



Gerald Ray Pate

November 1, 1940 - November 23, 2017

Gerald Ray Pate, age 77, a resident of Cape Coral, Florida passed away on November 23, 2017. He was born on November 1, 1940 in Detroit Michigan, the fifth child of the late George T. and Broadus L. Pate.

Gerald was educated in the Detroit Public Schools System, graduating from Eastern High School in January 1959. He enlisted in the United States Army that same year, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas until April 1962, receiving a Good Conduct Medal and an Honorable Discharge for his service. Gerald began working at the General Motors headquarters in Detroit, Michigan in 1963 as a mail clerk. He pioneered General Motors Parts Division in 1975 moving his family from Detroit, Michigan to Waterloo, Iowa. Gerald remained a District Manager with GM Parts until the mid-90s when he then moved to GM-Service Parts Operations headquarters in Grand Blanc, Michigan where he oversaw the Engine Program for GM Parts. Gerald briefly retired after 35 years and then returned to GM as a contract employee and was a Team-Lead in the Service Parts Assistance Center. Gerald has often been called the “Trainer of Champions” as he mentored and guided MANY successful GM employees throughout his tenure. Gerald retired from General Motors after 39 years.

On February 12, 1966, Gerald was joined in holy matrimony to the love of his life, Carol Ann Fallings. Born of this union was Daryl Anthony and Denise Lynn Pate. Gerald took the vowels they repeated on their wedding day as a living testimony from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, “...in sickness and in

health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part..." He was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandparent (Papa). Family always came first for Gerald. Together, Gerald and Carol celebrated fifty-two years of marriage. Gerald loved the Lord and demonstrated it in every aspect of his life. He joined the Basilica of Saint John in Des Moines, Iowa in 1993, and later was a member of St. Agnus Catholic Church in Flint, Michigan, serving as an usher and member of the church council.

He was preceded in death by his parents George T. and Broadus L. Pate, brother George T. Pate, and sister Cora J. Swann. His memory will be cherished by his loving wife Carol Ann Pate, son Daryl (Verna) Pate, daughter Denise (Jabari) Spruill, granddaughters Erika and Nicole Pate, and grandson Jabari Spruill Jr. Gerald is also survived by his siblings: Joyce (Hosea) Clark; David (Janet) Pate; Gwendolyn Kirk; Gulanza (Susan) Pate, Shirly Pate, Carol (Bobby) Allen, sister-in-law Emily McGhee, and a host of nieces, nephews, close relatives and family friends.

The Celebration of Life for Gerald R. Pate will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 2055 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida 33901. The service will be held at 12pm. Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson Program at Hope Hospice and Community Services, Inc., 9470 HealthPark Circle, Fort Myers, Florida 33908, www.hopehcs.org.

Tribute Wall



“ *Gerald Ray Pate*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Gerald Ray Pate*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *I only knew Mr. Pate for about a year before his death, but he was such a beautiful person. I had the please of helping him and his loving wife, Carol. I looked forward to every weekend just to help them. RIP Mr. Pate.*

Terrie Broderick - January 11, 2018 at 12:14 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald Ray Pate.*



November 30, 2017 at 11:19 AM



“ *Jerry will truly be missed. What a wonderful person to share a laugh with! He was always kind and thoughtful. I feel very fortunate to have a happy memories of our time working together. I send peaceful thoughts and prayers to the family.*

Amy Campbell - November 29, 2017 at 10:31 AM

SS

“ Gerry was so much fun to work with. He loved to laugh and made everyone laugh around him. Whether he had his "fart machine",telling jokes or stories when he was young. He was an awesome role model and supporter and will be thoroughly missed.

Shoy Singleton - November 28, 2017 at 10:17 PM

HG

“ Jerry will be dearly missed. He was kind, sincere and yet a joker. He loved to laugh and make people smile and laugh. He was one of a kind person. He was like a father to me and we joke around by saying 2nd DD or 2nd son. Both Jerry and Carol are super nice people you could ever meet. They wear their heart on their sleeves. My heart goes out to the family. Jerry I miss you. Thank you for everything you did for and taught me. Hope to see you some day my friend. I wish you could see my son.

Love

Howard Tiffany and Crue

Howard Gillespie - November 28, 2017 at 09:46 PM