



## Gary Lynn Thedford

November 19, 1953 - January 14, 2015

A Celebration Service for Gary Lynn Thedford, 61, of Tyler will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at 10:00 AM at Green Acres Baptist Church Chapel with Dr. David Dykes and Dr. Paul Powell officiating. A Private Interment will be held prior to services at Tyler Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Thedford passed away Wednesday, January 14, 2015 under the care of his family and Hospice of East Texas.

Gary was born November 19, 1953 in Tyler, Texas to Eugene Bailey and Theola Chapman Thedford. Growing up he attended Tyler schools where he excelled in sports. Gary graduated from John Tyler High School in 1972 and earned his business degree from West Texas State University in 1975. After a brief time in management, he built a successful career in insurance and financial planning. Gary developed his salesmanship skills under the direction of his mother, Theola Thedford. She helped set him upon the path to success when she hired him to sell shoes while still in high school.

In 1978, Gary married Jan Westfall, enjoying 36 blessed years together. An active and committed member of Green Acres Baptist Church for 36 years, Gary's faith was a cornerstone of his life. Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," was his favorite Bible verse and gave

him deep strength, especially toward the end of his life. Gary was an avid golfer known for his ability to “grind it out” on the course as well as in life. He was a basketball referee (which was perfect for his black and white, decisive thinking) and loved to ride his Harley. The joy of his life was taking his granddaughter Alexis fishing at WeHope Ranch, the same place where Gary peacefully passed away.

Gary was preceded in death by his father, Eugene Thedford. He is survived by his loving family including beloved wife of 36 years, Jan Thedford; mother, Theola Thedford and husband Senka Yaden, of Tyler; sons, Trey Thedford, of Whitehouse and Brett Thedford, of Lakewood, Colorado; granddaughter, Alexis Thedford, of Denton; siblings, Don Thedford and wife Pam, of Tyler, Janet Swann and husband Benny, of Tyler; cousin, Virginia Kennedy and her family, of Tyler; numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Dr. Jim Ryder, Hub Coleman, Clint Roxburgh, Dr. Peyton Luckett, Dr. Earnie Stroupe and Jeff Pinkerton. Honorary pallbearers will be Tyler Area Basketball Officials and the East Texas Harley Owners Group.

Visitation is scheduled from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday, January 16, 2015 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

If desired, memorials may be made to The Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701; ETMC Foundation for Nursing, P.O. Box 6400, Tyler, TX 75711; Trinity Mother Francis Nursing Education Fund, 611 S. Fleishel, Tyler, TX 75701; TJC Foundation for nursing, P.O. Box 9020, Tyler, TX 75711; or University of Texas at Tyler School of Nursing c/o University Advancement, 3900 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75709.

# Cemetery Details

## Tyler Memorial Park

12053 SH 64 West  
Tyler, TX 75704

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home  
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 581-2008

## Celebration of Life

JAN 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church  
1607 Troup Hwy.  
Tyler, TX 75701

# Tribute Wall

LR

“ Our prayers are with you Jan and your family. Gary was such a vibrant person. I know he is by God's side.  
Lynda, Jeff and Ron Ragan

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**Lynda Ragan** - January 20, 2015 at 04:14 PM

LH

“ So very sorry to hear of Gary's illness and passing. I will always remember those beautiful eyes and vibrant smile. Much love to all the family, especially Mrs. Theola and Janet as I spent a lot of time in their home. Godspeed Gary and rest well. Much love, Linda (Patterson) Harrington

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**Linda Patterson Harrington** - January 19, 2015 at 01:34 PM

BB

“ Gary was a great guy and very fun to be with. I remember when we went to Canada years ago and fished together and caught tons of Wallye and Pike. Also played numerous rounds of golf at Willow Brook CC. Gary will be missed greatly!! Bill Blomdahl

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**Bill Blomdahl** - January 17, 2015 at 03:27 PM

JS

“ I was greatly saddened to learn of Gary's passing. I had worked with him for over 16 years, and he was very helpful to me. My thoughts and prayers are with the Thedford family.



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**John Sims** - January 16, 2015 at 08:45 PM

DB

“ *Tonight at Bullard High School Gym a moment of silence took place in memory of a Gary*

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**David Buckley** - January 16, 2015 at 07:49 PM



“ *Sacred Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Lynn Thedford.*



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January 16, 2015 at 05:22 PM

AJ

“ *Praying for your family! I'm glad that Gary is not suffering any more from his cancer. I send my condolences and send you all a big hug!! God Bless you all and your family in this difficult time. ----AMY JEFFUS*

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**AMY JEFFUS** - January 16, 2015 at 03:16 PM

TF

“ *The Jeffus Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gary Lynn Thedford.*



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**The Jeffus Family** - January 16, 2015 at 03:01 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Lynn Thedford.*



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January 16, 2015 at 11:51 AM



“ *Praying for you, deepest sympathies*

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**dave reeves** - January 16, 2015 at 11:47 AM



“ *The Thedford family will be in my prayers like they have been for the past 7 weeks. Gary, you were the best Papa a little girl could ask for. I will miss your random picture texts and emails, and please know that I always appreciated you sharing them with me. Your words to me at the hospital will always stay with me. Your memory will live on forever and you will always be in Lexi's heart. Can't wait to see you again, Gary, in Paradise.*

*Trey, Jan, and Brett, all my love and prayers. We are all connected and I am so blessed Lexi is apart of your wonderful family.*

*Brandy*

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**Brandy Corona** - January 16, 2015 at 11:35 AM

TF

“ We are thinking about you at this difficult time.  
So sorry Theola and Senka.



The Nolan Manziel Family - January 16, 2015 at 10:47 AM

JA

“ God grant your family peace! You are in our prayers! May you  
cherish the glorious memories!  
Jack & Karen Albright

Jack Albright - January 16, 2015 at 08:28 AM

LB

“ Larry, Cindy and Boys purchased the Beautiful in  
Blue for the family of Gary Lynn Thedford.



Larry, Cindy and Boys - January 16, 2015 at 08:05 AM

LW

“ Gary was always one of my favorite people to mess with. I don't  
think there was ever a time that I was around him that I didn't laugh.  
I will always cherish the night he taught me how to play blackjack in  
Shreveport. As a matter of fact, he still owes me 90 bucks. I think I  
will let it slide though. Gary, I will miss laughing with you. Jan and  
Trey, I am so blessed to have your family in my life. My condolences  
and my prayers will be with you.

Leslie Woodruff - January 15, 2015 at 11:32 PM

JC

“ *Jan and family:*

*Mike and I have been blessed to know you and Gary for over 20 years. Words cannot express the sadness we feel for you and your family over the loss of Gary. We are out of town for work or we would be there supporting you tomorrow and Saturday. We will be keeping you in our thoughts and praying for God to wrap you all in his love, comfort and peace in knowing this is just see you later and not a final goodbye. Big hugs and much love to you all!!!*

*Mike and Jill Carter*

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**Jill Carter** - January 15, 2015 at 11:16 PM

PJ

“ *I am blessed to have known Gary. He was a great man, admired by all that knew him. There are far too words to express my condolences to the family. May God continue to bless the entire family. Paul W Johnson.*

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**Paul W . Johnson.** - January 15, 2015 at 09:01 PM

LE

“ *3 files added to the album slide show*



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**Lexi** - January 15, 2015 at 07:56 PM



“ Lexi lit a candle in memory of Gary Lynn Thedford

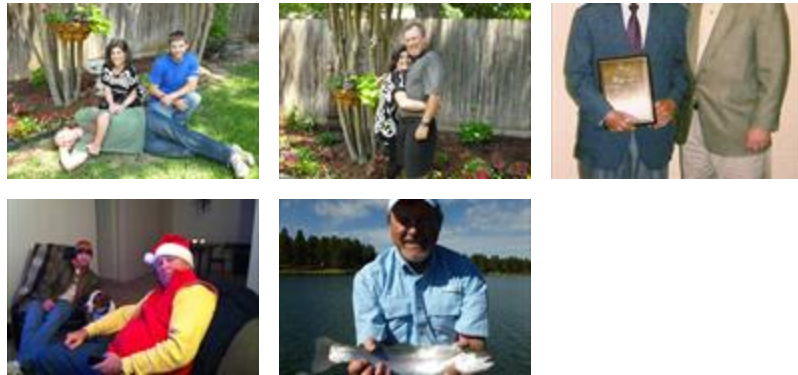


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**Lexi** - January 15, 2015 at 07:53 PM



“ 64 files added to the album slide show



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**Trey Thedford** - January 15, 2015 at 05:52 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Trey Thedford** - January 15, 2015 at 05:39 PM