



# Gayle Heard

JUL 20, 1939 - APR 11, 2013



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FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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## **Gayle Heard**

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**G**ayle Heard was born Wanda Gayle Tucker, only daughter of Andrew "Babe" Tucker and Mercer Dell Jenkins Tucker in Longview July 20, 1939. She transitioned from this life on Thursday, April 11, 2013. Gayle was a member of an East Texas pioneer family. Her paternal ancestors, Enoch Spinks Tucker, of North Carolina, and Mary Ann Clark Tucker, of Tennessee, settled in the Gum Springs area in what is present-day Gregg County in 1845 and many of their descendents remain in the Harrison/Gregg area. After attending First Ward elementary school, the family moved near Big Sandy, where Gayle completed school. She then attended Kilgore College where she was a Rangerette and member of the Footlight Players as a drama major. She enrolled at Sam Houston State Teachers College, leaving before completing her degree in theatre arts, and subsequently finished both her Bachelor and Master degrees at Stephen F. Austin State University, with post-graduate study in Sociology and Social Work in the University of Texas system.

Gayle married Al Heard on March 10, 1962 and moved back to Longview where they have remained most of their marriage. They are the parents of two daughters, Danielle Heard, of Longview, and Dr. Hailey Heard, of Marietta, Georgia. Another daughter, Alison, did not survive birth but her memory is held in their hearts.

Gayle is survived by her beloved husband and daughters, daughter-in-law, Megan Arnold, brother, Gerald Wayne Tucker, sister-in-law, Gay Wilson Tucker, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Odis and Chiquita Heard, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Patsy and Ray Franklin, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Dollie Marie and Bert Allen. Nephews and nieces are Paul and Paula Tucker, Stacy and Terri Tucker, Dana Tucker, Andrew and Sharon Tucker, Gerri Tucker Carlisle and Gary Carlisle, Kara Tucker Gills and Gary Gills, Andrew James Tucker, as well as many dear great nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and her brothers, James Douglas Tucker and Andrew Gene Tucker, step-son, Kenneth David Heard, nephews Billy Ray Tucker and Brint Douglas Tucker, and niece, Dawn Tucker Stribling.



## Obituary

**Gayle Heard**

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Gayle and Al had a marvelous life, involved in sailing, music, travel, and theatre. They helped to establish a permanent home for the Longview Yacht Club and enjoyed racing and pleasure cruising. For many years, Gayle was active both on the stage and behind the scenes at Longview Community Theatre. She was also very active in the community, initiating and developing numerous programs to benefit children and families, including the provision of foster care services in Gregg County, shelters for homeless adolescents, East Texas Network for Children, local programs to reduce child abuse, and work with the District Family Court for child support probationers and their families. As a Clinical Social Worker, she was involved with abused and neglected children in her employment in Child Protective Services as supervisor in Gregg County, with Methodist Mission Home as East Texas Social Worker for adoption services, with Sabine Valley Center as Program Director of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and in private practice. She was a dedicated advocate for children for more than thirty years, serving on numerous boards on the state and local levels throughout her career and through volunteer effort. Until recent years, she was active in the Zonta Club of Longview, an international service organization for professional and executive women. She maintained an active membership in the American Mensa Society and was especially interested in their gifted children's program. An avid reader, Gayle enjoyed the stimulating discussions of the Fredonia House Book Club and her group of women friends who met to discuss a monthly selection, but more often than not, were really interested in the food. She leaves them, and other good friends, with her sincere appreciation for all the good times and for their loving support when it was needed.

Memorial service for Gayle Heard will be at the Unitarian Fellowship of Longview, 2301 Alpine Road, Longview, on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 11 a.m. Scattering of her ashes will be at a later date with private family participation. The family will receive friends at Rader Funeral Home in Longview from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 19, 2013. Anyone wishing to make a memorial gift is lovingly requested to support CASA of Gregg County, or the outreach efforts of the Unitarian Fellowship of Longview.



## Tribute Wall

**Gayle Heard**

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**Anonymous** posted:

Hi Everyone - Thank you so very much for your kind and sweet messages. They meant so much to me and my family. This is the memorial video I put together for my mother's service in case you would like to see it: <https://vimeo.com/64460559Love,Danielle>

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

My sincere condolences to the family of Gayle Heard. May you find comfort in your loving memories, and in knowing that God is "near to those that are broken at heart; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves. " Psalm 34;18 Our loving Creator has promised to soon "swallow up death forever...and wipe the tears from all faces." Isaiah 25;8 With deepest sympathy,

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Danielle, I am so sorry for your loss. Your mother was a wonderful person with a beautiful spirit. Sending prayers and love to you and your family during this difficult time.

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

What a wonderful woman! I was fortunate enough to know her for a few years. Every time we interacted she impressed me with her wit and intelligence. Best of all, I felt liked and accepted for who I was. She impressed me with her courage and strength, her ability to hope and persevere. My sincerest condolences to her family and friends. I know you will grieve and miss her very much, as even I do. May you be comforted by your memories of wonderful times together.

September 19 at 6:30 AM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Deepest sympathies go out to the Heard Family. May you always treasure the wonderful memories of Gayle. Regards, Elaine Lawson

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Some of us are blessed with strong female role models with caring hearts that make the world better by their laugh, their passion for children and their innate caring nature. Very few are privileged to call these ladies mom, but Danielle, we are the lucky ones! How fortunate we are to be daughters of the "hens" and to share the legacy!

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss my thoughts are with you all.

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Danielle, sorry for your loss. Your family is in our prayers. Rose and Charlie G

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Al, Hailey, and Danielle: Bill and I are grieving the loss of a wonderful friend along with you. We frequently talk about all the wonderful times we had sailing, and the days in the Keys. I thought of Gayle as a sister and she will always remain close to me in my thoughts and prayers. We love all of you. Bill and Cathy Barnett

September 19 at 6:30 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

Danielle, I am so very sorry for your loss. You, Hailey and your dad are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Crystal Carnes##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Danielle, I am so sorry to learn of your mom's passing. She was an amazing woman & very inspiring. Your love & devotion are so precious to her, may you all be comforted in the legacy of her love. May you be blessed in the tough days ahead, she will be greatly missed. In deep sympathy, Sandra McCormack##imported-begin##Sandra McCormack##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Danielle, You probably don't remember me, but I took a nutrition class from you several months ago. You were very concerned and busy then caring for your mother's health as you could. I'm sorry to hear of her passing away. After reading about your dear mother Gayle's life and contribution to our community's abused and neglected children, I am more than ever inspired and motivated to become a CASA volunteer. You deserve a big hug for all you did for her when she was suffering these last few years. Yes, you will miss her deeply as we all do who have deceased parents, but you know she was much comforted in her last dire needs by your love, presence, and help.##imported-begin##Deborah Roll##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Danielle, I'm so sorry to read of your Mother's passing. Your choosing to move back to Longview to be with her these last few years through her struggles was a real gift. My thoughts are with you.##imported-begin##Lynette Goodson##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Danielle, I am very sorry that your mom has passed away. I'm sure she appreciated your support and help through the last few years. And I'm sure you are glad you were able to be with her and share your life with her. You are a good daughter, and we should all be so lucky as to have children like you when we are in our old age. My deepest sympathies to you and your family. Ron Hatcher

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Danielle, I was so sorry to learn of your mother's passing. Sounds like you were able to be with her much of the last 6 years since you moved from NYC. I hope your memories with your mother bring you comfort and peace. Thinking of you, Rebecca Franck

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Gayle was a dear friend and colleague. She started so much of value in our community. Her tact, firmness, loyalty and skill led us in making our world safer for children for a long time. Thanks to her, that work continues. Our deepest condolences to all of her family. William and Janet Martin

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

What a full and significant life! Gayle was a person who truly made a difference in the lives she touched. To Danielle, Al, Haley-- My sympathy and prayers for your loss of a brave lady. Joan Propes

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

With great regret, we send love and especially prayers for your family. I know she will be greatly missed. May the Lord guide you continually and send his grace to you as you heal from your loss. Johnny & Grace Beall

September 19 at 6:30 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

I just heard about Gayle's passing. I am so sorry to hear this news. I have many fond memories of Gayle and the family when I was young. My deepest sympathies and prayers are going out for the family.##imported-begin##Kelly Mebane Lovelady##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

We are so sorry for your loss--thinking of you with love and prayers##imported-begin##Larry and Carol Shelton##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Prayers with Gayle's family as this time of loss. Knew her well, for many years, but had lost touch more recently. She was always a strong advocate for those whom she served so faithfully. They have surely lost a voice.##imported-begin##Vickie Raymond##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I will miss my friend, she shared many deep thoughts during our discussions at the Unitarian Fellowship of Longview, and at our monthly book club meetings. Gayle was a very special person and will indeed be missed, by all who knew her.##imported-begin##Huey Mitchell##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I shared with Gayle over 40 years as a friend, neighbor, co-worker, and supervisor. She dedicated her life to making the children of Gregg County safe from abuse and her legacy lives on. There are no words to soften the pain of her loss. To the family-- may your spirit be touched by the love that surrounds you. She will be missed by so many who had the privilege of being in her life.##imported-begin##Eleanor Sue Daniel##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



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**Anonymous** posted:

have lots of great memories of her and yalls family when i was younger! she will be greatly missed by so many!!!! praying for your family during this very tough time!##imported-begin##Penny Gennings Gentry##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

We met Al and Gayle in North Carolina and became good friends. It was a wonderful time in our lives. I will never forget the good times we shared together. Gayle was a wonderful person and will be missed.##imported-begin##Pat & Fred Morgan##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I am very fortunate to have known Gayle and will miss her conversation. She was a wonderful person who contributed so much to the community. An example for all. She will be missed.##imported-begin##Chip Koepke##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Gayle and I shared many interests, including music, psychology and progressive politics. We worked together at the Family District Court and spent many hours just laughing and talking. I will always miss her infectious positive outlook on life!##imported-begin##Patt Lindsey##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Gayle was a true friend who deeply loved her family and friends. We feel so fortunate to have known her and shared really special times as well as just plain old fun times over lunch, on the back porch or around the poker table. Gayle lived a full life and left so many positive ripples.##imported-begin##Carol & Kay Cox##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



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**Anonymous** posted:

With tears in my eyes and heart I think of the depth of compassion, care, encouragement and love that Gayle has been for so many, as well as the strength ...beyond words. She was a gift to us. I am grateful .##imported-begin##Don Walker##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

As a member of the Fredonia House Book Club and a friend of the Longview Unitarians, I know I am one of many in both groups who will miss Gayle terribly. I always looked forward to hearing every word she had to say to both groups, and she never disappointed. We will remember you always, Gayle!##imported-begin##Jonna Allen Anderson##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:30 AM



**Rader Funeral Home** shared a photo to the **Tribute Album** album.



September 13 at 12:20 PM



## Media

**Gayle Heard**

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**Rader Funeral Home** shared a photo to the **Tribute Album** album.

September 13 at 12:20 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Gayle by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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