



## Gerald Parish

May 21, 1946 - May 31, 2015

On the morning of May 31, 2015, Gerald Parish passed from this life after a long, hard-fought battle with cancer at the age of 69. He was surrounded by those that loved him dearly.

Gerald was born May 21, 1946 in Laurel, MS and lived his entire life in the Laurel and Jones county area. He attended Jones Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi before embarking on a career in the auto salvage industry for 45 years. He was a co-owner and owner during his tenure at Rogers Auto Parts. Gerald also served as a Mississippi Auto Salvage Association board member for 8 years.

On December 21, 1968, he married Diane Rogers. They were happily married for 46 years. The couple has 3 children and 7 grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, William Floyd Parish and Maxine Brown Parish; his brother, Phil Allen Parish; and his brother-in-law, Bruce Rogers. Gerald is survived by his wife Diane Rogers Parish; son Jason, his wife Sherrie, their children, Will, Sara Kate, and Emme of Hattiesburg, MS; son Eric, his wife Laura, their children Eva and Robert of Hattiesburg, MS; son Kyle, his wife Kathy, their children Cade and Mary of Collierville, TN. He is survived by brother-and-sisters-in-law, June Parish, Tommy and Brenda Rogers, and Mary Ann Rogers as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Gerald was a shining example of patience and compassion. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Laurel where he served as a deacon for many years. Gerald was a devoted husband, dedicated father, avid

outdoorsman and accomplished golfer. One of his most cherished accomplishments was passing down his love for the outdoors, hunting, and fishing to his sons and grandsons. Gerald taught them what it means to be a real man. He diligently pursued his personal and professional goals while maintaining a unique humbleness. Gerald was dearly loved by those that knew him, and he always provided a helping hand to those in need.

The funeral will be at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at First Baptist Church of Laurel with burial to follow at Hickory Grove Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until the time of service. Dr. Randy Turner will officiate.

Pallbearers will be Johnny Robison, Rick Sumrall, Tony Thaxton, Phillips Weaver, William Whittman, Dick Yoder. Honorary pallbearers are members of Tom Blake's Sunday school class.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church or a charity of your choice.

Memory Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. To view and sign the family guestbook, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ Dianne, I am so sorry to hear of Gerald's passing. So many memories of growing up on Bay Springs Road and times after that come flooding back! Gerald was a kind and sweet man and he will be missed greatly.

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**Sandra Walker Holmes** - June 04, 2015 at 05:31 PM

NC

“ Diane, I am so sorry for your loss. I really thought that Gerald was a special man. Just know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Love you! Nedra

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**Nedra Carter** - June 03, 2015 at 04:38 PM

PW

“ Dear Diane, My hearts is broken for you, the boys, and their families. God's peace to you all and our deepest sympathy. Perri and Brian

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**Perri and Brian Wood** - June 03, 2015 at 02:26 PM

JB

“ I am sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers.  
Judith Bush Class of '65

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**Judith Bush** - June 02, 2015 at 07:36 PM

DJ

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Mr Parrish. The family will be in my prayers . I remember this family for many years sitting in my section at charlies catfish house to eat fish! A precious family !

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**debbie jefcoat** - June 02, 2015 at 06:45 PM

KL

“ Gerald Parish

Kerry Lambert - June 02, 2015 at 02:14 PM

MH

“ Diane, Randle and I were so saddened to learn of Gerald's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Jason, Eric, Kyle and all of your family. May our loving Father wrap you in his loving arms in the days ahead.  
Marion House .

Marion House - June 02, 2015 at 12:58 PM

DK

“ DAVID & TERRY KEITH has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

DAVID & TERRY KEITH - June 02, 2015 at 09:10 AM

CW

“ Dianne, I am heart broken to hear this sad news... Gerald was my childhood neighbor and then he married my best friend... I can't believe he is gone. I love you and will be there on Wednesday.

Cynthia Walker - June 01, 2015 at 09:19 PM

LT

“ Diane and Family You are in our thoughts and prayer as you go this difficult time. My mother wanted you to know that you are in her prayers and she knows how much it has helped her. Gerald was such a fine man and he will be greatly missed. We have prior commitments that won't allow us to be there Wednesday but we will be lifting you up in our prayers. Lynn Thompson and Fay Horne and family.

Lynn Thompson - June 01, 2015 at 07:20 PM

SB

“ *WHAT a beautiful tribute to such a fine man. He truly wrote his own obituary by a godly life. I will be unable to attend due to grandmother duty. Please know that I am thinking and praying each moment for you all. SHARON BARHAM*

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**Sharon Barham** - June 01, 2015 at 01:22 PM

DK

“ *Gerald has been a friend since Jr High school. Gerald was a person that always made you feel important. He was a very polite person to everyone. I am so sorry for your loss. Gerald will be missed by all of us at First Baptist and everyone that knew him. Gerald was the kind of person that lived his Christian life around everyone. God Be with all of your family. David Keuth*

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**David Keith** - June 01, 2015 at 12:20 PM