



Mr. Bernard Clay Gardner III Obituary

January 13, 1957 - December 19, 2012

Bernard "Clay" Gardner III, 55, died Wednesday, December 19, 2012 in Columbus, Ga. Born in Albany, Georgia on January 13, 1957, Clay was the son of the late Henri Branch Whitaker Gardner and Bernard Clay "B.C." Gardner, Jr. He was a 1975 graduate of Deerfield High School. Mr. Gardner attended Valdosta State College, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. At Valdosta State, he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. His passions in life included hunting, fishing, and time in the outdoors with his beloved dogs. A native of Albany, he moved to Columbus in 1999 to be closer to his family.

He is survived by his sister, Janet Kemp and her husband Robert of Columbus, Ga.; his nephew, Robert Colston Kemp of Columbus, Ga.; his niece, Martha Schley Whitaker Kemp of Richmond, Va.; his aunts, Mrs. Henry Wright (Martha) of Albany, Ga, and Mrs. Jay D. Gardner (Carleen) of Park City Utah; and numerous cousins.

A private family funeral service was held at Crown Hill Cemetery with Rev. Carrie Myers officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Methodist Church of Albany (307 Flint Avenue Albany, GA 31701) or SOWEGA Council on Aging (1105 Palmyra Road Albany, GA 31701).

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Bernard Clay Gardner III Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mr. Bernard Clay Gardner III Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *I have known Clay since first grade. We always laughed at everything! Born a week apart, I will miss him so much.*

Dinah Pritchett - Alpharetta, GA - friend - January 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Clay...we had many good times together..I miss you already and you've only been gone a week...MT*

Mike Thornton - Cairo, GA - fraternit brother - December 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Janet, Please know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Clay and I grew up together at FUMC. He was full of Life!
RIP Clay!
Debbie Sutton*

Debbie TenHagen Sutton - Albany, GA - friend - December 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I can only smile and laugh when I hear your name. Here for a good time not a long time. We used to say "We'll sleep when we are dead". Get some rest old friend. RIP.

David Brown - Griffin, GA - Frat Brother - December 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ We all just lost a part of us. God speed Clay

Gordy Steadman - Jacksonville, FL - Friend, Fraternity Brother - December 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LN

Clay, I know you were right there last night when my path crossed that of your Frat Brother! Know you are still thought of, and missed by so many! What a delight to share fond memories of you 'back in the day', and the Albany of long ago that we remember so well. Your memory will forever live on! 🙏

Lisa Nichols-Allison - January 21, 2023 at 10:20 AM

RF

“ You have a heart of gold in this cold world. I will miss you. J

Rene' Fontana - Columbus, GA - friend - December 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Clay,
What times you, me Taylor and Goodyear had. As we look back they were some of the best. We go back to YMCA basketball, through Deerfield and remained friends. It is times like this when we realize to try and keep in touch with the people who were your friends. Rest in peace B.C.

Mike Matthews

Mike Matthews - Albany, GA - friend - December 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Clay, you and your smile will be missed tremendously. May you rest in peace. May the Lord give the family peace that surpasses all understanding.

Rose Swain - Columbus, GA - caregiver/Riverplace - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ RIP Brother.

Neil Parham - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ When I heard this all I could see was Clay and David trying to out do one another skiing barefooting on the lake. What a shame, I am so sorry for all of you.

Dana Turner Wilkins - Santa Rosa Bch, FL - Friend old - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Clay, I've been looking for you for the last few years! Just sent some mutual acquaintances e-mails asking where you were. I was so sorry to hear of your passing. Our bond is lasting and sacred! I love you! I miss you! Much love! Susan

Susan Clayton - Atlanta, GA - College Friend - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Our memories with you Clay are nothing but Laughs and Grins. You touched this world in a special way. Rest in peace my Brother.

Frank and Jackie Robinson - Palm Harbor, FL - Friend - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Some of my fondest memories are from the crazy 80's with Clay. The Masters tourney, Ga/Fla game, etc. Thanks for all the good times, Clay. You will be missed by so many. My condolences to the family. Rest in peace.

Dawn Hobby - Leesburg, GA - Friend - December 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ BC, What times we had running through the woods in Brevard. Then we both ended up in Valdosta to become KA Brothers. We had some great times after VSC also. You were always a good friend and will be dearly missed. Your family has my prayers and sympathy. God Bless You, Tom

Tom Drossos - Valdosta, GA - Friend - December 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ It was only last Sunday that I mentioned Clay. One of a kind is an understatement. So many memories. May you rest in peace, Clay.

tracy m flanagan - albany, GA - friend - December 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Clay was a big part of my childhood. He always had time to make my brother and I feel important and loved. He always had a big idea or adventure for us whether it was the biggest remote control car at toys r us or trick or treating in a limo or helicopter rides through NYC. We loved him dearly. Prayers of peace.

Paige Dunn - Thomasville , GA - Friend - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Thank you for all the fun memories. Rest in peace Clay.

Ryan Mock - Atlanta, GA - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Clay

You were such a great guy! I'll treasure all of those fun memories I have of you.... you made me laugh and I loved that smile! Rest peacefully my friend.

Sherry (Buchanan) Marcks - Dallas, GA - friend - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Rest in peace, my friend! You are loved, and will be missed by everyone who called you "friend"! Janet, my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. I am so sorry for your loss!*

Jane Joiner - Albany, GA - friend - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *My heart aches to hear of Clay's passing. I've lived in N. Carolina for 20 years now but I knew Clay when I lived in Albany as I worked for his dad's law firm many years. I found Clay Gardner absolutely charming, and always enjoyed his company in the office when he'd stop by or when I'd see him out and about. He was fun to be around. May Clay rest in peace in the glory of the heavens. His star will be one of the brightest in the skies. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends. I love you Clay... keep that light of yours shining like the star you are.*

Pamela Elaine Johnson - Wilmington, NC - friend - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Blessings to the family. Clay and I went to Deerfield together. I'm saddened to hear of his passing.*

Jane Whittlesey - Boulder, CO - school friend - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Clay, rest in peace now. I was one of the many who had a crush on you! Janet, thinking of you and your family.

Lucy Richardson - Macon, GA - Friend - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Rest in Peace my friend. We had a lifelong time of memories. Growing up with you and your family was a wonderful experience with many many great memories. You will be greatly missed my friend.

Carl Smith - Leesburg, GA - friend - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ So sad we didn't get to say goodbye to you in the proper way. Many have never know the beautiful, loving and generous person you were. The laughter and joy you brought to me will ring in my ears forever. You will never be forgotten and live on in our hearts and minds for eternity. Good bye my friend. I will see you on the other side! Much Love, Rebecca

Rebecca Dunn - Apalachicola, FL - dear friend - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ RIP my ole buddy & you will be sadly missed.

Chuck DeLoach - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Wishing you Peace, my Brother. Thanks for all the great times, memories & friendship.

Russell Whorton - Johns Creek, GA - KA Brother - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Janet,
You & your family are in my thoughts & prayers. Clay was such a nice man. God bless you & yours.

Juli Bruner

Juli Reynolds Bruner - Albany, GA - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ So many folks loved him, had a crush on him, dodged trouble with him, laughed and cried with him. He was more blessed than he knew. I hope this marks the end of his suffering. He was one of a kind. A good kid. He will not be forgotten that's for sure. Rest in Peace Clay Gardner.

Janet Heidt - Atlanta, GA - school chum - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ I am saddened to learn of Clay's death. He was a delightful student and a true gentleman. My condolences to all of his family in your loss. Joanne S. Smith

Joanne Stripling Smith - Chattanooga, TN - A teacher - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Clay,

The first star to the left and straight on from there. God speed my friend.

Roy Manry - Albany, GA - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM