

Gary Allen Ashburn

September 24, 1952 - February 22, 2026

Mr. Rogers once said, "Taking care is one way to show your love. Another way is letting people take good care of you when you need it."

Gary Allen Ashburn spent a lifetime cultivating a friendly, kind persona, and in the end he lovingly allowed his family to care for him. Gary adored his family... Mom (Norma Whiddon), Dad (T.J. Ashburn), and Step-Dad (John Whiddon), his siblings (Cindy, Dennis, and Stanley Whiddon, Linda Jo Davis, Robert, Sharon, and Karen Ashburn, Namon, Gary, Lamar, Marilyn, and Nellie Spears and their spouses and children), as well as many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

When Gary married the love of his life, Joyce Metcalf Ashburn, 54 years ago, he was blessed with a second family... Papa (Herman Metcalf), Granny (Margaret Metcalf) and siblings (Ronnie, Leon, Margaret, Brenda, Janie, Cindy, and Monty Metcalf, and Rusty Henderson and their spouses and children). Later, he had his own family... daughter Jennifer (husband John) and grandchildren Jayden and Jonas Castineira.

Gary was a hard-working railroad man for 25 years, but he loved to have fun every chance he got. Spending time with family while playing games, fishing, swimming, and traveling was his top priority. "Just don't take me to a museum," Gary would say. He was a master tinker and inventor whose love language was acts of service. Gary was the primary caretaker for both Granny and Papa Metcalf in their final months, and he took his Mama Norma to church every Sunday after she became ill. Gary would sing to the residents of

Eden Springs, volunteer at the First Baptist Church clothes closet, and teach his wife's students to play chess. Every winter for many years, Gary would cut firewood for the entire neighborhood. If you needed something fixed, a snake relocated, or a ride when your car broke down, you could count on Gary to be there in a flash.

Gary never met a person he couldn't charm and earned the nickname "HeHe" because he loved to laugh. Though he was not perfect, Gary Allen Ashburn made the world a better place, and he was dearly loved and will surely be missed.

All services will be held at Ivan Assembly of God Church (202 Ivan Church Road) on Saturday, February 28, 2026. Visitation will be at 10am with service to follow at 11am. Interment will be at Panacea Community Cemetery immediately following the funeral service.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Big Bend Hospice. The Ashburn family would like to thank all the caregivers at Big Bend Hospice for the wonderful care they received. 850-878-5310; bigbendhospice.org; 1723 Mahan Center Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32308.

Young Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Panacea Cemetery

Otter Lake Rd.
Panacea, FL 32346

Previous Events

Gathering of Friends & Visitation

FEB 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Ivan Assembly of God
202 Ivan Church Rd.
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Funeral Service

FEB 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ivan Assembly of God
202 Ivan Church Rd.
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Gary



Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - February 27 at 03:54 PM

KF

“ God's blessings and our deepest sympathy to the family of Gary Ashburn. He was a wonderful man, and so devoted to his family and friends. Gary will be missed by so many, but Heaven has gained one more angel.

Love to you all,
Kathi Zagar, Neisa, Chris, and Karma Fetes

Kathi Zagar and family - February 26 at 08:16 PM

PD

“ My prayers and condolences to ALL of you! May you continue to embrace the beautiful gift of life “HeHe” shared with you. Let his legacy continue to shine amount each other by sharing his kindness, generosity and love to one another! The universe has placed the Metcalf family and Eddie Clifton in my prayers this past week before discovering another passing of Gods Children. I send my love to all of you! When you see a fire fly, hear a cricket, feel the wind, smell the salt in the air, take a moment to breathe in Gods Blessings, Exhale his Promises! My Love to All of you!!
Phillana Jo Dobbs “PJ” 907-360-1181

Phillana Jo Dobbs - February 25 at 03:06 PM

RR

“ Gary and my dad C. W. "Sonny" Roberts, Jr. worked on the railroad together for many years and rode to work together. Gary sold my brother Charles his first truck, a blue Ford step-side (circa 1960). Sorry to learn of his passing. Condolences to the family.

Rev. Dr. Leon Roberts - February 25 at 11:38 AM

DM

“ Debra Metcalf lit a candle in memory of Gary Allen Ashburn



debra metcalf - February 25 at 10:12 AM

CB

“ Gary Allen Ashburn took pride in fixing broken things and enjoyed watching the hummingbirds at the feeder outside his kitchen window. He would show up with a smile whenever you needed him to rescue you from some disaster, because he loved people with his whole being. Disease stole his memories, but it never stole his kind heart and loving spirit. My heart both breaks over losing a precious brother, and rejoices that Gary has been made whole again in Christ. Love you, brother!

Cindy Burse - February 25 at 05:22 AM

AH

“ Annette Harrell Hilliard lit a candle in memory of Gary Allen Ashburn



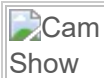
Annette Harrell Hilliard - February 25 at 12:22 AM



“ Our family loved Mr.Gary, and all of his families. My dad and him used to joke each other coming and going at the church. We grew up with his family’s, the Metcalf’s, The Whiddons, . We’re so sorry about your loss. He will be missed dearly. Love and prayers for all.



Heidi Alday - February 24 at 03:10 PM



“ Gary and my Dad worked together on the railroad many years ago. He was such a friendly, happy and caring man. Now Gary you can ride your bike on the streets of gold in Heaven!



Cam Show - February 24 at 12:52 PM

BM

“ Beth Metcalf lit a candle in memory of Gary Allen Ashburn



Beth Metcalf - February 24 at 11:01 AM

JR

“ Gary was a great guy who was always laughing. We went to school together from elementary all the way to graduation. He was always a good friend.

Jennifer Harper Raker - February 24 at 10:34 AM