



Jerry Ray Gabbard

December 5, 1941 - September 5, 2024

Jerry Ray Gabbard passed away peacefully in Trinity TX on Sept 5, 2024 at the age of 82. Jerry was born Dec. 5, 1941 in Ben Lomond AR to Albert Gabbard and Dorothy Bea Terry Ricks. After a brief stint in the oil fields in New Mexico he enlisted in the US Navy as a fireman recruit. He quickly discovered his passion for healthcare after helping out in sick bay and went on to serve as a corpsman earning Master Chief rank. He became a Physician's Assistant after graduating with his Master's degree and separated from the Navy as a CW02. He quickly landed a job as one of the first three PA's ever at the Texas Department of Corrections in Huntsville TX. He worked on multiple TDC units in the Huntsville area until his final retirement in 2015.

In 1962, Jerry met and married the love of his life Patricia Dollarhide. They had two daughters and enjoyed the traveling life of an active-duty sailor. He was particularly proud of the fact that he & Pat had visited all 50 states in addition to dozens of foreign countries. They were married 58 years when Pat passed away in 2020.

Jerry was a passionate gardener like his mom Dorothy Bea. He completed Texas A & M's Master Gardener's course and joined the Walker County Master Gardener club where he became the resident expert on all things related to growing vegetables, fruit trees and mulching. The tree arbor at their facility is named after him.

He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents and his younger brother Edward Gabbard of Lockesburg AR. He leaves behind his younger sister Jan

Coon of Nashville AR, two daughters – Janet Higdon & her husband Rob of Crockett TX and Judy Herrington of Flower Mound TX, four grandchildren – Brandi Hibbs, Justin Gabbard, Chance Herrington & Amber Herrington along with 11 great grandchildren.

Visitation is planned for Tuesday, Sept 10th from 5 PM – 8 PM at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville TX followed by a graveside service in Lockesburg AR at Wright's Chapel Cemetery on Saturday, Sept. 14th at 2 PM. Arrangements provided by Wilkerson's Funeral Home in DeQueen AR.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to two organizations he loved and supported - the Walker County Master Gardener's Club or the Crockett TX American Legion Post 134.

Memorial condolence to the family may be made @ www.shmh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **10.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340

Graveside Service

SEP **14.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Wright's Chapel Cemetery
1907 317 South
Lockesburg, AR 71846

Tribute Wall



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jerry Ray Gabbard.*



September 13, 2024 at 09:14 AM



“ *Rich Herrington purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jerry Ray Gabbard.*



Rich Herrington - September 12, 2024 at 08:18 PM



“ *Rich Herrington planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Ray Gabbard.*

Rich Herrington - September 12, 2024 at 08:18 PM



“ *Kelly S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Ray Gabbard.*

Kelly S. - September 11, 2024 at 06:08 PM

WS

“ Jerry tried to pretend he was ornery, but he didn't fool anybody, he was one of the best people ever! He will be missed.

Wes and Susan Sanders - September 10, 2024 at 04:39 AM

JW

“ Jackie Brock Wilmoth purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Jerry Ray Gabbard.



Jackie Brock Wilmoth - September 09, 2024 at 07:32 PM

JW

“ Jackie Brock Wilmoth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Ray Gabbard.

Jackie Brock Wilmoth - September 09, 2024 at 07:32 PM

RH

“ Jerry was an great master gardener with a great sense of humor. He was always testing my plant knowledge and I learned a great deal about plants from him. He will truly be missed.

RHONDA - September 09, 2024 at 06:47 PM

SB

“ Janet, Judy and families - my heart goes out to you. You were blessed with wonderful parents. I have missed Pat and will miss Jerry. I was blessed to know and love them. You are in my prayers, and you are loved.

Suzy "Farm" Bevenger - September 09, 2024 at 05:40 PM

BS

“ Benita S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Ray Gabbard.

Benita S. - September 09, 2024 at 03:49 PM

BS

“ Our deepest condolences and sympathies. May he rest in peace. Much love and prayers. Ed and Benita Solano



Benita Solano - September 09, 2024 at 03:49 PM

YT

“ Your Parkland Med/Neuro Team purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Jerry Ray Gabbard.



Your Parkland Med/Neuro Team - September 09, 2024 at 02:50 PM

YT

“ Your Parkland Med/Neuro Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Ray Gabbard.

Your Parkland Med/Neuro Team - September 09, 2024 at 02:50 PM

RC

“ *Condolences to Gabbard Family*



Randy Cloud - September 08, 2024 at 05:27 PM

MH

“ *Marvin Hyvl lit a candle in memory of Jerry Ray Gabbard*



Marvin Hyvl - September 07, 2024 at 11:21 AM