



Gerald Goodwin

January 4, 1954 - January 13, 2006

GOODWIN, Mr. Gerald Douglas - Age 52, passed away Friday January 13, 2006 at McLaren Regional Medical Center. Family hour 10AM Friday, January 20, 2006 at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2109 M.L. King Avenue, with funeral service commencing at 11AM. Pastor H.B Dixon, officiating. Interment River Rest Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10AM Friday. Mr. Goodwin will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 12Noon-8PM Thursday. Mr. Gerald Douglas Goodwin was born January 4, 1954 in Flint, Michigan, the son of Titus and Mary Ann (Gatlin) Goodwin. He united with Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church at an early age. Gerald graduated from Flint Northern High School, "Class of 1972." During his high school years he was very active in sports. He served in the United States Marine Corp and later attended the Naval Academy where he played football. He also attended the University of Michigan-Flint. Gerald was employed as an electrician for General Motors Corporation for over 28 years, working at Buick City and Lake Orion Assembly Plants. On September 26, 1987, Gerald was joined in Holy Matrimony to Ms. Paula Kennedy. He was a loving husband and father to Sherrise Wright, Damian and Ricky Kennedy. Gerald was an avid motorcycle rider. His travels included yearly trips to motorcycle shows in Wisconsin. Mr. Gerald Douglas Goodwin leaves to cherish his memory: wife, Paula (Kennedy) Goodwin of Davison, MI; daughter, Sherrise Wright of Nashville, TN; 2 sons, Damian and Ricky Kennedy of Davison, MI;

grandchildren, Laurington and Asaante' Wright of Nashville, TN; 3 nieces, Tameka Kennedy of Chicago, IL, Ashley Kennedy of Warren, MI and Noelle Kennedy of Vacaville, CA; 7 nephews, DeShaun Jackson of Mt. Morris, MI, Marcus and Jared Davis of Ypsilanti, MI, Darius Kennedy and Booker Kennedy III of Chicago, IL, Jarrell Cunningham of Harper Woods, MI and Cameron Kennedy of Vacaville, CA; 2 aunts, Ollie (Nathaniel) Smith of Smackover, AR and Joann Benjamin of Little Rock, AR; 7 uncles, Archie Goodwin of Little Rock, AR, William (Florence) Goodwin of Smackover, AR, Prince Pierce, Pete (Zetta) Gatlin Jr., Billy Ray (Eartha) Gatlin of Rockford, IL, Lacy (Dorothy) Smith of Las Vegas, NV and James (Sharmaine) Gatlin of Flint; cousins including special cousins, Gregory (Michelle) Brock of Grand Blanc, MI, Milton Carroll and Winifred Brock, all of Flint; father and mother-in-law, Booker (Miriam) Kennedy of Detroit, MI; 3 sisters-in-law, Lynn Kennedy of Detroit, MI, Christina (Carlton) Davis of Ypsilanti, MI and Annette Kennedy of Harper Woods, MI; 2 brothers-in-law, Booker (Renee?) Kennedy II of Memphis, TN and Michael (Cassandra) Kennedy of Warren, MI; a host of other relatives and friends including special friends, Wayne Gustafson and Clifford Christensen. Mr. Goodwin was preceded in death by his father, Titus Goodwin; brother, Stanley Goodwin; grandparents, Austin (Laura) Goodwin, Pete Gatlin and Mildred Boone. The family would like to express special thanks to the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church family and to all of Gerald's Naval Academy buddies, especially Pat McCormick.

Tribute Wall



“ *Gerald Goodwin*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *I always tell my kids how awesome Gerry was and how much I respected him while he was teaching us at NAPS. My daughter is considering the USMC and my experiences with Gerry may well encourage her to become a Marine. After all these years it's amazing how such a great person can still inspire. God bless and so sorry we lost Gerry at an early age.*

Geoff Weber - February 20, 2019 at 04:11 PM

AC

“ This is for Ricky. I didn't know your Dad very well. But I would see him every day when he picked you up from "school." Sometimes I would speak with him and tell him how you are doing. Whenever I saw him, I would get a big smile. Your Dad had the best smile there is. I could tell just from looking at him that he was a very, very good man. The best. Your Mom is also the best because she has that same great smile. Your Dad has touched many people in his life by putting smiles on their faces. He was like a shining light bulb in a dark room. This comes from being close to God. I know your Dad was close to God even though he never told me. I know he is in heaven now. He is at peace. His hip, or any other part of his body doesn't hurt anymore. He is looking down on you and smiling. He wants you to be strong and help your Mom. He knows that someday you will all be together again. You will see him again. But right now God has another plan for your family. It is very sad but true. We don't know why God takes people we love up to heaven but I think God needs your Dad there. God must have an extra special plan for you and your Mom. You might not be able to understand it for a long long time but it's true. Your Dad will always be with you. You can remember him. Look at his pictures, remember his smile, voice and hugs and maybe even feel his spirit. You can pray for God to help you feel better. My family will pray for you and your Mom and family too. May God give you peace. Love, Armeda, Mike and Ce'Nedra

Armeda Coursen - January 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

“ Paula,

You and Gerald had such a wonderful relationship and family. I know how much love was around your home just by the way you and Gerald spoke and acted towards each other. He truly thought of you as his princess, and you thought of him as your knight in shining armor...maybe not armor, because believe me, he was always dressed to the hilt!!! Even though you have more clothes than him... (remember he had to match his cycle, I'm sure he thought we were all nuts when we had to see him in his chaps, he did look good!))

Remember when he brought you flowers...how many, many times...he made all the other girls feel jealous, and wish our husbands would take a hint and buy us some beautiful flowers...I know he always made you feel special, and you made him feel that same way. Sometimes I think we were more excited than you! We couldn't wait to see what he had written on the card! (sometimes we would peak, but were afraid to get caught). When that card came about your "duck" we never knew if we should peak anymore...I'm sure you remember that one!

I am sure the first time Jerry met all of us he thought we were crazy. He made us feel like he knew us forever. I have always admired and thought very much of him. He just had that kind of presence. I will also miss him giving me the scoop on Lake Orion...when Terry didn't tell me about profit sharing checks or vacation checks or upcoming overtime...I'm sure he will find some way of letting me know. Terry always chuckled and said he knew it was Jerry when I would know things ahead of time!

You must have been great parents...you just don't find that many "step" fathers around like Gerald (oh for goodness sake, I've never called him Gerald...just not sure whether it's Gerry or Jerry), who will take over and be such a wonderful dad! Your children are extremely nice...a reflection of both of you, most certainly that of

Jerry, as they know how to treat ladies, and are very warm and polite. I am also sure that his daughter is a wonderful person who will go on in life with a great deal of her father's love behind her. She was a loving tribute at the funeral and Jerry would have been so pleased and proud. I am sure she will carry on to be the kind of person Jerry was.

I know all of you will miss him tremendously because of your special relationships. It will be very hard...but remember that God is with you! Know that you will always have your family and your friends to help.

*We will always be there for you,
Love to all, you will be in our prayers,*

Kim and Terry Edwards

Kim Edwards - January 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers always. Look to God for strength and comfort in the coming days, weeks, months and years.

Charles Ross - January 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I still remember seeing Gerry the first time - I was stepping off a bus reporting for military duty in Bainbridge, Md. Gerry was a United States Marine, and he was helping some of the instructors at the Naval Academy prep school to teach some of us new guys how to be in the military.

Gerry was idolized by all of us. Always fair, always had a smile, a kind work, and he was real good at teaching us what we needed to know about being in the military...how to march, to salute, shine our shoes, and about being a good person. I never once heard Gerry yell at anyone, say anything negative, or have a harsh word about anyone. He always looked so sharp in his uniform.

And what an athlete. He was instrumental in making the school's football team one of the best in the nation. He was an incredible running back - an incredible physical specimen, and the best teammate a person could ask for.

I ended up going to the Naval Academy with Gerry, where he continued to excel. I will never forget seeing him carrying the football - he was a man ahead of his time. I remember he weighed about 205 and ran the 40 in 4.3! That was unheard of back then in the mid-70's.

I recently reconnected with Gerry, and on his birthday he took the time to send me a note saying "THANK YOU FOR THE WELL WISHES. TODAY IS MY B-DAY, BORN 1954. MAY GOD'S BLESSING BE WITH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES THIS YEAR AND MANY MORE TO COME.

I still idolize Gerry, and brag about knowing him to my kids. I know right now he is in heaven, and I imagine he is spreading good cheer with his big smile and kind words. A great man, a great friend, father, and teammate. May God bless all of you, and know that your father was loved by many.

Jim DeGree - January 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Our deepest sympathies.* ”

Tony Conroy - January 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM