



## Franklin Gerald Gay Jr.

May 16, 1944 - April 17, 2023

Franklin Gerald Gay, junior of Cape Canaveral, Florida passed away peacefully on April 17, 2023 with his wife, family, and their little dog, Chanel, by his side. He was 78 years old. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Rebecca Benedict Gay, his sister, Mary Virginia (Ginger) Gay Britt (Darrell, deceased), his daughter, Stephanie Gay Raymond (Benjamin, junior, deceased), his son, Franklin Gerald Gay, III (Lauren), seven grandchildren: Franklin Gerald Gay, IV, Julianna Townsend Gay, Stephanie Raymond Bixman (Dakota), Anna Margaret Raymond, Capers Ladner Gay, Benjamin Joseph Raymond, III, and Christianna Gay Raymond, and three precious great-grandchildren, Azriel, Aria, and Kuavo. One grandchild, Rebecca Catherine Raymond, preceded him in death. He is also survived by a niece, Katherine Britt Marciano, a nephew, Charles Andrew Britt, three great nieces, and two great nephews.

Frank was born on May 16, 1944 in Ripley, Mississippi, the son of Franklin Gerald Gay and Catherine Barnett Ladner Gay. He graduated from the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) with a Bachelor's degree in Business and from Memphis State University with an M.B.A. He relocated to Charleston, South Carolina with his wife. He served for ten years as an Assistant Professor of Business at Charleston Southern University, formerly The Baptist College of Charleston. He began renovating historic Charleston homes and later became an innovator in the bed and breakfast industry in Charleston,

giving rise to a series of inns in Charleston and Savannah. He developed and owned The Battery Carriage House Inn, The Elliott House Inn, and The Meeting Street Inn in Charleston as well as The Eliza Thompson House in Savannah. He then launched The Carriage House Inns brand which expanded into states beyond the Lowcountry. He was an active member of and served in The American Hotel and Motel Association.

In 1992, they moved to Kissimmee, Florida, where he owned and operated Condotels, a vacation condominium rental company servicing tourists visiting area attractions. Upon retirement, he and his wife, Becky, moved to his childhood family home in Ripley, Mississippi and later to Cape Canaveral, Florida where he lived for the remainder of his life. He grew up as a Presbyterian at Ripley Presbyterian Church in Ripley, Mississippi. He later became an Episcopalian and was a member for over 30 years of The Cathedral Church of St. Luke in Orlando, Florida. He faithfully centered his life around God, his Christian faith, his wife, and his family. He was kind and generous to all. Franklin Gerald Gay, junior ("Pop Pop") left a beautiful legacy for his family and is beloved by his wife, his sister, his children, his grandchildren, his great grandchildren, and all family and friends in his life.

A Celebration of Life service in Orlando, Florida will be held on Saturday, May 27, 2023 at noon at The Cathedral Church of St. Luke, 130 N. Magnolia Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801. A reception will follow.

A Celebration of Life service will also be held in Ripley, Mississippi on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at Ripley Presbyterian Church, 302 Cooper Street, Ripley, Mississippi 38663. A visitation will be held at 10:00am with the service following at 11:00am at Ripley Presbyterian Church. The interment will be held at Ripley Cemetery at the family burial plot beside his beloved parents.

Arrangements are being handled by Island Cremations & Funeral Home in

Merritt Island, Florida and McBride Funeral Home in Ripley, Mississippi. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial gifts be given to Ripley Presbyterian Church, Our Little Roses Foreign Mission Society Home for Girls in Honduras, or The Cathedral Church of St. Luke.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Franklin Gerald Gay Jr.*

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October 05, 2023 at 12:14 PM



“ *A humble man, unafraid to share his faith in GOD or his political positions. As his neighbor for over seven years we had many conversations, some of which were interrupted by his lovely wife Becky when she was looking for their dog. Frank was loved by all his neighbors here at Costa Del Sol and will be missed, We had no idea what he had accomplished in his life until we read about it in his obituary. We can only wish we had more time with him and look forward to a reunion in heaven.*

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**John Pierce** - May 22, 2023 at 06:38 PM



“ *We are so sad to hear this. We have good memories of good times with your family and working with you in the Real Estate Business. We love all of you. We are sorry for your loss and will Pray for Gods comfort and Peace for the family. In Christ's Awesome Love Jim and Vee Sullivan*

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**Jim and Vee Sullivan** - May 16, 2023 at 04:49 PM

EB

“ When I think of Frank, I always recall his smile and gentle manner. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. For me, a visit to Charleston would not have been complete without passing by the Carriage House Inn and a visit with Frank and my niece, Becky. They were the epitome of fine and gracious Southern hospitality. I regret that I will be unable to attend his memorial services since I am currently residing in France. Would that they could have both visited us here.

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**Elizabeth Buchanan** - May 05, 2023 at 05:32 AM

BB

“ A true gentleman of the south. While not knowing Frank and Becky for very long I did know they were truly beautiful people. Frank was done of these rare people that you when met was someone never forgotten. His light and warmth was like they most wonderful spiritual hug that just lingered. Honored to say you are my friend forever.

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**Beverly Bart** - May 04, 2023 at 04:22 PM

PC

A great classmate. Frank never forgot us. Woodie and I enjoyed being with him when he moved back to Ripley for a short time.

*Peggy Tatum Childers*

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**Peggy Tatum Childers** - May 05, 2023 at 11:43 AM