



Kerry P Gatlin

December 28, 1946 - December 11, 2022

Kerry Polk Gatlin, 75, of Foley, AL passed away unexpectedly at his home on December 11, 2022.

Kerry was born on December 28, 1946 in Itawamba County, Mississippi to the late John (Bud) and Gladys (Polk) Gatlin. He was preceded in death by a sister, Diane Gibson, three half sisters, Jackie Swats, Janis Holbook, Nathalie Cowling, and a half brother John Leathers.

He is survived by a wife, Laura of Foley, AL; a son and daughter in law, Scott and Kathy Gatlin of Little Rock, AR; a daughter and son in law, Lisa and Todd Cooley, of Cleveland, MS; and four grandchildren, John (Jack) Gatlin, Michael Gatlin, Andrew Gatlin, and Mira Gatlin; as well as numerous other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be on December 15 from 9:30-10:30 AM at Wilson Funeral Home in Fort Payne, AL. Graveside services will be held at Adamsburg Cemetery on Lookout Mountain on December 15 at 11 AM with Ward Jenkins officiating.

Dr. Gatlin was a Professor at the University of North Alabama and served as the Dean of the College of Business for many years. He graduated from Ashdown High School (Arkansas), completed his bachelor's degree at Southern Arkansas University (Southern State College), his master's degree from Samford University, and his doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

He loved reading books and spending time with his sweet dogs. He was an excellent teacher and often traveled internationally to teach abroad. His career at UNA provided him with a purpose and a close-knit work family.

He enjoyed spending time at the beach and in the mountains, watching Alabama football with his son, and cheering on Delta State football with his daughter. He even wore green to a few UNA games.

He never missed an opportunity to drive, though no one ever wanted to ride with him. He had many talents, but handy-work wasn't one of them. If you've been to his beach house, you've seen some of his best work.

If you ever had a conversation with him, you likely encountered his quick wit and sense of humor. However, he probably did not hear a word you said. He was slow to anger and quick to laugh, but perhaps his best attribute was the care he had for others. Growing up very poor gave him a unique understanding of the struggles of others. He was a person who would do anything for anyone.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Dean Gatlin's UNA endowments.

To give, please go to: <https://www.una.edu/give/give-now.html>

For Designation, choose College of Business and Technology. Then, add either John and Gladys Gatlin Endowed Scholarship OR Gatlin Endowment for Innovation in the Comment box. Check the Tribute Gift checkbox. If you have questions, contact the University Advancement Office at (256) 765-4670 or advancement@una.edu.

Cemetery Details

Adamsburg Cemetery

71 County Road 263
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (cst)

Wilson Funeral Home and Crematory
3801 Gault Avenue North
Fort Payne, AL 35967
(256) 845-9150

Graveside Service

DEC 15. 11:00 AM (cst)

Adamsburg Cemetery
71 County Road 263
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Tribute Wall



“ Kerry P Gatlin

January 12, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ I knew Kerry through his wife Laura. Kerry was kind and funny. We enjoyed spending time with him and with Laura. He was an Ambassador in the Coastal Alabama Business Chamber and enjoyed volunteering with the group. Kerry will be greatly missed by his family and friends. RIP now, Kerry.



Jan Waggoner - December 17, 2022 at 02:27 PM



“ The last correspondence I have with Uncle Kerry is about writing a letter of recommendation for graduate school. Friday I will be receiving my Masters in School Counseling. I hope he is able to peek in on the ceremony. However, I do know a particular older sister of his is tickled pink to see her little brother again.

All of my love,
One of Janis's grandbabies,
Kent's daughter,
Lindsay Holbrook

PS- I've been blaming my daddy's hearing on working around heavy equipment his whole life. Now, I'm starting to sense there may be a genetic component...

Lindsay K Holbrook - December 14, 2022 at 08:17 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kerry P Gatlin.



December 14, 2022 at 12:31 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kerry P Gatlin.*



December 14, 2022 at 10:50 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kerry P Gatlin.*



December 14, 2022 at 09:55 AM

LS

“ *Take care of Mom Uncle Kerry. She has been waiting for you. You were her pride and joy and she loved you and bragged about you endlessly. I will miss you fondly and send my sincere condolences to Lisa and Scott. Gone too soon. Pass gently.*



Lisa Santuro - December 14, 2022 at 09:36 AM

WF

“ *William D FORD purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kerry P Gatlin.*



William D FORD - December 14, 2022 at 09:28 AM

DY

“ *Kerry was a faculty member with me , my department chair and eventually my Dean. We were good friends and I have many fond memories of our time at UNA. He always supported me and was so kind to all. I retired years ago but I will not forget Kerry and his great influence on my life.*



Donna Yancey - December 14, 2022 at 02:20 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Kerry P Gatlin.



December 13, 2022 at 11:37 PM

TF

“ *Kerry was a wonderful classmate of mine at Ashdown High School (Ark). He was always kind, generous, encouraging, fun loving and engaging. He had a wonderful sense of humor that lightened everyone's day. I know that he had a wonderful career as a professor and Dean of the Business School at the University of North Alabama. Surely his students and colleagues were the luckiest people in the world to have had the opportunity to know Kerry, take his classes and work with him. May Kerry's memory and example live on at UNA and in his community. His memory will certainly reside with me forever. Tom Fomby, Dallas, TX*

Tom Fomby - December 13, 2022 at 10:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Kerry P Gatlin.



December 13, 2022 at 10:10 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of Kerry P Gatlin.



December 13, 2022 at 09:25 PM

RC

“ *Kerry was my mothers half brother. Growing up in Ashdown he was like a big brother to me. Loved him much So sorry for your loss. Prayers to the family Rusty Cowling*

Rusty Cowling - December 13, 2022 at 06:34 PM

MM

“ I remember Kerry Gatlin, as he worked for City Federal Savings and Loan Association under Pete Gardner on the first floor of the City Federal Building, and while there, he got his Masters from Samford. Kerry was a super nice person, and everyone liked him. When we had the good hot cooked meals at Top of the City Kerry liked Rosa's hot homemade rolls, and her cookies. So sorry to hear of his passing away.

Mary Jo May - December 13, 2022 at 05:58 PM

NB

Kerry was our neighbor in his early years in Florence when Scott and Lisa were young; he became a sweet friend. My husband Larry, a CPA, additionally taught accounting at UNA and knew Kerry there, too. We are sad to hear of his passing. Condolences to all of his family and especially his children of whom he was so proud. Rest in peace, dear Kerry. We know that smile of yours is huge now.

Nancy Belue - December 14, 2022 at 05:53 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kerry P Gatlin.



December 13, 2022 at 04:23 PM