



John L. "Sonny" Gaines, Jr.

September 28, 1934 - June 10, 2009

John Lewis "Sonny" Gaines, Jr. was born September 28, 1934 in Trinity Texas to John L. Gaines, Sr. and Maggie Lee Gaines and passed away June 10, 2009 in Trinity, Texas after a long battle with Alzheimers.

He is survived by wife, Nina Hall Gaines; daughter, Rhonda Ann Gaines Roark; son, John R. Gaines and wife Sheri; stepson, James Lewis Owens and wife Jo Sue; stepson, Charlie Owens and wife Judy; grandchildren: Jodie Lee Roark, Lindsey Barfoot Wallace and husband Jesse, Savannah Gaines, Sarah Frances Gaines, Stratton Gaines, Jerod Owens and wife Amy, Wesley Owens and wife Ashley, Melissa Owens, Stephanie Owens, Jason Owens and wife, Rosina, James Owens and wife, Kerry; numerous great-grandchildren and numerous extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Florence "Bebe" Gaines and daughter, Susan Gaines Barfoot.

Sonny was raised in Trinity and graduated from Trinity High School where he played football and was very proud to be a "fullback for the Tigers". He attended Sam Houston State University. Sonny worked at TDCJ, "Walls" Unit in several capacities including the Warden's Office, the Prison Store, and the Industrial Warehouse until 1993 when he retired after 38 years of service.

He was a kind, soft spoken, generous man who loved his family very much and adored his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed fishing, camping, dancing and driving around East Texas. He loved visiting with friends and family. Sonny was baptized at White Rock Creek as a child. He will be truly missed by everyone who knew him.

Services will be on Saturday, June 13 at 10:00am in the chapel of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home with burial to follow at Petree Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday, June 12 from 6-8:00pm at the funeral home.

Memorial condolences may be made online at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *John L. "Sonny" Gaines, Jr.*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *To the entire Gaines, Owens & Roark families:
I was so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Gaines. I grew up on Hazel Avenue with Rhonda, Susan & John and their parents were very special to us. Years later, I got to work together with Mr. Gaines at the Walls Unit.
I lost my father 5 years ago & someday it just seems like yesterday. Just keep your special memories alive. Your family is in our thoughts & prayers.
Jamie Brinegar & Family*

Jamie EllisorBrinegar - June 15, 2009 at 06:57 PM



“ *John and family, I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you all.*

Cynthia Barnes - June 15, 2009 at 01:46 PM



“ *Rhonda,*

Sorry to hear of the loss of your father. He was one of the first people I met when I went to work for TDC and he was a great guy.

Lonnie Eslick

Lonnie Eslick - June 15, 2009 at 11:53 AM

JS

“ Sorry for your loss. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Jacqui Shair - June 15, 2009 at 09:24 AM

DJ

“ Death is not the end. The grave is, but a covered bridge, leading from life to life; with but a brief darknes in between.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Dave Jordan - June 13, 2009 at 09:07 PM

NJ

“ So sorry for your loss. Norma Dell Jones of Lovelady.

Norma Dell & Jerry D. Jones - June 13, 2009 at 12:52 PM

LP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I pray that God will give the peace you need to carry you through this time. It was my priveledge to take care of Mr. Gaines as one of the nurses at Avalon Place.

Lindy Pipkin, LVN - June 12, 2009 at 11:59 PM

CG

“ John,
We are so sorry to hear about your dad. We will say a prayer for all of you.

Chris and Stacy Godby - June 12, 2009 at 07:51 PM

DM

“ Rhonda, Jodie, Lindsey, John and Family, You are in our thoughts. We will remember your Father always as the kind, wonderful man that he was.

Don, Tonya, and Jalynn Merrell - June 12, 2009 at 01:15 PM

BN

“ John, Sheri and family,

So sorry to hear about your Father. My thoughts and prayers are with you during your time of sorrow. God will give you strength!

Beverly Conner Niederhofer - June 12, 2009 at 10:41 AM

LH

“ Rhonda, John and family, our sincerest condolences during this time. We will keep your family in our prayers.

Lisa, Makenzie, & Madison Hayman - June 12, 2009 at 08:44 AM