



Gary Dale Polston

December 13, 1948 - February 5, 2025

To join the livestream of Gary's Celebration of Life, please select the link below. The livestream will begin at 1:55 P.M. Sunday, February 23, 2025. The service broadcast will be archived for 90 days from the date of the service for later viewing.

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTczOTczNjMxODM1MDlwMyZvbmVyb29tLWFKbWluJmNvcHlfbGluaw==>

Gary Dale Polston, age 76 years, a resident of rural Grantsburg, Illinois, passed away Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at Spanish Plains Hospital in The Villages, Florida.

Gary was born December 13, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan. He was the third of five children born to Meredith and Genevia (Hard) Polston.

On October 28, 1978, Gary was united in marriage to Rita June Wiggs in Johnson County Illinois. They were blessed with 28 years of matrimony.

In addition to his parents, Gary was preceded in death by his wife, Rita Polston; daughter, Chelsea Polston; son, Joe Bodeck; and brother, Keith Polston.

He is survived by: 2 sisters – Jane Vinson and Alice Lewis; 2 sons and

daughters-in-law, Daniel and Rachel Bodeck of the Villages, Florida & James and Alicia Bodeck of Sebring, Florida. He had 3 grandchildren – Kyle (Haley) Bodeck, Autumn Darracq and Ridge Darracq; 3 great grandchildren – Allie, Thatcher, and Palmer Bodeck; and several nieces and nephews.

Gary attended Vienna High School and studied at Southeastern Illinois College and Shawnee Community College. He was a U.S. Army veteran. Gary enlisted in October 1970 and was honorably discharged in October 1973. During his enlistment, Gary was stationed in Maryland and Alaska.

Gary retired from the Illinois Department of Transportation with 36 years of service. He started in a survey team and later oversaw several road projects in southern Illinois. In retirement, he often proudly would point out bridges and projects he helped construct.

Those who knew Gary knew that he was an avid sports fan. He was an S.I.U. Saluki Basketball season pass holder for 50 years. He loved attending the games with his friends or watching them on television and rarely missed a game. He cheered on the Salukis in multiple sports and also loved his Detroit Lions. He was also a huge fan of the Kentucky Derby and attended the event for 35 years in a row. Watching football with his sons and spending time with his family and friends was a highlight of his life and meant the world to him.

He is dearly loved and will be greatly missed by his family, friends and community.

A Celebration of the Life of Gary Polston will be conducted Sunday afternoon, February 23, 2025, at 2 P.M. at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. Rodney Gholson will officiate.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 1 P.M. until the service hour

at 2 P.M.

Memorials may be made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 199 Water Street, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10038 or online by visiting www.afsp.org

Arrangements have been entrusted to Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family & Friends

FEB **23**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Celebration of Life

FEB **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *In memory of Uncle Gary a donation has been made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention from Brad Polston, Kelly Polston Hatton, and Deb Polston Bonwell*

Deb Polston Bonwell - February 23, 2025 at 01:02 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Dale Polston.*



February 20, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Dale Polston.

February 20, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Gary Dale Polston.*



February 20, 2025 at 01:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Dale Polston.

February 20, 2025 at 01:23 PM



“ Davis & Pat Prewitt lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Davis & Pat Prewitt - February 19, 2025 at 04:18 PM



“ Larry And Carolyn McGill lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Larry and Carolyn McGill - February 19, 2025 at 10:04 AM



“ Dear Danny, Jimmy & Family,

So sorry to hear about Gary's passing. I was in the Army with Gary in Alaska. He was a true friend for over 50 years. Went to many basketball games with him over the years. His laughter and good naturedness and all around great personality will be missed. He was like a brother to me! Rest in peace my brother!!

*Marvin & Randee Moskowitz
Boynton Beach, FL*

Marvin Moskowitz - February 18, 2025 at 09:49 PM

JT

“ Alice so sorry to hear of Gary’s passing. Remember riding bus to high school with him.

joyce Taylor - February 18, 2025 at 06:17 PM

RJ

“ Never forget his old Ford with back seat and bucket seat for driver. R I P Gary prayers for Family. Rabbit

Randy Jackson - February 16, 2025 at 01:12 PM

CH

“ Carrie Hood lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Carrie Hood - February 13, 2025 at 03:22 PM

LF

“ Liz Le And Family lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Liz Le and family - February 13, 2025 at 04:44 AM

KL

“ Karen Luttrell lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Karen Luttrell - February 11, 2025 at 11:15 PM

BB

“ Gary was a long time Friend Rest in Peace



Bill&Nancy Belford - February 11, 2025 at 03:25 PM

NW

“ Neal & Carol Watkins lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Neal & Carol Watkins - February 11, 2025 at 02:27 PM

LT

“ Lowell And Susie Trovillion lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Lowell and Susie Trovillion - February 11, 2025 at 01:51 PM

LM

“ Linda And Jeff Mathis lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Linda and Jeff Mathis - February 11, 2025 at 01:06 PM

TW

“ Thomas & Mary Wright lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Thomas & Mary Wright - February 11, 2025 at 10:08 AM

SL

“ Steve&Kathy(Whiteside) Lay lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Steve&Kathy(Whiteside) Lay - February 11, 2025 at 09:29 AM

JL

“ Gary was so much fun to work with. He'll be missed on the row of Saluki basketball. RIP Gary.

Joe Lenzini - February 11, 2025 at 08:27 AM

CR

“ Clearon & Jane RossWright sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Clearon & Jane RossWright - February 10, 2025 at 10:46 PM

CA

“ Chris Ahrendt lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Chris Ahrendt - February 10, 2025 at 10:22 PM

CW

“ Cathy Warmack lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Cathy Warmack - February 10, 2025 at 09:09 PM

LM

“ Lisa Meyer lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Lisa Meyer - February 10, 2025 at 08:32 PM

TR

“ *Tiffany Racey lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



Tiffany Racey - February 10, 2025 at 08:15 PM

MH

“ *Mary Lou Hynes lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



Mary Lou Hynes - February 10, 2025 at 07:36 PM

SN

“ *Sam Riley Deb Newton lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



Sam Riley Deb Newton - February 10, 2025 at 07:23 PM

LK

“ *Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



Linda Koehler - February 10, 2025 at 06:59 PM

MM

“ Margaret Mathis lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Margaret Mathis - February 10, 2025 at 06:47 PM

JB

“ Jerry Bush lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Jerry Bush - February 10, 2025 at 05:00 PM

SG

“ Stephanie Greaney lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Stephanie Greaney - February 10, 2025 at 04:59 PM

AW

“ Aleatha Wright lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston



Aleatha Wright - February 10, 2025 at 02:28 PM

JS

“ *John Slack lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



John Slack - February 10, 2025 at 01:58 PM

CR

“ *CAROL RACE lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



CAROL RACE - February 10, 2025 at 12:52 PM

BR

“ *Bobby Rentfro lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



Bobby Rentfro - February 10, 2025 at 12:48 PM

LB

“ *Linda Simmons Biethman lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



Linda Simmons Biethman - February 10, 2025 at 12:24 PM

BW

“ *Bill And Barb Warmack lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



Bill and Barb Warmack - February 10, 2025 at 11:22 AM

BR

“ *Brian lit a candle in memory of Gary Dale Polston*



Brian - February 10, 2025 at 10:14 AM

BR

What a great guy.rip.polston.prayers

Brian - February 10, 2025 at 10:15 AM