



Garry Yancey

October 30, 1947 - April 13, 2018

Garry Dale Yancey, longtime resident of Terrell, Texas, passed away peacefully into the presence of his Savior on April 13, 2018, with his family by his side. Garry was born October 30, 1947, in Russellville, Alabama, to Jefferson D. Yancey and Mary Ruth Warren Yancey, both of whom have preceded him in death. Garry's family lived in Detroit, Michigan, after the War. Financial times were very hard for his family during that period, and they returned to Alabama being helped by their large, loving families. Garry's father pursued a job in Tampa, Florida, and the family soon found themselves living among palm trees, beaches and soft breezes. A strong work ethic developed among Garry and his siblings when his father became a caretaker of well-known camps on the shores of Lake Magdalene in Tampa. Garry's family lived in a house at the camp and on Saturdays Garry was mowing, cleaning up the huge lawn area, and cleaning out the orange groves and horse stalls. During the summer at the camp, Garry taught canoeing, horseback riding, sailing and swimming. Precious family memories were created during this time spent at Camp Ocone.

Garry graduated from Chamberlain High School in Tampa where he played football. After high school, he traveled by bus to Miami, Oklahoma, to attend Northeastern A & M Junior College. The year and a half as a Golden Norseman at NEO would forever seal a lifelong bond with the college, "Once a Norseman, Always a Norseman." While playing football at NEO, the team won the National Junior College Championship in Savannah, Georgia. Garry was

listed in Who's Who in National Junior Colleges and on campus. He grew as a person and set goals during his time at NEO. Florida State University recruited Garry, but during the spring game he was injured and sidelined. Wanting to continue to play ball, but fighting an injury, he transferred to North Texas State University, a school that recruited him earlier, and where he met the love of his life, Vivian. Upon graduation, Garry began his coaching adventure. Football took him to Carrollton at DeWitt Perry Middle School, during which time he also earned his Masters of Education degree at North Texas State University. He moved on to coach at his beloved NEO Jr. College in Miami, OK, head coach at Cascia Hall in Tulsa, assistant coach at Rockwall High, Athens High, Malakoff High, LaPoynor High (where he took his political science class to meet and shake hands with then presidential candidate, Ronald Reagan), Willis High, and Terrell High School. Throughout his coaching career, he had the honor of getting to know students and their families. Coach would be there for them in the good times and in the bad. He was able to watch his students become leaders and difference-makers in all fields, but Coach's goal was to see each student become a productive, positive, caring citizen.

While coaching in Terrell, Garry became the youth director at the First United Methodist Church. Each year his kids traveled to near and far away places and were involved in many activities. He knew that sometimes just having fun with others would bring out the "Christian Spirit."

He loved all of his kids . . . both students at school or youth at church. He was always the same with all of them . . . they knew what to expect from him, and soon realized he was a big Teddy Bear under all the barking and orders. To know him was to love him.

Coach spent his entire career in the kid business and at retirement in 2008, he began traveling with adults . . . and away he went . . . on cruise ships, planes, trains and golf carts. On each trip there were many stories to tell and each person was a new friend. This big man never met a stranger, finding these adventures most rewarding. Garry and Vivian left their suitcases open on the

floor of their home, always ready for the road. Although he did not attend the University of Texas, he wore his Texas cap all over the world because he would instantly be recognized as a Texan from the USA.

Garry had unlimited energy. He would stay up until 2 a.m. watching Westerns, Perry Mason or Home Improvement shows and then get up the next day ready for a new adventure, sometimes to his precious lake house on Beaver Lake in Arkansas, where he entertained many friends and relatives.

Football was his life and he was able to experience that passion even more when he watched his son, Blake, play ball in Terrell. He was a very proud father and was completely absorbed with his grandchildren, Colt, Cannon and Camryn, having high expectations of them, just as he had for all of his students.

Garry is survived by his wife of nearly 45 years, Vivian Yancey, son, Blake Yancey and wife Angela of Van Alstyne, grandchildren Colton, Cannon, and Camryn, his brother, Jerry Yancey and wife Kathy, his sister, Nancy Jellerson and husband David, sister-in-law, Donna Patschke and husband Nolan, Uncle Doss and Aunt Margert Warren, uncle, Ed Strong, nieces, Allison and Amanda, nephews, J.D. Yancey and wife Judy, Eric Jellerson and wife Soline, numerous cousins, extended family, church family and fellow travelers.

A Celebration of Garry's life will be held at 1:00pm, Thursday, April 19, 2018 at First United Methodist Church in Terrell. The family will have a time to visit and gather with friends to share special memories of Garry 5-8pm, Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations.

In honor of Coach Yancey's dedication to students and the youth ministry, his family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the First United Methodist Church of Terrell, 503 W. College St., Terrell, 75160.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

APR 18. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Celebration of Life

APR 19. 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
503 W. College St.
Terrell, TX 75160

Tribute Wall



“ *Garry Yancey*

October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *My wife Tommy and I we're privileged to travel to Cuba with Garry and Vivian we had a lovely time with them it was our first meeting but it was easy to become good friends with them quickly heart goes out to Vivian I know it's a great loss we just want everyone know that Garry is in a better place now with all our love Mark and Tommmye Frost*

mark frost - April 27, 2018 at 03:27 PM



“ *He and I spent a lot of time together talking and doing sports activities. I will truly miss him as a friend and confidant. R. Knox*

roger knox - April 21, 2018 at 02:55 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you, Vivian and family.
Barbara Reneau*

Barbara Reneau - April 20, 2018 at 08:28 PM



“ *Our condolences to the Yancey Family.
Terry and Donna Eason*

Terry Eason - April 19, 2018 at 01:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Garry Yancey .*



April 19, 2018 at 12:02 PM



“ *Coach was always one of my favorites in High School. I continued to see him throughout the years while I worked at McCoys and the Hardware Store and he always remembered me from school which is amazing considering all the students & athletes he had. He was always a "larger than life" guy. I remember in school it was always, "Come on Fellas, you guys are being Namby Pambies". I will never hear that without thinking of him. Mrs. Yancey, Blake I am so sorry for your loss, I understand he leaves a LARGE void, the same as when I lost my dad. Also wanted to share that Coach was a substitute teacher for MY kids in Forney several times and they were very sad to hear he had passed, they felt the same way about him. What an Awesome man he was! God Bless your family, and I pray you find comfort during this time of loss.*

Toby Flowers

Toby Flowers - April 19, 2018 at 10:27 AM



“ *Debbie Martin sent a virtual gift in memory of Garry Yancey*



Debbie Martin - April 18, 2018 at 10:23 PM

DM

Hugs and Love to you Vivian from DeeDee King- Williams and Debbie King-Martin

Debbie Martin - April 18, 2018 at 10:25 PM

DM

“ *Debbie Martin lit a candle in memory of Garry Yancey*



Debbie Martin - April 18, 2018 at 09:56 PM

DM

Vivian and Blake I am so sorry to hear that Coach is gone. You know that DeeDee loved the two of you do much. We both did and really enjoyed going on trips with MYF. He was a great man and Coach. I'm so sorry that I can't be there for his service, but Doug had a triple bypass yesterday and I'm at the Dallas VA with him. I will get back to see you as soon as I can. You, Blake and the rest of your family are in my heart always, in my thoughts and in my prayers. I will let DeeDee know, as I'm sure she will miss him as well. If you need anything at all please let me know. I love you and Blake very much.

Debbie Martin - April 18, 2018 at 10:20 PM

CM

“ *What a great experience to know and travel with Garry. He was the perfect host, always doing everything he could to make the trip the best one yet. And Vivian was always right beside him making sure that all went well. Such fun. In thinking about Garry, what jumps out is that Garry LIVED life. He did more in one lifetime than any three people. And God blessed him with time to experience so many wonderful things. Now he rests and waits for the rest of us.*

Carolyn Marr

Carolyn Marr - April 18, 2018 at 04:23 PM

DP

“ *Vivian and Blake,
So sorry to hear about Garry. I first met Garry in 1966 at NEO, I was a sophomore and he was a freshman. We were both offensive linemen for the Golden Norsemen. Very proud to say that his team went on to win the National Championship in 1967. After college he also came back and coached at NEO with Coach Berry and Coach Kramer. The last several years Garry has been one of the best Alumni supporters of NEO Athletics. He gave of his time and money to support the Athletes and the programs of NEO. You could always count on Garry to be there when we needed his help. Garry is a true NORSEMAN!!! He was a great friend, I will miss him and NEO will miss him. Garry truly exemplifies "ONCE A NORSEMAN ALWAYS A NORSEMAN"Dale Patterson*

Dale Patterson - April 18, 2018 at 12:19 PM

KY

“ *Kathy & Jerry Yancey lit a candle in memory of Garry Yancey*



Kathy & Jerry Yancey - April 18, 2018 at 02:01 AM

KA

We love you, Garry & we'll dearly miss you! We are comforted to know that you are now in the care of God & are at peace. ❤️

Kathy - April 18, 2018 at 02:08 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Garry Yancey .*



April 17, 2018 at 06:39 PM



“ *124 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - April 17, 2018 at 04:03 PM

BL

“ *Brenda L. purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute S pray for the family of Garry Yancey .*



Brenda L. - April 17, 2018 at 11:15 AM

MM

“ *Such wonderful folks and traveling companions! Go, go, go and see and experience so many wonderful things. Life was on hyper-drive with them. Garry is now on the ultimate journey in heaven. We hope to all see you there one day. Love you all!*
Marvin & Suzy McCook

Marvin & Suzy McCook - April 16, 2018 at 06:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Garry Yancey .*



April 16, 2018 at 04:12 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Garry Yancey .*



April 16, 2018 at 01:39 PM

DH

“ *Diane Hooker purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Garry Yancey .*



Diane Hooker - April 16, 2018 at 10:50 AM

KJ

“ *Great memories of our trips together. Garry put together some wonderful events. The Royal Tattoo in Edinburgh is unforgettable, and London was amazing. Thanks for the memories, my friend*

Karen Jones - April 16, 2018 at 10:02 AM

LM

“ *Even only knowing Garry a short time, I realized that he was a man that lived life to the fullest, he loved kids, especially his own and grandkids. He was well loved in the community. But mostly what I know about Garry is that he has definitely left a legacy of what it is to give back. Even though he was only a Kiwanian for one year, he was a great one. He used his love for kids through our club and I am very appreciative of the example that he has left us with. He's boisterous voice and presence will certainly be missed by our club.*

Laura Melton - President, Kiwanis Club of Terrell

Laura Melton - April 16, 2018 at 09:35 AM

LM

“ *Laura Melton lit a candle in memory of Garry Yancey*



Laura Melton - April 16, 2018 at 09:32 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Garry Yancey .*



April 15, 2018 at 08:02 PM

RM

“ *Sending love and prayers. He will be dearly missed by all. Richard, Linda, and Ben McRea.*

Richard McRea - April 15, 2018 at 06:25 PM

JK

“Garry was not just another great guy. He was one of those special people who dedicated his life to help mold and shape so many young lives. Terrell is a better place because of the love and time that he gave to our youth. For our family Garry was not just a neighbor, but also a dear friend. He was always there when you needed him. When some unwanted creature slithered into our yard, Garry wasted no time running over with his shovel in hand. We will miss his big smiles and kind heart and be thankful that we were able to call him our friend. God Bless you Vivian, Blake and Angela.”

Jan, Ali, Alison, and Andrew Karimi

Jan Karimi - April 15, 2018 at 04:54 PM

MH

“Vivian and Blake I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Garry. Prayers are with the Yancey family.”

mike Haskell - April 15, 2018 at 01:38 PM



“Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Garry Yancey .



April 15, 2018 at 12:43 PM

BR

“ Garry was the biggest, loudest, craziest, Teddy BIG bear, I knew as a young college freshman, fraternity pledge in 1974! His bear hugs just squeezed the air out of your lungs, but his smile and laugh resuscitated you immediately.

He was THE role model for the energized bunny! He seemed to have tireless energy and drive that was so infectious to those around him.

He served as a great role model for all the kids he coached, and was a terrific, loyal friend to all who had the privilege to know him and be around him.

Bob Ramey

Bob Ramey - April 14, 2018 at 11:50 PM

RP

“ Vivian, Blake and the Yancey family,
Garry was a good and kind man. I enjoyed our years coaching together. We am honored to have called him our friend. Our family sends our prayers out to you during this difficult time.

Randy and Brenda Perry

Sam and Courtney Perry

Randy Perry - April 14, 2018 at 07:07 PM

JR

“ We met Coach a few years ago when we moved to Lost Bridge village. He was a nice guy and a good neighbor. He'll be missed in our community and our neighborhood.

John Rainone - April 14, 2018 at 05:43 PM

RJ

“ *Mrs Yancey and Blake,
I never know what to say during times like this. Blake your mom and
and dad were big supporters. I appreciate all your dad did. My
Christ be with y'all during this time of grief.*

Rhitt Jackson - April 14, 2018 at 04:51 PM

 Shell
Mercer

“ *Coach Yancey was one of the few teachers I loved and respected at
THS. He was so incredibly sweet. Sincere prayers for his family at
this difficult time.*

Shell Mercer - April 14, 2018 at 04:40 PM

JM

“ *Prayers for this sweet family.*

Jennifer Moore

jennifer moore - April 14, 2018 at 03:42 PM

 Cynthia
Parks

“ *Mrs. Yancey and Blake, my heart goes out to
you. Coach will be missed by many, but I
cannot imagine how you must be feeling right
now. We are keeping you in our prayers.*



Cynthia Parks - April 14, 2018 at 02:34 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Garry Yancey .*



April 14, 2018 at 02:27 PM



“ *Dear Vivian, Blake and family,*

Garry will be missed by so many. He was a great co-worker and was always so positive and helpful to those around him. He was special in so many ways. Blessings on the family and friends as they share their memories and mourn his passing.

Don Burnes - April 14, 2018 at 01:41 PM

JL

“ Gary was always on the go, Gary and Vivian traveled the world and always had a smile on their faces. I was fortunate a year ago to travel with Gary as his guest to go visit one of his students(Rico) and players from his coaching days. The joy of all parties and remembrances of their days together was truly touching and real. The photos below showed some of their time, and like it suppose Rico put Gary on a good fish.

Garry will truly be missed and we send our deepest condolences to the entire family!

John & Lindy Larson



John Larson - April 14, 2018 at 01:15 PM

TG

“ Coach Yancey was my favorite teacher in high school and i was very fortunate to have him. He was always positive and was such an inspiration and a mentor to myself and others. He was truly one of a kind and will be missed by so many. Our prayers go out to his family.

Tammy Gordon-Phelps - April 14, 2018 at 11:32 AM

MJ

“ Coach Yancey and I worked together at Terrell High School. He coached my son LJ. Garry was a gentle giant who really cared about the students at THS. Vivian and Blake, we are praying for You at this difficult time. God Will take care of You!!!!
Maria James

Maria James - April 14, 2018 at 11:00 AM

BH

“ Garry and I first worked together in 1972 at DeWitt Perry Jr. High School in Carrollton-Farmers Branch. He was an energetic and enthusiastic young coach, who loved kids. He remained a good friend over all these years. Jeannie and I will miss his infectious laughter and great storytelling! Our prayers go out to Vivian and all of the family.

Bob & Jeannie

Bob & Jeannie Hunnicutt - April 14, 2018 at 10:50 AM

ST

“ Sharon Timms lit a candle in memory of Garry Yancey



sharon timms - April 14, 2018 at 12:58 AM

PR

“ Coach Yancey was my favorite teacher in high school, always positive and such an inspiration and mentor to everyone. He was truly one of a kind and will be missed by so many. Our prayers go out to his family.

Paula Renfro - April 14, 2018 at 12:06 AM

JM

“ I was fortunate to get my first coaching job working with some great men in Terrell.

Coach Yancey was one of those men that I was lucky enough to learn under. He loved kids and loved Terrell. Sending our thoughts and prayers to the family. -- Jody and Brandi McPherson

Jody McPherson - April 13, 2018 at 09:53 PM

BS

“ Gary was one of kindest coaches I have ever worked with. Always positive and not a negative word. God Bless

Blaine Stoops - April 13, 2018 at 09:11 PM

FK

“ Frank And Elaine Kasper lit a candle in memory of Garry Yancey



Frank and Elaine Kasper - April 13, 2018 at 08:57 PM

Cameron Sutton

“ Cameron Sutton lit a candle in memory of Garry Yancey



Cameron Sutton - April 13, 2018 at 07:32 PM

Cameron Sutton

R.I.P Coach Yancey, Sorry to hear of his passing, He will be truly missed by so many, ill bet hes playing golf in heaven right now

Cameron Sutton - April 13, 2018 at 07:34 PM

DW

Such a great friend! I was truly blessed to call him friend for the past 34 years. My prayers for you, Vivian, Blake and the rest of the family. God bless you and give you comfort during this time.

David White - April 13, 2018 at 09:35 PM

AA

“ Praying for you Vivian, Blake and family! 🙏🏻🙏🏻
🏛️



Audrey Moss Appleton - April 13, 2018 at 05:28 PM

BL

“ Bill & Linda lit a candle in memory of Garry Yancey



Bill & Linda - April 13, 2018 at 04:23 PM

BG

“ Linda and I was sorry to hear about Gary. Always had fun with Coach Yancey as he was a great mentor for our kid's. I always knew Blake was the apple of Garry's eye. It was great that he got to see Blake grow up, play football in high school and college. And not to mention got to see Blake grow up to be a great young man, get married and have kid's. I know Vivian you were the glue to keep all the schedules on track. You were going ninety miles an hour. We were very fortunate to have a friend like Gary. He Will Be Missed. Thinking of the family with our prayers and thoughts.

Bill & Linda Griffin - April 13, 2018 at 04:22 PM

MB

“ I will always have fond memories of my time in Terrell with Coach Yancey. He was a kind and generous man. Vivian and Blake, I am praying for you guys and your family.

Martin Brumit - April 13, 2018 at 03:58 PM

SF

“ Sherri Faulk lit a candle in memory of Garry Yancey



Sherri Faulk - April 13, 2018 at 03:07 PM

SF

“ Vivian and family, We are thinking of you today and holding you in prayer. Garry was a good man and did so much for the kids of TISD and for the youth at church. Sending our love and prayers.

Sherri Faulk - April 13, 2018 at 03:06 PM

JP

Garry and Vivian I am producing a portion of a poem I wrote long ago. It certainly applies to you both and to Blake and his family. ^^Will you be my friend:
There are so many reasons why you never should - I~m sometimes sullen, often shy, and acutely sensitive. My fear erupts as anger. I find it easy to give but difficult to receive. I talk about myself when I~m afraid and often spend a day with nothing to say.
But I will make you laugh and love you quite a bit, and hold you when you~re sad.
I cry a little almost every day
Because I~m more caring than the strangers ever know.
and if at times I show my tender side (the soft and warmer side I hide)
I wonder. will you be my friend:^^
Thanks for an eternity of friendship to the Yancey family.
Joe and Sondra Perry

Joe Perry - April 18, 2018 at 11:04 PM