

## Gail DeFrates

August 24, 1951 - November 23, 2019

Gail L. DeFrates passed away in his home in Montgomery Saturday, November 23rd, 2019 after courageously battling cancer. Gail was born August 24th, 1951 in Jacksonville, Illinois to parents, Richard and Eileen (Littig) DeFrates. He has one brother, Gary DeFrates (wife Kathy) of Jacksonville, IL and one sister, Karen Manker (husband Phill) of Tucson, AZ. Gail married the love of his life, Debbie (Miller) on October 6, 1973. They were blessed with three children, Brent DeFrates (wife Steffanie), Heather Bounds (husband Heath), and Brian DeFrates (wife Amber) and eight grandchildren who he adored, Kati, Kenny, Kaethe, Josh, Nathan, Emmie, Jackson, and Brooklynne.

Gail was a pioneer of the cellular industry. He “retired” from Verizon after 27 years and later went on to work contract jobs as a Project Manager with Sprint, T-Mobile, AT&T, Nextel Partners and Goodman Networks. His work was one of his passions, but he was even more devoted to his family and friends. He never met a stranger and made new friends wherever he went. No matter how busy he was, he was always there to offer help to others. Gail was strong in his Christian faith and member of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Conroe. He treasured spending time with his grandkids, golfing with his friends, and volunteering at the New Montgomery Cemetery.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Eileen DeFrates and his beloved granddaughter, Kati. Gail was truly one of a kind, loved by all who knew him, the greatest father and grandfather, and will be greatly missed.

Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at 9:30AM in the Chapel at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Willis. Visitation with the family will be Wednesday, November 27, 2019 in the Chapel at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home from 8:30 until time of Service. Burial will follow services at The New Montgomery Cemetery in Montgomery, Texas. In lieu of flowers Memorials may be made to St. Mark Lutheran Church, 2100 Tickner St., Conroe, TX, 77301. You are invited to leave a written condolence on our website at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 27. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Willis  
10129 FM 1097 Rd W.  
Willis, TX 77318  
(936) 890-0454  
greg@shmfh.com

## Funeral Service

NOV 27. 9:30 AM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Willis  
10129 FM 1097 Rd W.  
Willis, TX 77318  
(936) 890-0454  
greg@shmfh.com

## Interment following service

NOV 27 (CT)

New Montgomery Cemetery  
Old Plantersville Road & 105 West  
Montgomery, TX 77356

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gail DeFrates*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 26, 2019 at 03:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 26, 2019 at 02:50 PM

DB

“Gail was my co-worker here at T-Mobile Houston. We sat about 5 feet from each other in an open cubicle setting. Meaning, we had lots of fun and laughter together. His cubicle was our dessert store for candy bars, nuts, and so many snacks. During lunch breaks, Gail would force you to eat one or more of his snacks even if we told him we had enough. He was very open about his illness. After his doctor's visits, and back to the office, he will tell us everything he went through with his treatment with a sense of jokes and laughter that we all shared and will always remember. He was one the kindness and amused person I have met in my life and I mean it! We had an office group text. I remembered, on the last day before he left the office, I asked him if we could take a group picture, with no hesitation, he said, “okay, let’s do it”. After I took the group picture, I sent it out to the group with these exact words, “cell phones make you look even better. lol” Gail replied, in these exact words, “That's debatable. I miss y'all already”. This is the person we have lost, very humorous. Rest in Peace Gail, we loved you and will miss you, but God loves you best. You will always be missed and talked about in our lives. PEACE!

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**Dwight Birch** - November 26, 2019 at 01:55 PM

SE

Gail and I were best friends in High School. We sat the bench together on the varsity basketball team. Hiding the popcorn and soda from our coach was our highlight of each Friday or Saturday nite. We hunted together a few times for rabbits and quail. Every time we jumped one i'd let him shoot first... then I'd end up killing the critter and tease each other till we almost cried. RIP Gail, I'll always remember you and you giant smile and friendship.. Steve

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**Steve Esslinger** - November 26, 2019 at 06:06 PM

SL

*Just found out and wanted to add my condolences. Gail was a giant among us at Verizon.. those that worked with or for him. He kept you on your toes as he'd start the conversation with no preamble. You just needed to get ready and run to catch up. Man, was he smart and the people that worked around him all loved him. He was smart, funny, hardworking, and cared about everyone around him. I often reference him in some way while telling war stories of life among the pioneering giants of cellular. Rest In Peace.*

Shirley Layton - February 15, 2021 at 01:24 AM

CS

*“ I am so saddened to hear of Gail's passing. I met Gail at T-Mobile. He was very helpful and taught me so much in a very short time. He became my work Dad. He always talked about his family and adored his grandchildren. He will be truly missed.*

Crystal Smith - November 26, 2019 at 12:52 PM



*“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



November 26, 2019 at 12:16 PM

KS

*“ So sad to hear of Gail leaving us. He was a pleasure to know and work with. I consider it my privilege to have worked with a gentleman of his quality. He tended to always make the task at hand fun to accomplish.*

*Keith Surratt*

Keith Surratt - November 26, 2019 at 11:59 AM

RC

“ *Very sorry to hear of Gail's passing. GTE Mobilnet was very fortunate to have him during those early years. His technical expertise and great personality made him a memorable character to all those around him. We will all miss him. He was truly one of the good guys.*

*Randy and Barbara Crouse*

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**randall crouse** - November 26, 2019 at 09:58 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 26, 2019 at 09:00 AM

PD

“ *With our sympathy and condolences to the family of Gail. He was always helpful and easily made friends back here in Illinois and at GTE. Bill and Paul Doerr.*



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**Paul Doerr** - November 26, 2019 at 08:36 AM

RA

“ *Saddened to hear of Gail's passing. Prayers for comfort to his family. Remember fondly his time in Pittsfield with GTE.*

*Randy alloway*

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**Randy alloway** - November 26, 2019 at 06:24 AM

MD

*Just heard today of the passing of Gail DeFrates He was a contractor in my group at AT&T. He was very knowledgeable in his job. He will be sorely missed. Prayers to his family.*

*Marilyn Denning*

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**Marilyn Denning** - December 04, 2019 at 04:22 PM

MD

*Just heard of the passing of Gail DeFrates. He was a contractor in my group at AT&T. He was a great person and will be sorely missed. Prayers for his family.*

*Marilyn Denning*

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**Marilyn Denning** - December 04, 2019 at 04:29 PM




“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 25, 2019 at 11:24 PM

  
Michael  
Latino

“ *Michael Latino purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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**Michael Latino** - November 25, 2019 at 09:44 PM

  
Michael  
Latino

“ *Debbie, Heather, Brent and Brian:*

*I am so saddened to learn of Gail's passing. I count my time working with, and for, Gail at GTE as some of my favorite and most formative years. I learned so very much from him. Over the years since GTE, we talked and texted occasionally. Some about work, but most importantly, about family. He was so very proud of each of you. Gail was a great friend and I will miss him dearly.*

*Please know that we will be keeping each of you in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Sincerely,  
Mike and Clara Latino*

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**Michael Latino** - November 25, 2019 at 09:31 PM

KR

“ *Gail was such a special person. Always kind, quick with that winning smile and always fun to be around. I have many fond memories of time spent with Gail and Debbie and the whole family. Keeping all of you in my heart and prayers. God grant you His peace. 🙏❤️*

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**Karen Ridenour** - November 25, 2019 at 08:39 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 25, 2019 at 07:45 PM



“ *Gail (aka Dusty) was a terrific friend and the memories of all the good times spent with him and his family will remain in our hearts forever.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to Debbie and their beautiful children on the loss of a wonderful husband and father. His grandchildren will hear many stories of their grandfather and his legacy will continue on.....*

*May God comfort you all,  
Chris and Ken Hannel  
Leslie, Sarju Patel and Family  
Stacey Hannel and Family  
Kelli, Russell Buxton and Family*

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**Chris Hannel** - November 25, 2019 at 03:01 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss! May god give you strength through this difficult time. Lots of Love, Heather Rosplock*

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**Heather Rosplock** - November 25, 2019 at 02:43 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 25, 2019 at 02:41 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 25, 2019 at 02:30 PM



“ *To Debbie and the entire DeFrates family – My deepest heart felt consonsances go out too all of you in your loss of Gail. Gail was a “One of a Kink” person. I had the honored to have work with him over the many years when he was on the Sprint and the T-Mobile accounts. He was a very honorable and trust worthy person. He will be great missed by all.*

*Randall Champagne*

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**Randall Champagne** - November 25, 2019 at 02:26 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 25, 2019 at 02:17 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 25, 2019 at 12:17 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail DeFrates.*



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November 25, 2019 at 12:05 PM