. A life well lived, Gale, thank you for all your influence in my life and your friendship over the years! Bill and Patsy Sparks Marshall

Bill and Patsy Marshall - November 18, 2019 at 11:01 AM

BR

“ When we moved from Tennessee to Terrell in 2008, the first neighbors that greeted us were Mr Gail and Mrs Betty. I left a week later for 18 months in Iraq. Mr. Gail insisted on mowing our lawn and helping Tammy and Braden in any way possible while I was away. If there was ever a tool that needed borrowing or a needed helping hand, Mr Gail was there to lend it. If he couldn't help physically he would be right there with advice, a bottle of water and a ride from point A to B on the ol' golf cart. He was a good source of advise and a shoulder to lean on in a time of need, and a great role model for our kids. You couldn't ask for a better neighbor or friend. I was sad to see him and Mrs. Betty move last year and heartbroken now. Mr. Gail will truly be missed.

The Lewis Family

Brad - November 18, 2019 at 10:45 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.



November 18, 2019 at 09:11 AM

CA

“ Sorry to learn of Gail passing. He was a good man with a giant heart of loving care for the kids of the 50's who hung out around the DQ. It was a gathering spot and I am sure we took up space better paying customers could have used but Gail never did anything but smile and laugh at us. He was teaching us to care for others by example. The class of 58 will always remember that friendship. Thank you Betty for sharing him with us. Rest now good and faithful servant in the loving arms the Saviour. Charlie Akin class of 58.

Charlie Akin - November 18, 2019 at 08:32 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.



November 17, 2019 at 09:27 PM



“ Just a note to the family before we list our fond memories of Gail. We sincerely regret not being able to attend the funeral. Even though Tiana graciously offered to drive us there and back, about two weeks ago I had a minor stroke, apparently without permanent damage, so I feel a need to not let myself get too tired. Also, Paula has a very tender spine that does not allow long trips, like almost 900 miles one way, without seriously riling her back to the point of not being able to sleep well at night. Thus, we decided to stay at home but certainly will be there in spirit with all of you on Tuesday.

Our fond memories of Gail probably would fill a book. But the times that most stand out are the trips to Terrell to see my dad, Martin, and his wife, Lorene through the 1980's and 1990's. Betty and Gail would always invite us over along with their children and grand children. Gail would tell some of his stories, along with the rest of the family, and we would laugh and laugh and generally have a great time. But that was far from all. Often Gail would bar-b-que up several batches of brisket while Betty and the girls would prepare mountains of sides and desserts. Oooo, it makes my mouth water just to think about it. My what good times those were!

However, there was a lot more to the visits than eating and story telling. In the 1980's we often, together with dad and Lorene, cheer on the Dallas Cowboys, when they were "America's" team, along with UT football team. This was often followed by long hours of playing lively table games. Somehow, their games were always lively! Besides that Gail was a meticulous lawn keeper. Despite having acres of oak trees around the house he kept a lush green lawn which almost never had a leaf on it in fall. What a guy!!!

We will truly miss Gail.

Del and Paula Mueller

Delbert Mueller - November 17, 2019 at 08:22 PM

BM

Billy and myself was just talking bout Gail last week so sorry to hear of his passing.He was a great and wonderful person. A great guy to work for.Billy and Sherry Morgan.

Billy and Sherry Morgan - November 18, 2019 at 08:06 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.*



November 17, 2019 at 05:13 PM

FM

“ *From Del and Paula Mueller purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Gail Williams.*



From Del and Paula Mueller - November 17, 2019 at 02:57 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.*



November 17, 2019 at 02:40 PM

LC

“ *Thoughts and prayers with the Williams family, Mr. Williams was a wonderful man and a great role model.*

Luis Cowley - November 17, 2019 at 12:04 PM

RW

“ *Ron, Phil and Keith Williams purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Gail Williams.*



Ron, Phil and Keith Williams - November 17, 2019 at 11:57 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.*



November 17, 2019 at 10:12 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.*



November 17, 2019 at 09:48 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.*



November 16, 2019 at 10:04 PM

EK

“ *Elaine Kasper lit a candle in memory of Gail Williams*



Elaine Kasper - November 16, 2019 at 09:19 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.*



November 16, 2019 at 08:11 PM

BM

“ *I love the William's family. I saw Gail and Betty about 3 weeks ago at the Dr. Office little did I know it would be my last time to see Gail. I'm glad I got a hug from him. When I was a kid in Jr.High and my Freshman year, if I needed a ride to an out of town football game I would hitch a ride with Gail and Betty. He will truly be missed.*

Beth Wilder Maley - November 16, 2019 at 06:58 PM

SG

“ We came to know Terry and Suzan Wooten a few years ago and were invited many times to their home to celebrate our granddaughter, Emily Gardner's, birthdays. It is there where we came to meet Gail and Betty. They were both so welcoming as well as the whole family. We so enjoyed talking with Gail and listening to some of his interesting stories. We are so sorry to hear of his passing, he was such a delightful man.
Susan and Raymond Gardner

Susan and Ray Gardner - November 16, 2019 at 03:00 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.



November 16, 2019 at 01:45 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.



November 16, 2019 at 12:53 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail Williams.



November 16, 2019 at 12:43 PM

TS

“ Betty, Steve, Susan and Pam, So many great memories of such a wonderful man, there are a handful of men I consider in the same group as my dad and Gail is definitely one of them. Yesterday Clint and I were visiting about all the trips to the Deer camp and he told me he always thought Gail was one of his uncles, He was for sure, love you all and pray for peace as you move forward. Tim & Holly Spiva

Tim Spiva - November 16, 2019 at 08:42 AM

BS

“ Dearest family, my heart weeps with you in the passing of Brother Gail. I pray for God's perfect peace to be yours now and in the days ahead.

*"Death often comes on silent wings to us below,
whisking the soul to realms above to abide in His Glow.
Tis seldom a right time for us below,
But God's timing is always right, we know.
Those left behind have but memories still,
Sweet peace comes to us as we accept His Divine will.
O, what a day of rejoicing that will be
When all with rapture our loved ones see."*

Buddy R Sadler - November 16, 2019 at 12:11 AM

DA

“ Mr. Williams always made me smile and feel special. You will most definitely be missed. Love and prayers to the Williams family.
Terry and Debra Airheart

Debra Airheart - November 15, 2019 at 09:49 PM



“ Gail was one of my best friends for many years. His word was his bond.....he was a wonderful Christian man, raised a wonderful family with his wife Betty. and will never be forgotten. I will never forget the hundreds of football games we officiated and the wonderful times we had.

Don Burnes - November 15, 2019 at 09:44 PM

MR

“ Many childhood memories of the whole Williams family . We were OakRidge neighbors many years and all the kids grew up together . My parents thought the world of Gail and Betty . Great Christian man and will be truly missed . Prayers for this precious family . Hugs and love .

Michele Shields Rand

Michele Rand - November 15, 2019 at 08:32 PM

MF

“ Gail Williams was a good Christian man. He has been such a role model for so many young people. I think every young person in our church (Old East End) a job a the Dairy Queen. He was kind, loving and all around good man. I thank God that I was one of the many that respected and loved him. I am so sorry for your families loss.

Margaret Flanagan - November 15, 2019 at 07:26 PM

GC

“ Gail was such a joy to be around. Dad loved him dearly and will welcome him in Heaven. My prayers are with all of the family.

Georgia Cheek - November 15, 2019 at 05:58 PM

LM

“ Love this picture. What a wonderful Christian man and friend.

LaJuan Mayfield - November 15, 2019 at 05:34 PM

AA

“ Audrey Moss Appleton lit a candle in memory of Gail Williams



Audrey Moss Appleton - November 15, 2019 at 04:17 PM

CS

“ Heaven has gained a wonderful soul. Gail was a fine Christian, family, man. My heart goes out to all the family.

Carolyn Sorter - November 15, 2019 at 02:52 PM

DT

“ In 1956 i was 12 years and had never had a cold coke from a Dairy Queen .I could however look and dream as i watched others enjoy their drinks. Money was hard to come by and ours went for groceries.

Suddenly i was the only one close to being in line for service. A voice called out " Can i help you". Oh no , i replied, just looking, besides i don't have any money. A few minutes later he appeared at the window and handed me the largest cup of Coke i had ever seen., Gail Williams was that man. In later years i would learn he gave away many drinks and ice cream to kids just like me. I have always loved Gail and Betty from that moment.

It's surprising what a simple act of kindness will do.

Doug Turner - November 15, 2019 at 01:35 PM

RH

“ Our Deepest sympathy goes out to all of Gail's Family. He was one of the nicest, kindest and friendliest men I ever met. He was great influence on many people, my husband included. We will never see the likes of this type of person again. He was definitely one in a million.

Rick & Cindy Hunter

Rick & Cindy Hunter - November 15, 2019 at 12:53 PM

WW

Gail Williams was a Good Man, And My Friend, I've known him for 62 year's, He's been steadfast and lived an exemplary life, leaving behind His devoted Wife Betty, Son Steve, Daughter's Susan and Pam, along with Grand children, to Cherish his Memory, Rest in Peace, My friend, See you on the other side.

W.T. Wilson - November 16, 2019 at 09:58 AM

SR

“ Sandra And Loren Riggin lit a candle in memory of Gail Williams



Sandra and Loren Riggin - November 15, 2019 at 10:53 AM

SR

“ Gail was like family to us and we are going to miss him so much. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Williams family during this time. We do feel it was a privilege to know him and enjoyed so much being his neighbor. Love to all of you!

Sandra and Loren Riggin - November 15, 2019 at 10:52 AM

FW

“ From American National Bank of Texas, WMG purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gail Williams.



From American National Bank of Texas, WMG - November 15, 2019 at 10:23 AM

ST

“ One the best man I ever knew

Sammy Turner - November 15, 2019 at 09:48 AM

JD

“ Praying for Betty and all the Williams family. What a special man and family that we've had the privilege of knowing these past 39 years. So many wonderful memories we cherish of sports, weddings and much, much more. May God bless each of you.
Love, John and Anne

John and Anne Davidson - November 15, 2019 at 09:39 AM

AS

“ Betty, Our heart goes out to you and your family at this time of sorrow. Gail was the one person I wanted to grow up and be the most like, I should have known I would never make it. Gail was my mentor, my best friend, one of the best, and loyal men I have ever known. I will miss him more than I could ever say. He will live on through your children, Steve, Susan, Pam, and their children. I know I will never forget him or you. If there is ANYthing we can do, no matter how big or small please let us know.

With complete love and sorrow- Allen & Winnie Webster Stoy

Allen Stoy - November 15, 2019 at 09:23 AM

NO

“ We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Praying for light perpetual to shine upon him and for your comfort and peace. Norie and Keith

Norie Oakley - November 15, 2019 at 08:58 AM

CS

“ Dear Betty, Steve, Susan, Pam & family, So very sorry to hear about Gail! Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers during this time & the days to come! He was a wonderful Christian man whom we loved & thought the world of! With deepest sympathy & love!
Wilson & Karo

Carolyn (Karo) Stewart - November 15, 2019 at 08:28 AM

SB

“ So sorry to hear about Gail. He was such a sweet and wonderful man. Went to church with his family for many years. Babysit all his kids. Such a Christian man and family. My prayers are with you sweet Betty and family. He will surely be missed. Love you'll.



Sharon boyd - November 15, 2019 at 07:54 AM

CB

Gail Williams was the Best ,while growing up in Terrell I didn't know anyone with a bigger heart than Gail , he was a very generous man that loved people and took an interest in you that always wanted to help you anyway he could and I looked up to him as a hero as I believe many others did . My aunt worked for him at the Dairy Queen and when I came around he always had a big smile and kind and encouraging words that meant a lot to me . His son Steve and I played baseball on the same team one year and Gail was our coach , that was the best year I had playing baseball because our coach was a man that really cared about all of us and showed us how a man of caring, love ,wisdom and integrity leads and that taught us youngsters a lot ,mainly how we should conduct ourselves in life. Gail was a man who loved his family with everything he had , a great business man ,a wonderful employer , a mentor , a friend and my life was enriched from knowing you . Gail Williams , you are one of the best that God ever put on this earth, Rest In Peace .

Your Friend forever , Charlie Brock

Charlie Brock - November 16, 2019 at 12:56 PM

EK

He was a great man. Praying for your family.Frank and Elaine Kasper.



Elaine Kasper - November 16, 2019 at 09:19 PM

DK

So sorry to hear the passing of my friend Gail through a phone call from James Lehew. Enjoyed the time that I knew him as we played softball for the Dairy Queen! May he Rest In Peace & the family be comforted in knowing he is in heaven, Dewayne Kinney

dewayne kinney - November 17, 2019 at 03:17 PM

MG

Mike and I always admired Gail and Betty. They were great examples of what Christians should be and we learned so much from them. We played softball and tennis with them, went to the same church, and attended parties at their beautiful home. Even though we lost touch over the years, earth just seems a little bit dimmer without Gail. Betty, we are so sorry for your loss but Heaven is brighter and we will see him again soon. Love you - Mike and Gail DeLong

Mike & Gail - November 17, 2019 at 04:53 PM

RS

Betty, I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your husband, Gail. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Ronnie Smith - November 18, 2019 at 08:41 PM