



Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey

July 29, 2016

Jennings Ryan Gainey, 72, died suddenly on Friday July 29th, 2016. Memorial services will be held at 12 noon Saturday, September 10, 2016 at the Middendorf Baptist Church Cemetery.

A native of Hartsville, SC, Ryan cultivated a keen interest of the natural world and its beauty through family and community mentors. He studied ornamental horticulture at Clemson and later received an honorary doctorate of letters from Coker college. After a stint in the navy, Ryan moved to Decatur, GA where he designed his home and gardens that have been featured in every major gardening publication in the US and abroad.

Ryan flourished and nurtured his talent as an internationally known garden designer through lectures and his books *The Well Placed Weed*, *The Well Set Table* and most recently *The Gathered Garden*.

Lest we not forget, Ryan was a father to his beloved Jack Russell terriers, J.B., Leo and Baby Ruth. Ryan was predeceased by his parents Cecil Wilson Gainey and Ruth Catoe Gainey, and a brother Gerald W Gainey.

He is survived by a brother Ronnie E Gainey (Vonda) of Plant City, FL, sister Jennifer Gainey Sullivan of West Columbia, SC, brother Philip C Gainey (Lisa) of Tybee Island, Ga, 5 nieces, 1 nephew, 6 grand nieces and nephews, his cherished aunt Jean Jordan and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Ryan was a quintessential gift who taught us to transfix words, discover beauty and how to bloom in the garden that is our lives. Memorial arrangements will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations should be made to the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta history center.

Cemetery Details

Middendorf Baptist Church Cemetery

2202 Middendorf Church Road
Hartsville, SC 29550

Previous Events

Service

SEP **10**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Middendorf Baptist Church Cemetery
Middendorf, SC

Tribute Wall

RA

“ Robert Andrews lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey



Robert Andrews - June 22, 2025 at 11:05 AM

PM

“ Pinky Blackwell McInville lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey



Pinky Blackwell McInville - September 02, 2016 at 10:02 PM

BS

“ Ryan welcomed me to his home in Dacature in 2013. I spent a few hours visiting with him and playing with the Jack Russell Terriers. He was fascinating. I keep the signed copy of "The Gathered Garden" that he gave me that day in my desk. It's special to me. Today, his untitled poem about life seems apt.

*Life is a picture puzzle
Each day of our lives is a piece of that puzzle
Death is the final piece that completes the picture
Eternity is putting those pieces together again
Heaven is that puzzle becoming complete
The picture is a garden we call Eden.*

Barbara Steadman - September 02, 2016 at 03:59 PM

BW

“ *Becky Wadsworth Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



Becky Wadsworth Walker - August 15, 2016 at 02:35 PM

RS

“ *Robin Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



Robin Sullivan - August 06, 2016 at 09:39 AM

 Linda Warren Coates

“ *Linda Warren Coates lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



Linda Warren Coates - August 04, 2016 at 12:28 PM

 Linda Warren Coates

Jennings and I were in the Hartsville High School Band. He was a good person.

Linda Warren Coates - August 04, 2016 at 12:29 PM

LK

“ Larry And Linda King lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey



Larry and Linda King - August 04, 2016 at 04:38 AM

MM

“ I met him at a family reunion in 1963 when I was 13 and he was about 18. He was my cousin and was known to his family as "Pee Wee." As we visited, I was touched by his soft-spoken, kind, and friendly manner. He was a gentle soul. I liked him immediately.

The next time I saw him was about 20 years later when he came to Oregon to visit my my late mother, Helen Catoe Monnie, who was very fond of him and proud of his success as a horticulturist. I suspect that he and she, along with his other family members who have passed on are now having a wonderful family reunion.

Mike Monnie - August 03, 2016 at 07:56 AM

SW

“ Skyler Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey



Skyler Walker - August 03, 2016 at 03:00 AM

Linda
Warren
Coates

“ *Linda Warren Coates lit a candle in memory
of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



Linda Warren Coates - August 02, 2016 at 10:39 PM

VH

“ *Virginia Huggins Howle lit a candle in memory
of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



Virginia Huggins Howle - August 02, 2016 at 10:21 PM

DW

“ *DeLaine Lowery Wright lit a candle in memory
of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



DeLaine Lowery Wright - August 02, 2016 at 07:39 PM

DW

*I remember him as we were growing up in the Lakeview community so
long ago. Thinking of you , DeLaine*

DeLaine Lowery Wright - August 02, 2016 at 07:44 PM

RS

“ *Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



Rebecca Skinner - August 02, 2016 at 12:13 PM

VL

“ *Philip and Jennie I am so sorry to hear of Jennings death. Our families used to be close back in our school and Lakeview days. It is sad that we all grow up and drift away. Fondly, remembering you all today.*



Vickie McLean Lide - August 02, 2016 at 11:33 AM

FC

“ *Freida Hall Collins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



Freida Hall Collins - August 01, 2016 at 09:29 PM

GC

“ *Gail Watford Cassidy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



Gail Watford Cassidy - August 01, 2016 at 07:04 PM

CB

“ *Carol Elmore Bryant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jennings Ryan Gainey*



Carol Elmore Bryant - August 01, 2016 at 05:19 PM

CB

Jenny, Jeff and I are so sorry for the the passing of your brother. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Carol

carol bryant - August 01, 2016 at 05:24 PM

JK

“ *Jenny, so sorry to hear of your brothers passing.*

JoFrieda Padgett Kelley - August 01, 2016 at 04:59 PM