



James Roland Gatlin

November 16, 1929 - February 16, 2013

James Roland Gatlin was born in Laurel, MS, on November 16, 1929, and went to be with his Lord on Saturday, February 16, 2013.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Myrtis Lucky Gatlin; three children- Cindy Creel, Ben Gatlin and Suzie Walker; two sons-in-law- Chris Creel and Scott Walker; three grandchildren- Melody Gatlin, Taylor Gatlin and Seth Walker; and one sister, Ella Smith, all of Laurel.

He was a graduate of George S. Gardner High School and attended Clark Memorial College and Jones County Junior College. He served in the US Air Force from 1950-1955.

In 1956 Roland became the owner of Economy Shoe Repair and served the Laurel/Jones County area and surrounding counties for 50 years. He also served as music director in several churches in the county for 25 years.

Churches included Magnolia Street Baptist, Indian Springs Baptist, Harmony Baptist, Eastview Baptist, Pleasant Home Baptist, West Laurel Baptist, West Ellisville Baptist, and Salem Heights Baptist. He taught Bible classes for 60 years and loved God's Word. Roland was also an active member of The Gideons International. He loved speaking in churches and distributing God's precious Word.

His hobbies included gardening and beekeeping. He was known as the Bee Man and his honey was in great demand.

Roland was known and loved by all who came in contact with him. He was known as a man of honesty and Godly character. He will be greatly missed in

our world.

Visitation will be Tuesday evening, February 19, 5:00 – 8:00 PM at West Laurel Baptist. Funeral services will be Wednesday, February 20, 10:00 AM at West Laurel with burial at Salem Heights Baptist Cemetery. Memorials may be made to The Gideons International.

Memory Chapel is in charge of the arrangement.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Our family is so sad to learn of Roland's death. He was such a wonderful man. Suzie, I told you that he saved my life when I was a little girl (around 3 or 4). He and I always talked about it every time I saw him! He will be missed!

Marilyn Biglane - March 23, 2013 at 10:33 PM

DK

“ David & Terry Keith has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

David & Terry Keith - February 20, 2013 at 09:30 PM

KE

“ So sad to hear of your loss. Everyone loved Mr. Gatlin. He will be missed. Praying for you and your family.

Kathy B. Ellzey - February 19, 2013 at 05:54 PM

TM

“ Myrtis, My heart goes out to you and your family for your loss. Roland was such a sweetheart and will truly be missed. I'm sure he is singing with the angels in heaven.
Love in Christ, Teresa Moss

Teresa Moss - February 19, 2013 at 05:23 PM

TM

“ Mona, I was so saddened to hear of Gene's passing. He was so active and full of life. A light has gone out in the world with his passing. You and your family are in my prayers. Love in Christ,
Teresa Moss

Teresa Moss - February 19, 2013 at 05:16 PM

CH

“ *Myrtis, Cindy, Ben, Suzie and Family...If We All Could Wear the Smile, Talk the Talk, and Live the Life, in That Christ-like Manner..as Roland Did, We Could Make the Difference in Our World, Just as He Has! Rejoice in Who He Was in Life, And Will Be In God's Great Heaven! With Love and Sympathy, Charles!! Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound!!*

Charles Hudson - February 19, 2013 at 02:25 PM

TJ

“ *We celebrate Roland's "home-going" and release from suffering. He was a great mentor, good friend and encourager in our ministry. May God's grace surround you and His peace uplift you. Our love and aloha, Tullos and Libby*

Tullos and Libby Jones - February 19, 2013 at 11:58 AM

LP

“ *Praying for all of you during this time. We love you.*

Lynn & Patsy Pigford - February 19, 2013 at 09:16 AM

PH

“ *Suzie, Sorry to hear of Roland's death. Give my regards to your mother and family. The Gatlins were great neighbors and although we have moved here on earth his corner will always be remembered for his Christian beliefs and, yes, even for his shoe repair which we used many times through the years growing up. Love, Patsy*

Patsy and Hugh - February 18, 2013 at 06:52 PM

KJ

“ Sorry to hear the news of Bro Roland. You are in our thoughts and prayers. He was a great encourger to me when we were at West Laurel. Bro Jimmy and Alane Knight

Knigh, Bro. Jimmy - February 18, 2013 at 04:14 PM

SB

“ Prayers and blessing to your family:
I have such fond memories of your husband,dad, and granddad. He was such a fine businessman and craftsman.(I still miss Economy Shoe)I know you will all miss him. May your memories sustain you.
Love, Sharon Barham

Sharon Barham - February 18, 2013 at 03:55 PM

DS

“ Praying for God's peace for the family during this time of grief. Love to all

Debbie Smith - February 18, 2013 at 03:30 PM

KH

“ We were so sad to hear of Roland's passing. But we are glad to know he is no longer hurting and is now in heavenly health. He [and Myrtis] mean a lot to us and have played a big part in our lives. Roland was a great man of faith and lived out his Christian beliefs every day. You will be greatly missed!

Kent & Robbie Headrick - February 18, 2013 at 03:15 PM

KH

“ We are deeply sorry to hear of Roland's passing. He was a great Christian man who lived out his faith. But we are excited to know he is no longer suffering and in heavenly health. He [and Myrtis] have meant a lot to us and have played an important role in our Christian lives.

Kent & Robbie Headrick - February 18, 2013 at 03:10 PM

ME

“ My deepest sympathy to all the family

MelindaJohnson - February 18, 2013 at 03:01 PM