



Gerald Michael Yates

February 12, 1942 - December 22, 2014

Obituary of Gerald Yates

After a long battle with cancer, Gerald Michael Yates went to be with the Lord on December 22, 2014 in Sumterville, Florida at the age of 72. He leaves behind his wife, Judy Yates; his daughter, Ginger Christensen, husband Clinton and children Aaron, Hunter & Merrick; and his son, Darin Yates, wife Chanda, stepson Jacob and daughter Victoria. He was lovingly known as "Jerry" his whole life.

Jerry was born on February 12, 1942 in Fellsmere, Florida, to father Elton Yates and mother Lenora Yates. He grew up in a small, loving family with one younger sister, Carmen, and his younger brother, Mike. In Fellsmere, Elton and Lenora owned and operated the Gulf Oil Gas Filling Station. Jerry had many fond memories growing up there and working at the station. He had a life-long love of cars - especially Corvettes. He met his love, Judy Ely, in first grade and they spent 51 years of marriage together!

Jerry married Judy Ely on September 6, 1966. Shortly after their high school and college graduations, they moved to Naknek, Alaska, where Jerry & Judy had accepted positions as teachers in the local Alaskan fishing village. In Naknek, Jerry fished and hunted big game for two years loving Alaska's landscape. They relocated to Glacier View and Palmer, Alaska where they

started their family and had two children, Ginger and Darin. In the rich Matanuska Valley they spent 30 years raising their kids, teaching school, and retiring in 1987. They moved back to Florida to spend their retirement for a few years. In 2005 they moved back to Alaska. Then Jerry & Judy spent most winter months in Wildwood, Florida.

Jerry was a driven professional with a great love of teaching kids, especially seeing their eyes light up when they "got it". He enjoyed big game hunting, fishing, coaching basketball, studying history and the Bible, as well as watching his kids and grandkids grow up. Jerry had made many dear friends over the years through their teaching, in retirement, and in their church families. He was diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer in 1999-and survived-only to get it back in 2013. Jerry remained dedicated to his wife and in his will to fight his illness. He remained a brave, iron-willed man with a great sense of humor, even throughout his final months. Jerry was blessed with many special miracles in his year-and-half battle with cancer.

Jerry is survived by his wife and children, as well as his cousins, nieces, and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Elton & Lenora Yates, his sister, Carmen Craiger, and his brother, Michael Yates.

Jerry has requested to be cremated. His ashes will be interred at the family plot in Vero Beach, Florida in the Crestlawn Cemetery. He has requested not to have a funeral in light of his passing. Jerry will always be known as a kind, patient, loving, and devoted man with a great big heart.

Tribute Wall

MP

“ Dear Judy, Darin, Ginger, & Family, We think that you all know how we felt about Jerry, having grown up with him, and you Judy. You have always been like our extended family. We are so thankful that we got to spend time with you both when we were in Florida in April of last year. In years past we worked on several projects for Fellsmere, including the "Frog Leg Festival" brochure, and the articles about his Dad frogging in the marsh. So many good memories. And our trip to the Bahamas, a fun weekend so many years ago. We cannot begin to imagine how your hearts are hurting, but as we've told you before, we know that he is rejoicing with our Lord and looking down on all of you and will be with you always. Words cannot express the loss that we all feel, and our deepest sympathy to each of you. We love you and are here for you, Maureen & Bennie & Family

MAUREEN & BENNIE POOLE - January 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Dan and I are saddened by our loss of Jerry on earth, but so blessed to know of his faith and his presence with the Lord. I am one of the very privileged to have been taught and coached by Jerry in 6th through 9th grade! What fond memories I have of his smile, laughter, and love of teaching. It was in his 6th grade math class that I developed a love of math. Of course basketball practices, games, and trips are where the best memories are found. He made a big difference in the lives of so many of us through the years - what a legacy he has left behind. Our prayers are with Judy and the family. May God comfort you with memories and encourage you in the days ahead. Jerry was one of a kind and loved by all!

Dan and Tammy Bunker - January 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I remember Jerry often. He was a friend in school and the community. Best wishes to Judy and their children. Jim

Jim Sherman - January 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Judy and Family, So sorry for your loss. Jerry will be missed by all his family and extended family friends, those who knew him. He was one of the good ole boys. God bless you at this time. Sherrie & Russell

Sherrie Sikes Sloan & Russell - January 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Thinking of your family. Surround yourselves with love and memories as I know you will. We love you and think of you often. Phil and Shelley Milton

Shelley and Phil Milton - January 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SZ

“ Truly regret reading about Jerry. He and his family has made a very notable impression on the memories of those of us that grew up in Fellsmere. Wish all his friends and family much comfort in all their cherished memories...

Starr Spivey Zinsmeister - January 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *My heartfelt condolences and prayers to Judy and family. Jerry was such an inspiration to those who grew up with him. Such a great athlete, playing fast pitch softball, hunting, fishing. He loved the history of the area and was such an important part of it. Thank God for his faith and for sharing it with others. He will be missed by all.*
Sam Tyson and family

Sam Tyson - December 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *Gerald Michael Yates*

Sam Tyson - December 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Our deepest sympathy to you Judy and your family. John remembers Jerry well from growing up with Mike and helping Elton and Lenora at the station after the two of you moved to Alaska. He was a good man and will be missed by family as well as friends. May God bless him and your family.*

John & Joy Crisp - December 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *"God is our refuge and strength." Psalm 46:1. May the God of all comfort strengthen you in this time of grief. " Death is swallowed up in victory...thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1Cor.15:54-57*

Jon Keddy - December 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Judy and Family, Keith and I loved Jerry so much. He made us laugh and we appreciated His love of God, of life, of Family and of his friends. He will be sorely missed, but it won't be too long before we are all together again. My love and prayers go out to all of you.

Jewell Joslen - December 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ A great teacher, in Naknek, who s name was not forgotten after 40 years. We would remember him now and then. I mentioned, to a friend, let s go see him. I did not know he was ill. We will still fondly mention his name! May God comfort the family.

C. Nekeferoff - December 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ I would like to give my deepest condolences along with lots of prayers to the family. May God be with you all during this time of grief.

Barbara Drawdy Wolff - December 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FD

“ I AM SADDENED TO LEARN OF JERRY'S DEATH!! MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO JUDY & ALL THE FAMILY!! JERRY WAS ALWAYS SUCH A NICE MAN!! R.I.P.!!

FRANCES DAVEY - December 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ So sorry for your loss. Jerry and Bruce were friends their entire lives. We have very fond happy memories of Jerry. May the memories and love he had for you comfort you

Carol Spivey - December 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ *May God wrap His Loving Arms around you and give you comfort and peace. God Bless and Be with you all.....*

Trudy Elders Hall (Loretta Green's granddaughter) - December 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *God bless you, take some comfort knowing he is in no more pain...he fought the good fight, and is with the Lord....*

laura godfrey mathis gray & eddy gray - December 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ *Jerry,I can remember following in your foot steps at Wasilla Junior High. I appreciated all the insite and assistance that you gave me in my first administrative position. Georgia and I also relished the friendship that developed with you and your lovely wife Judy. You contributed a lot to the education profession and were an inspiration to everyone who knew you. May you rest in peace for all eternity.*

Gerry Christensen - December 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ *So sorry for your loss may his memories comfort you. Jerry has always been like a ray of sunshine ,always a smile and friendly hello when ever I would see him.Your going to be missed. R.I.P. Jerry*

Glenda Patterson - December 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *I will always remember Jerry,he always had a smile,my sympathy to all his family and wife Judy> linda*

LindaTritt Crawford - December 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *What a privilege to have known this great man of God! He loved his Lord, his family and his country! Mary and myself will truly miss his smile and spirit. After meeting his family we feel as though his spirit lives on in his children and grandchildren. What a awesome family! Mrs. Judy we are praying for you that the God of all peace be with you during this difficult time. Thank God this is not the last time we will see Brother Jerry! Soon for every true believer we will be reunited for all of eternity when Jesus comes in the clouds! Love you all and Praying for you all Randy and Mary Perry*

Randy Perry - December 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Gerald Michael Yates*

December 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM