



# John Franklin Gainey

MAY 23, 1954 - APR 28, 2024



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FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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# John Franklin Gainey

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John Franklin (Jackie) Gainey was born to the late Josephine and Jack Gainey on May 23, 1954. He is the oldest of four, leaving on this earth sisters Patricia Ann Tippitt, Cathy Wood Deason (James) and brother George Gainey (Mindy). John is “Uncle Jackie” to nine nieces and nephews ; Luke, Matt, Tiffany (Bill), Candice, Jesse, Garrett, Griffith, Caitlyn, and Christy. Of immense significance and importance to John are his children, Jocelyn Alexandra Gainey, daughter, and son, Jedidiah Forrest Gainey (Marlee). With a blended family started in 2016 by marrying Dianna Kaye, John added Adam and Kayla Decker as his “bonus son and daughter”, and Huffman in-laws Jerry, Sonja, JoAnn, Gerald, Aleta, Matt and Rachel. John is also delighted to be called “Papa John” by four handsome and boisterous grandsons, Rayden Decker, Xander Brooks, Xavien Brooks, and Jasper Cantin.

Someone recently asked “What are John’s three favorite things?” Without hesitation, we responded FAMILY, FRIENDS, and FLYING... and in no particular order because they are all tied for John’s first place favorites.

“Once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.” - Leonardo da Vinci.

John enjoyed a nearly 50-year career in aviation which began by his taking a ride as a youngster at Rusk County airport (KRFI) on a C-150, paying a penny a pound for the ride-about 65 cents. There was no back seat, so he crouched down in the little cargo space behind the front seats and enjoyed the ride of his life. After that experience, he would never be the same. Twelve type ratings and dozens of recurrents later, John has accrued over 17,000 hours of total time flying. John’s extensive aviation career includes stints with US Airways, MGM, Caesars Entertainment, Hilton Hotels, USX Corporation, Emkelrads Corporation, US Steel, Meridian Bank, Marathon Oil, Universal Weather & Aviation, and he flew for numerous private jet



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owners/companies. John's aviation colleagues hold him in the highest regard as an excellent pilot and dependable comrade, always willing to assist and contribute his expertise, and an all-around great guy to be with. He has made friends all over the world. One pilot friend quipped "China has 1.5 billion people. John knows half of them... the other half have heard of him".

John is also a flight instructor and kept his flight instructor license current for decades. It is hard to calculate the number of student pilots that John instructed to become pilots, but a best guess would be many dozens (including his wife, Dianna Kaye, and they even stayed married through it!)! He is and always has been enthusiastic about aviation and finds great joy in sharing that world with others.

"Being a family means you are part of something very wonderful. It means you will love and be loved for the rest of your life" - Lisa Weed

Whether camping outdoors or cruising on a ship or just hanging out at the house, John absolutely LOVES being with his family and friends. Ma and Pa, siblings, cousins, nephews, nieces, children, grandchildren- all of them have wonderful memories of get-togethers and celebrations with John (affectionately called Jackie by close friends and family members). He is such a social /family bumblebee! In 1978, John sold his Oldsmobile convertible to pay for the 25th anniversary bash for his parents. He and his children loved to take roller coaster rides whenever they could. For one of his birthdays he invited numerous friends over and had a keg of Stella Artois on hand. Flight attendants remember his readiness to celebrate after a long flight across the "big pond". Preparing for the celebration was on the final approach checklist. Many of John's friends and family shared the love of bicycling. John rode seven RAGBRAI rides - the famous annual ride across Iowa, which is held the last week of July. He called it the most expensive one-star vacation ever! John often made reference to his "Holy Family" - a flight crew that traveled the Holy Land with many wonderful experiences and memories. John enjoyed playing golf with his friends and family. His favorite saying "I shoot in the low 70's... any higher temperature makes me sweat". He occasionally liked to smoke a good cigar, and he loved to share fine wine and spirits with friends and family. John is a die-hard Pittsburgh Steeler fan, and being a proud season ticket holder, he delighted in taking family and friends to



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Steeler games. He was never hesitant to shout “GO STEELERS!”

For several decades, John has sent a Quote of the Day every weekday via email to anyone who accepted his invitation to be included. A recent count was over 250 recipients. The quotes are uplifting and thought-provoking, avoiding controversial topics - with deliberate positive, thoughtful themes. His daughter has lovingly taken the task over, continuing John’s good will and desire to make a positive difference through daily quotes.

Lastly, John was well known for his unique and memorable sayings. Here are as many of them as we could remember, which we call “GAINEYisms”:

“ I have a good memory - it’s just short.”

On being a pilot - “it’s a rough waaaay to make an eeeeeasy livin”.

“You’re not the best... you’re the VERY best”

“If I was any better, I’d be twins”

“Darlin’, I was born at night, but not last night”

“It’s your world; I’m just living it”

Upon buckling his seat in the cockpit EVERY time “God Bless you, Tommy”.

“A + Top of the Class

“Drive careful out there - those roads are slick”.

“Darlin, are you from here or just passin’ through?”

“How y’all doin’?”

“Of course, my pleasure, happy to” in response to someone thanking him... a lot of people say “no problem”. John felt “no” and “problem” were just too negative.

“Make it a GREAT day!”

“To the sweetest gal this side of heaven”.

“She’s the boss” (no explanation needed here)

“Where are you going? What are you doing?”

“Have I told you I love you lately?”

“Spread out like a dog’s breakfast”!

Loving husband, father, brother, uncle, friend and Papa John, we will NEVER forget your kind soul, your generosity, your fun sense of adventure, and your infinitely



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contagious positive attitude. Greatly loved, deeply missed – your life has been an absolute blessing to us all, and your memory is forever our treasure.

Mark your heading for 270 degrees WEST at Mach 9.0, Captain Gainey!

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The Recitation of the Rosary will be Friday, May 3, 2024 at 4:30 pm with a time of viewing that evening from 5:30pm-8pm. His funeral service will be Saturday, May 4, 2024 at the funeral home starting at 10am. Interment will follow at Lakewood Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to Women in Aviation International would be appreciated., 1864 Dayton Germantown Pike, #4, Germantown, OH 45327, or online at [www.wai.org/donate-to-wai](http://www.wai.org/donate-to-wai). Indicate that your gift is in memory of John Franklin Gainey

Thank you!




# Events


**John Franklin Gainey**

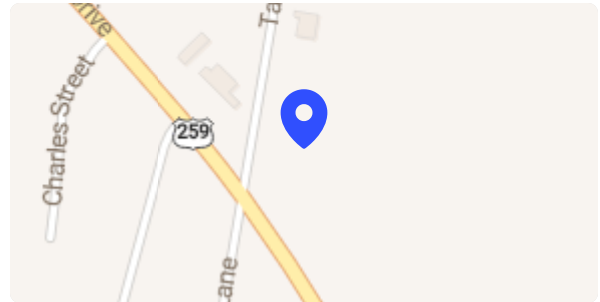
MAY 23, 1954 - APR 28, 2024

## Viewing

 **Friday, May 3, 2024**


 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM CT


 **Rader Funeral Home Henderson Chapel**  
800 Kilgore Dr., Henderson TX 75652

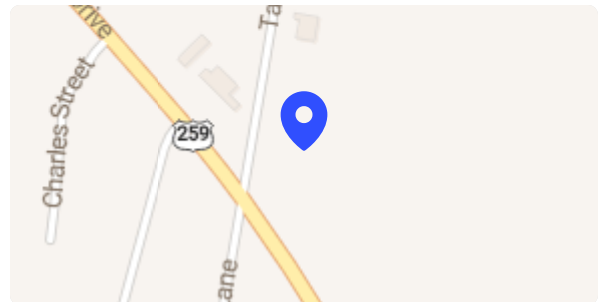


## Funeral Service


 **Saturday, May 4, 2024**

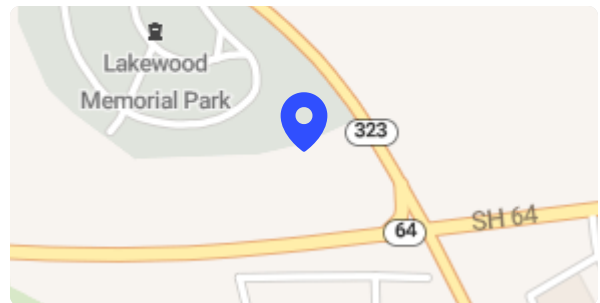
 10:00 AM CT

 **Rader Funeral Home Henderson Chapel**  
800 Kilgore Dr., Henderson TX 75652



## Cemetery Details

 **Lakewood Memorial Park**  
1001 Van Buren St, Henderson TX 75652





# Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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**Rader Funeral Home** shared a **Video**.



May 3 at 4:48 AM



**Kayla Decker** May 5 at 2:27 AM

Me too 💙 I'm glad we all had so many good times together. I wasn't ready to say goodbye to him 😭 A few weeks ago in the Bahamas, he and I were at senior Frog's talking about taking a cruise in ten years, when the boys are older, so that he and I could go to the casino together, and he said he probably wouldn't be alive. I told him not to say that because I didn't want to think that. I still don't want to think that ❤️ But at least he's resting peacefully with God 😊 I miss him though, and the boys do too. We will all be there with him soon enough though

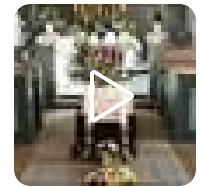


**Rebecca Brock** May 4 at 12:56 PM

I loved seeing all those beautiful memories! ❤️



**Rader Funeral Home** shared a **Webcast Video**.



May 4 at 5:12 AM



**Toby Goldman Dvm** lit a candle in honor of John.

Dear John, Over a decade sitting in a weekly circle of men I had the blessing of becoming a friend and confidant. Traveling heavy or light, together we were all in good hands with you. Even while skiing the bumps, and having a cold one in the lodge. I know your soul is delighting in a life well-lived. We are sad you had to get up and fly away, may the four winds blow you safely home. You are with us for the rest of our lives, until we meet again. Love to his Family, Toby and Michelle Goldman. Las Vegas NV



May 28 at 7:50 AM



**Aline And Patricia** lit a candle in honor of John.



May 7 at 3:44 PM



## Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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CC

**Chris Cavaliere** lit a candle in honor of John.



May 6 at 9:22 AM

RB

**Rebecca Brock** posted:

I'm so blessed to have had Mr. John be part of mine and my families lives! He was always a joy to be around. From the very first time I met Mr. John he felt like family. His zest for life was infectious! he was always so much fun and so thoughtful! Love, Rebecca and Family

May 4 at 1:26 PM

KB

**Kyle B.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



May 4 at 5:38 AM

AD

**Adam Decker** posted:

As I write this it's hard for me to believe that I won't experience your lively and uplifting personality again, John. You will be sorely missed. You and I had many great memories: cruises together, late night chats (sometimes with cigars, always with booze), having my first martini (it was terrible), ski trips, Thanksgiving turkeys, playing craps (HORN HIGH YO), playing blackjack ("You think I should hit on this?" "No, I don't think you should"), cougars on steroids, and many more. I'll just share my favorite one here. Our ski trip together in Colorado at Copper Mountain. There was a huge amount of snow that fell the first day we got there. They were crazy and tough conditions, but also very fun. We went up our first lift and started coming down, but you had fallen in the deep snow and couldn't get up. It was incredibly tough to get up, the second you put your hands in the snow you instantly sank. You told us to not worry about it and go on instead. We went down and back up three times, probably taking 30 minutes per run for 1.5 hours in total. Yet, each time we passed you were sitting there with a smile on your face, cozy as a cucumber, still making friends with everyone who came by. Finally, the third time we came by we all cheered you on to get up. You got up and came down easily with us. We all enjoyed the rest of our time skiing without any issue. We had a fantastic time in great conditions. I smile every time I think of that story. For me, it's a reminder of your kind hearted nature, your perseverance, and your ability to have fun in every situation. With much love, Adam Decker

May 3 at 6:31 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Joe & Anita Griffin And Family** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Gainey family.



May 3 at 5:44 AM



**Joe & Anita Griffin And Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



May 3 at 5:44 AM



**Brent Hale** lit a candle in honor of John.



May 3 at 5:34 AM



**Dianna Kaye** posted:

No one could ask for a better husband. John was loving, fun, kind, fun, caring, fun, adventurous, ... did I mention fun? Yes, we had a good time wherever we went. We always held hands, we kissed like teenagers, we appreciated each other's talents and abilities. He told me he loved me every day of our marriage, and I felt loved every single day. When I had wronged him from time to time, he said "I stopped throwing rocks a long time ago"... and it was true. He did not hold a grudge, he forgave really fast, and he was always ready to find resolution and peace, We were respectful of each other. We enjoyed 48 years of excitement packed into 8 years of marital bliss. Thank you, JFG, for the ride of my life! See you in heaven! Your loving and faithful wife, Dianna Kaye ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

May 2 at 6:49 PM



**Paul** shared a photo to the **Early life** album.



May 2 at 5:53 PM



# Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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**Kayla Decker** posted:

John was a wonderful stepfather and an amazing Papa John to my kids. We all loved him and have so many fond memories of him, like playing cards and silly games late into the night, the many New Years' we all welcomed in together, the cute nicknames he would make up for the children, and our most recent spring break cruise together to the Bahamas. I'm grateful to have known him this past decade and spent so many great times together! We miss him very much. Christmas will never be the same without his funny gifts and quirky personality. We love you Papa John! Thank you for making my mom so happy all these years. You were Xander's "favorite guy" he said. I'll never forget our special memories together and what a beautiful person you were. Love always, Kayla

May 2 at 4:03 PM



**Dianna Gainey** May 2 at 6:27 PM

No one could ask for a better husband. John told me he loved me every single day of our marriage. We held hands everywhere we went. We kissed like teenagers... we were best friends. He was my biggest fan... and I, his... He was always appreciative of the many meals I prepared for him, and he honored me often with verbal acknowledgements of things I had accomplished ... on a daily basis. He truly was a "dream" husband. Loving, fun, caring, fun, faithful, fun, adventurous... did I mention fun? Thank you , JFG, for 48 years of marital bliss stuffed into 8 beautiful years of fun, love and adventure. I'll see you in Heaven... Your loving and faithful wife, Dianna Kaye ❤️❤️❤️❤️



**Cassiano Almeida And Family** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Gainey family.



May 2 at 12:45 PM



**Cassiano Almeida And Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



May 2 at 12:45 PM



**Ybic, Neal & Rena Smith** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Gainey family.



May 1 at 1:58 PM



# Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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**Ybic, Neal & Rena Smith** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



May 1 at 1:58 PM



**Joe & Julie Lins** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Gainey family.



May 1 at 11:27 AM



**Joe & Julie Lins** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



May 1 at 11:27 AM



# Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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**Derinda Wagner** posted:

Jackie was such a sweetheart to me. Coming into the family was a little scary at first but he always made me feel welcome and loved, as did the whole family. He was full of laughter and love and stories. He and Tom would reminisce about younger days and howl with laughter. He loved his job of flying and would tell us of his adventures and a country girl like me would just listen in awe! There were times I wasn't sure if he was being serious or just kidding around but he always made me feel part of the family. His last visit here at our home in Rosharon a few years back, we sat talking and he shared the grown up life of his children and how proud he was of them and what they were doing. He also shared the love story of his precious Dianna Kay whom we had not yet met. He talked about a fairytale love they had and what joy and happiness she brought to his life. He talked about the adventures they have had so far, and especially her love of flying and to him that was the "bomb". They shared many loves but the flying was extra special he said! Tom and Jackie sat up late that night talking and enjoying their short time together. My dad thought he was cool! He enjoyed listening to his tales of adventure and Jackie treated my dad with such respect! Jackie had class but could be a good ol boy when he wanted to. We were very heartbroken to learn of his passing, especially Tom. Dianna Kay, you brought such joy and happiness to Jackie and he was forever thankful. We love you and the whole family and continue to pray for the comfort and peace that only God can give you in the days ahead. Uncle Tom and Derinda Wagner

May 1 at 4:04 AM



**Dianna** May 3 at 8:19 AM

I am lucky and honored to be Jackie's wife. Thank you for all your kind comments about Jackie. He was one of a kind! ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏



**Teresa Hawkins** lit a candle in honor of John.



April 30 at 4:55 PM



**Janice And Family** posted:

Janice DayDear Gainey Family, So sorry about the passing of Jackie. We were blessed to have spent so much time with him and your whole family. Especially in our younger years. Cypress and Henderson was quite a road trip but both our families made it work. My sorrow is doubled having lost my Dad, Jackie's Godfather just two months before. Praying that you find the strength to get through this tough time. Love to you all.Cousin Janice and family

April 30 at 1:12 PM



# Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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**Pam Smith** lit a candle in honor of John.



April 30 at 12:50 PM



**Joe Hoisington** posted:

A saying that you missed: "God bless America."

April 30 at 12:40 PM



**Kathy Trimble Hlavaty** posted:

You will always be my " big brother ". We always had so much fun with you and Danny ! The trips to the Dairy Queen , the trip to the Overton coke machine . Shooting at rabbits on The back roads mama didn't know about . Fishing . I will never forget the day you got snake bitten . To this day I can remember being in downtown Henderson and seeing you working at the gas station when you got home from the Air Force . I was so excited you were home . Thanks for all the great memories ! We will always love you and hold a special place in our hearts . Love Kathy Trimble Hlavaty

April 30 at 12:16 PM



**Kevin Voss And Family** sent a Sweet Tenderness to the Gainey family.



April 30 at 6:59 AM



**Lacy "Lindsey" Hale** lit a candle in honor of John.



April 30 at 5:23 AM

**Lacy "Lindsey" Hale** April 30 at 5:25 AM

Always a good time when Uncle Jackie was in town! I know he has the best pilot seat there is!  
Lacy "Lindsey" Hale



## Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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**Anonymous** sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Gainey family.

April 30 at 5:16 AM



**Silvia Arnold** lit a candle in honor of John.

April 30 at 5:03 AM



**Friedkin Aviation** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Gainey family.

April 30 at 4:47 AM



**Friedkin Aviation** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

April 30 at 4:47 AM



**Nitin Sumitran** posted:

Am shocked to hear of John's passing. He was one of the finest human beings I have encountered in my life. I and many of my colleagues in Essar (Mumbai, India) had the privilege and honor of working with John when he flew the company G5 for more than a year. We would eagerly look forward to John finishing his flight, especially post 6 pm where we would all then head out to the nearest watering hole and drink away the night. He enjoyed Indian food and was always up for a good drink followed by a solid Indian Mail. Its been more than 10 years since I receive his Quote of the day and sadly I wont be getting any of it now. He always enquired about family and would always end with come to the Us of A and stay with me at my home. Will always miss you John. Condolences to all the lovely family members and friends , Cheers John

April 29 at 11:08 PM



# Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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**Missy Hacker & Steve Green** lit a candle in honor of John.

April 29 at 6:10 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the Gainey family.

April 29 at 4:21 PM



**Dan Crowley** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

April 29 at 4:21 PM



**Kurt Hunt** lit a candle in honor of John.

April 29 at 4:18 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Gainey family.

April 29 at 2:41 PM



**Love, Ben And Dawne Mccabe** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

April 29 at 2:41 PM





# Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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PA

**Pat A.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

April 29 at 2:20 PM



TM

**Tom Morgan** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Gainey family.

April 29 at 1:31 PM



TM

**Tom Morgan** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

April 29 at 1:31 PM



PA

**Pat Medford Alford** posted:

Jackie we were friends since childhood and shared many fun filled memories! Our parents were friends and hopefully they too are sharing memories of us kids! Love and will miss you my friend ❤️

April 29 at 1:04 PM

ST

**Sincerely, Bill And Mary Anne Trimble** sent a Crystal Cross Bouquet to the Gainey family.

April 29 at 12:36 PM



LW

**Lacy Weaver** lit a candle in honor of John.

April 29 at 12:25 PM





# Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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**Marvin Smith** lit a candle in honor of John.



April 29 at 11:21 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Gainey family.



April 29 at 10:51 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Gainey family.



April 29 at 10:42 AM



**Channing Burton** posted:

John I was blessed to have been a small part of your amazing life. Your friends from the UV days will be with your family as we celebrate your life. Joe Lins, Lex Denherder and many others. Blue Skys my friend, say Hi to your Mom and Dad for me. Love Ya.

April 29 at 10:20 AM



**Shawn And Contessa Walsh** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Gainey family.



April 29 at 9:59 AM



**Shawn And Contessa Walsh** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



April 29 at 9:59 AM



# Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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CB

**Channing & Beverly Burton** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Gainey family.



April 29 at 9:52 AM

AS

**Andy Stephens** posted:

Our Professional lives crossed paths years ago my friend, G-200 days. Your daily inspirational emails are still arriving. John Thank you for being a friend. Condolences and Prayers to all you have touched.

April 29 at 9:09 AM

TE

**Tamara Elliott** lit a candle in honor of John.



April 29 at 8:05 AM

DR

**Dianne Reed** lit a candle in honor of John.

My deepest condolences to your family . Jackie was such a dear friend in our high school years. He was one of the best! Rest in peace, my friend.

April 29 at 7:45 AM



Anonymous

**Anonymous** sent a Rose Remembrance to the Gainey family.



April 29 at 7:42 AM

BF

**Bob Fletcher** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



April 29 at 7:42 AM



## Tribute Wall

**John Franklin Gainey**

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AB

**Amber Brown** lit a candle in honor of John.

April 29 at 5:21 AM



HB

**Holli Bridges** posted:

Oh, what a loss!!! "Jackie" was one of the most upbeat, positive, friendly people I have ever been blessed to call my friend. Through the years we felt like family. I'm forever better for having known him. RIP my friend! Cathy & Pat, I love you two so much! Praying for your family!

April 29 at 4:59 AM

TC

**Tony And Anita Cavaliere** lit a candle in honor of John.

April 28 at 5:06 PM





# Media

**John Franklin Gainey**

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Rader Funeral Home shared a Video.

May 3 at 4:48 AM



**Kayla Decker** May 5 at 2:27 AM

Me too 💙 I'm glad we all had so many good times together. I wasn't ready to say goodbye to him 😭 A few weeks ago in the Bahamas, he and I were at senior Frog's talking about taking a cruise in ten years, when the boys are older, so that he and I could go to the casino together, and he said he probably wouldn't be alive. I told him not to say that because I didn't want to think that. I still don't want to think that ❤️ But at least he's resting peacefully with God 😊 I miss him though, and the boys do too. We will all be there with him soon enough though



**Rebecca Brock** May 4 at 12:56 PM

I loved seeing all those beautiful memories! ❤️



# Media

**John Franklin Gainey**

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Rader Funeral Home shared a **Webcast Video**.

May 4 at 5:12 AM





## Media

**John Franklin Gainey**

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Paul shared a photo to the **Early life** album.

May 2 at 5:53 PM





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

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



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