



John W. Gray

FEB 3, 1930 - MAY 28, 2025



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Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



John W. Gray

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John W. Gray, of Tatum, gently passed from this life on May 28, 2025, surrounded by his three children. A graveside service will be held at Harris Chapel Cemetery at 10:30 am followed by a BBQ Celebration of Life luncheon at 12:30 pm in the Tatum School Community Room.

Mr. Gray was born in the rural area of Crystal Farms on February 3, 1930, and lived his entire life in Tatum. He graduated from Tatum High School where he played basketball and where he honed his expertise in practical jokes. After graduation, Johnny worked with his brother Joe at Gray Pulpwood Company, a timber brokerage operation. Johnny was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Tatum for 60 years and a member of the Tatum Hunting Club. While not an official organization, Mr. Gray was also part of the Bank Coffee Group where coffee was drunk, and world problems were solved!

Johnny married Wanda Smith on January 19, 1952. Johnny and Wanda loved to travel and took memorable trips together and with their children. In addition to travel, Johnny and Wanda also loved a good poker game or slot machine. Great memories were made during their trips to Las Vegas and Marksville.

Known as Mr. Johnny throughout the Tatum community, his imposing stature, intriguing sense of humor and wit and his unquestioning generosity did not go unnoticed. He supported all aspects of the community. Whether buying raffle tickets to help award scholarships or girl scout cookies to support scouting organization or contributing funds to help people rebuild their lives after tragedy or to help businesses faced with hardships, Mr. Johnny was a pillar of the Tatum community.

Later in life, Johnny's horticulture loves and abilities came to light. He delighted in nurturing a beautiful yard including his well-tended plants and flowers.



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While the list of his loves and accomplishments is long, Johnny was quick to say that his proudest accomplishments were his three children.

Mr. Gray was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Maude Gray, his wife of 58 years, Wanda Smith Gray, his siblings: Haywood Gray, Mildred Cochran, Joe Gray and Langston Gray; his nephew Robert G. Allen and niece Linda Gray. He is survived by his children: Weldon R. Gray (Claudia), Karen Hughes (Craig) and Kathy Gray. He is also survived by his grandchildren Julie Dawn Gray, Jordan Senior (Ryan), John "Jack" Hughes (Lauren) and Joseph Ethan Hughes (Alina), and great-grandchildren John Henry "Jack" Houlette, Eleanor Gray Houlette, Smith Edward Senior, William Hayes Senior and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family expresses their deep appreciation for Mr. Johnny's caregivers Yolanda Castillo, Mica Martinez and Betty Cruz for their tender care of our Dad.

Honorary pallbearers for Mr. Gray will be Ryan Senior, Craig Hughes, Ben Martinez, Tracy Allen, Cody Jones, Jack York, Hugh Martin, Assane Ndiaye and David Daniels.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations may be made to Harris Chapel Cemetery Association, 4555 FM 959, Beckville, TX 75631 or a charity of your choice.





Events


John W. Gray

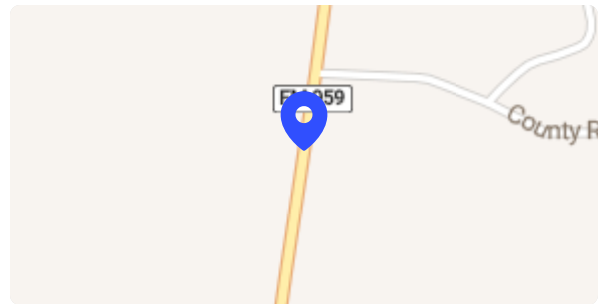
FEB 3, 1930 - MAY 28, 2025

Graveside Service


 **Saturday**, June 14, 2025

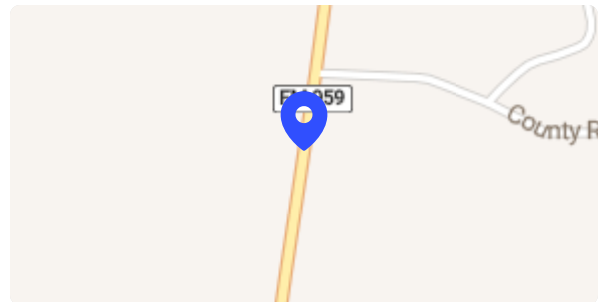
 10:30 AM CT

 **Harris Chapel Cemetery**
FM 959, Beckville TX



Cemetery Details

 **Harris Chapel Cemetery**
FM 959, Beckville TX





Tribute Wall

John W. Gray

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MM

Mark Murphy lit a candle in honor of John.

June 11 at 8:54 AM



DJ

Debbie Jones lit a candle in honor of John.

He will be truly missed, so many fond memories. Our condolences to each of you.
Cody and Debbie Jones

June 11 at 8:26 AM



Barbara Floyd posted:

Weldon, Karen, and Kathy, I am so sorry about Uncle Johnny's passing. I have such fond memories of him and Aunt Wanda and times spent at their house as children. Being at their house was like being at home. I know you will miss him greatly as I still miss Mom and dad so so much life just isn't the same without them. All of you will be in my prayers in the weeks ahead as you go thru this difficult time. Much love Barbara Jo

June 11 at 2:07 AM

DP

Darwin & Wanda Pauley lit a candle in honor of John.

June 10 at 6:40 AM



PM

Patti Mehling posted:

My memories of Uncle Johnny and Aunt Wanda ❤️ span my 64 yrs. Nearing their front door meant stories, laughter, food & love were near. Uncle Johnny loved seeing people and was genuinely interested in what we were all doing.....whether by CB radio or a visit! Living so near the center of town, you never knew who you would see. Even in the last yrs where he couldn't get to the door, you'd hear 'come on in'. He CARED about people, his kids and those of his yard people or Yolanda's kids. In times of 'being too busy' Uncle Johnny shared his time and he will be missed.

June 9 at 9:02 PM



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NL

Norris Langford posted:

Mr. Johnny was a man that truly enjoyed life. I always enjoyed the times we got to meet and visit. He could always add sunshine to a gloomy day.

June 2 at 1:41 AM

AT

Ann Tuttle posted:

Mr. Gray was a wonderful man. He and my dad were good friends and enjoyed many years of socializing at Texas Bank. I had the nicest visit with Mr. Gray shortly before Christmas. His mind was as sharp as a tack, and I could have sat all day and let him tell me stories from the past. Weldon, Karen, and Kathy, you were blessed with a wonderful, loving father. My condolences to each of you. Ann Martin Tuttle

June 1 at 7:35 PM

BA

Brenda & David Alexander sent a virtual gift in honor of John.

David and Brenda Alexander wish to extend our most sincere condolences to Weldon, Karen, and especially to our dear sweet Kathy. You all have been in our prayers and thoughts and will continue praying for healing of your broken hearts. Johnny was a fun friend to me and he and I had many jokes and laughter that I will always remember about Johnny. May perpetual light shine upon him forever.

June 1 at 12:42 PM



CB

Cindy H Belcher lit a candle in honor of John.

June 1 at 7:36 AM



KH

Ken Hale lit a candle in honor of John.

Mollie & Ken Hale

June 1 at 3:55 AM





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Stephanie Osteen lit a candle in honor of John.

My prayers and condolences on your loss. May God's comfort cover you through this time

May 31 at 10:21 PM



Sue Plummer lit a candle in honor of John.

May 31 at 2:43 PM



Kathy Porter posted:

Sharing in your sadness as you celebrate your loved one.

May 31 at 4:37 AM



Kathy Porter lit a candle in honor of John.

May 31 at 4:28 AM



Bonnie Geddie lit a candle in honor of John.

Praying for peace and comfort for family and friends Bonnie Geddie

May 30 at 7:03 PM



Claudia Morgan-Gray lit a candle in honor of John.

Love and light on your journey.

May 30 at 1:25 PM





Tribute Wall

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Mike And Cheryl Neece sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Gray family.

May 30 at 7:51 AM



Mike And Cheryl Neece planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

May 30 at 7:51 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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