



## Wendell B. Gavin

November 9, 1935 - April 19, 2011

Wendell B. Gavin, 75, passed away Tuesday, April 19, 2011. Funeral services will be held at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2011, at Memory Chapel Funeral Home in Laurel with burial in Matthews Cemetery in the Matthews Community. Revs. Chris Sheppard, Gene Douglas and John Stockstill will officiate. Mr. Gavin was born in Jones County, Miss., on Nov. 9, 1935, to Clyde Gavin and Candace Moss Gavin. He attended Shady Grove School, Jones County Junior College and University of Southern Mississippi where he received both a Bachelor's and Master's degree. Mr. Gavin married Ruth Townsend on June 29, 1957. After receiving his B.S., Mr. Gavin began his teaching, coaching and administrative career where he served at Sanford, Soso, Pleasant Ridge and Northeast Jones. He then became a service agent with Farm Bureau serving the farmers of Jones County. He began serving the people of Jones County as their Circuit Clerk from 1976 to 1983 and as their Chancery Clerk from 1984 to 1991. From 1992 until his retirement he worked for the Jones County Economic Authority. He has been a member of the Laurel Kiwanis Club, Odd Fellows, USM Alumni, Jones County Soil and Water Conservation, United Way, Mason, Past President of the Jones County Baptist Brotherhood Association, Jones County Cattlemen's Association and a co-founder of the Mississippi Gelbvieh Association. At the time of his death, Mr. Gavin was serving on the Boards of South Central Regional Medical Center, Bank of Jones County and President of the Jones County Farm Bureau Association. Mr. Gavin was a member of Highland Baptist Church where over his 45 years

of membership he served as a Deacon and on numerous committees and enjoyed teaching the Senior Adult Men's Sunday School Class. Mr. Gavin was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Julius Gavin, Dennis Gavin and Charles Gavin. Survivors include his wife, Ruth T. Gavin of Laurel; four children, Liz Barlow and husband Mike of Laurel, Angie Cooley and husband Joey of Laurel, Bart Gavin of Laurel, Christy Sheppard and husband Chris of Brookhaven; 11 grandchildren, Ashley Moore and husband Marcus, Millie Beech and husband Corey, Josh Gavin, Brett Barlow and wife Haleigh, Abbey Gavin and fiancé Josh Smith, Kate Cooley, Alex Gavin, Chip Cooley, Jess Cooley, Annie Sheppard and Maggie Sheppard; great-grandchildren, Kennedy and Adalyn Beech and Conner Moore; sisters, Lydia Matthews and Willie Clyde Moore; brothers, James Gavin, Bobby Gavin and wife Margie, Marvin Gavin and wife Elaine; and sister-in-law, Mattie Gavin. Mr. Gavin will be remembered for his sharp wit, his humor, his public service, his love for the people of Jones County, cattle raising, and his passion, other than Ruthie, was his farming and his grandchildren. Nephews Ray Myrick, Ronny Gavin, Bruce Gavin, Greg Gavin, Mark Ishee, Miles Farragut, Pat Townsend, Jim Townsend and Tim Ishee will serve as pallbearers. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the charity of the donor's choice. Visitation will be held from 5 until 8 pm Wednesday at Memory Chapel Funeral Home which is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

DP

“ *Mr. Gavin was our principal at Pleasant Ridge and at Northeast Jones. He was such a good man and leader for all of us. So sorry to hear of his passing. We were out of town and unable to come by the funeral home. But please know we too will miss him and are praying for your family! From: Ray, Debbie, Laura, & Richard Rose and parents, Willard & Ann Rose.*

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**Debbie Rose Pitts** - April 25, 2011 at 02:43 PM

RR

“ *Aunt Ruthie, Liz, Angie, Bart, and Christy > Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss and we are all praying for God to place his loving arms around you during this difficult time and provide the comfort you will need. I am in Carrollton for two weeks but wanted you to know how sorry I was and I love you all. God Bless, Richard.*

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**Richard Rose** - April 23, 2011 at 09:59 PM

PM

“ *Our prayers are with your family--Wendell was a very special person and will be missed by many--Pat & Claudette and Cyndi*

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**Pat & Claudette Lightsey/ Cyndi Myers** - April 21, 2011 at 09:51 PM

BT

“ *Dear Ruthie and Family  
Please know that you are in our every prayer at this time. We will be traveling Thursday, but wanted you to know how much we care about each of you.  
Bart & Susanne*

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**Bart & Susanne Terry** - April 21, 2011 at 07:56 PM

WP

“ Wendell B. Gavin

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**Willard & Ann Rose, Debbie Pitts** - April 21, 2011 at 07:29 PM

MM

“ *I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to Miss. Ruthie and the hold Gavin Family, during this time of loss. Mr. Wendell will always be remembered by many in several different walks of life here in Jones County. I admired and cherished my relationship with him at Highland Baptist Church. His Christian life was an example for many of us, as we looked up to him, during our daily Christian walk. I will always remember the honorable job that he did as Jones County's Circuit and Chancery Clerk. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers, during this difficult time of sorrow. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help. You can reach me through Miles and Vanessa, as I will keep in touch through them.*

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**Mike Myrick** - April 21, 2011 at 06:14 PM

WC

“ *I am tremendously saddened by the loss of my dear friend Wendell. I often think of his humor and his love for the people of Jones County. He loved his family, church and his fellow man. I am very proud to say he was my friend. Jones County has lost a great leader.*

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**Wyatt Collins** - April 21, 2011 at 04:49 PM

BT

“ *Wendell was always an extremely professional and friendly man who gave so much to his community. He will be greatly missed.*

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**Beth Taylor** - April 21, 2011 at 03:55 PM

LM

“ So sorry to hear of Wendall's death. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruthie and family.

Lex & Barbara (Moseley) Mason - April 21, 2011 at 02:39 PM

LP

“ We are sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.

Leslie and Jim Provost - April 21, 2011 at 12:04 PM

JC

“ My deapest sympathies in your loss. I worked with Mr. Gavin several years when he was a commissioner with the Jones County Soil & Water District. He was well thought of.

Jenifer Clark - April 21, 2011 at 08:50 AM

TR

“ Ruthie, We are so sorry to hear about Wendell. May God be with you and your family during this difficult time. You are very much in our thoughts and prayers. Love you, Tom and Tommye Rowell

Tommye Rowell - April 20, 2011 at 11:48 PM

SH

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Mr. Wendell. Anyone growing up who went to Highland Baptist Church knew Mr. Wendell and Mrs. Ruthie as a major part of our life. Then as adults we knew him as such an active part of our community Mr. Wendell was just a fine Christian man, and I know he will be missed by all that knew him. Our prayers are with you

Sonya Johnston Hanson - April 20, 2011 at 09:00 PM

MF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. We will continue to remember you and your family in your loss.  
Love, Mike and Frances Brady

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**Mike Brady Family** - April 20, 2011 at 07:54 PM

AB

“ We truly sympathies with the loss of this love one. Everyone loved Wendell and respected him highly. He will surely be missed by all.  
Sincerly your friend Angie & Wayne Byrd

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**ANGIE BYRD** - April 20, 2011 at 07:14 PM

VH

“ Ruthie,  
I enjoyed working for Wendell. He was a very special person. He will truly be missed. You and your family are in our prayers.

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**Virginia Holifield** - April 20, 2011 at 05:16 PM

TH

“ You and your family members are in our prayers.

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**Terry & Sylvia Holifield** - April 20, 2011 at 05:12 PM

GC

“ Ruthie and Family,  
I'm so sorry for your loss and just wanted you to know that you will be in my prayers. Your husband was such a fine man and he was admired by everyone.

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**Glenda Chatham** - April 20, 2011 at 05:06 PM

DR

“ *My deepest sympathies.*

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**Diane Roberts** - April 20, 2011 at 04:38 PM

BW

“ *Mrs. Gavin, Angie, and family,  
I just read about the death of Mr. Gavin and just wanted to let you know that I'll be praying for you and your family in the coming days. I hope that you can rest and find comfort in the arms of our Lord during this difficult time in your life. Just know that people are lifting you up in their thoughts and prayers.*

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**Belidna Sims Walley** - April 20, 2011 at 03:23 PM

JH

“ *Ruthie we are praying for you and your family in this time of sorrow. I know only God can comfort you. love, JoAnn Jack*

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**JoAnn Holifield** - April 20, 2011 at 02:36 PM

GM

“ *I was sadden to hear about Mr Wendall, my thoughts go out to all of the family.*

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**Gina Eason Moss** - April 20, 2011 at 01:30 PM

LB

“ *Ruthie, Bart, Liz, Angie and families, we are so sorry for your loss.*

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**Louis&Gail Baker** - April 20, 2011 at 12:33 PM

AM

“ So sorry for your lost. He was truly a great man and will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
*The Love Family Walter, Amy and Virginia*

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**Amy Love McGill** - April 20, 2011 at 12:28 PM

SW

“ OUR GREATEST SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO YOU RUTHIE, and also to your children and grandchildren.

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**shirley and Roger Waldrop** - April 20, 2011 at 10:57 AM

JL

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Wendell. He and Ms. Ruthie have built an amazing family to carry on his legacy. My prayers are with you all. God Bless you, Jennifer Hancock Lowery

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**Jennifer Lowery** - April 20, 2011 at 09:55 AM

JD

“ Dear Ruthie, Christy, and other family members, I am saddened to hear of Wendell's death. I always admired him, and I know Mother and Daddy thought and spoke highly of him; he was a really classy man. He made so many positive contributions to his family and the community around him, and he leaves a HUGE gap to be filled. I pray for God to be your strength and comfort at this time. May you feel His loving arms wrapped around you. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Jane Gardner Gatlin Davis** - April 20, 2011 at 08:55 AM

LG

“ Dear Aunt Ruthie, I was sorry to learn of Uncle Wendell's passing today. He was always kind and caring. You are in my prayers.

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**Lynda Gavin-Simmons** - April 19, 2011 at 09:30 PM

LI

“ *Sorry to hear about your father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**Lisa Ishee** - April 19, 2011 at 05:10 PM

RW

“ *Ruthie and Family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Wendell was loved by everyone. We will all miss him. He is at home now with the Father, and that is a great comfort to know. I will be praying for you, that the Holy Spirit will comfort you and give you peace. With much love,  
Reba*

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**Reba Windham** - April 19, 2011 at 01:37 PM