



## Gary C. Gray

July 29, 1953 - August 17, 2021

Gary C. Gray, 68, of Judsonia, died Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at home with his family by his side after a 2 year battle with cancer. He was born July 29, 1953 in Searcy to the late Cecil Gray and Martha (Brooks) Gray Donnell. He started his lifelong career in law enforcement with the Judsonia Police Department, having graduated from the training academy in 1974. Later he took a position with the White County Sheriff's Department on January 1, 1975, where he spent a couple years serving White County, even was named Chief Deputy before becoming commissioned as an Arkansas State Trooper on August 8, 1977.

He was first assigned to the Highway Patrol, Troop D, Phillips County before transferring to Woodruff County, where he served the residents in and around the Augusta area for many years. Gary then served in the Crimes Against Children Division in White County before finishing his career with CID Company F in Jonesboro.

He was also a trained EMT, sniper on SRT and also a firearms instructor for many years. He was awarded 1st place in the ASPA "Top Gun" Championship in 1998 and 1999.

He retired from law enforcement after 34 years & 10 months with the ASP on July 1, 2012.

Gary was also an avid outdoors man who enjoyed hunting, fishing and traveling with his family since his retirement.

He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Sonja (Howard) Gray; son, Dr. Brian

Gray and wife, Andi of Trussville, AL; daughter, Crystal Barnett and husband John of Cabot, AR; granddaughter, Rylee Grayce Barnett; sister, Loretta Wright; brother, Danny Gray and a host of extended family and many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or an animal shelter of your choice in Gary's memory.

There will be a Celebration of Gary's Life held at a later date and will be announced by Powell Funeral Home Bald Knob-Judsonia. Please check our website for updated service information. [www.powellfuneralhome.net](http://www.powellfuneralhome.net)

# Tribute Wall

DI

“ Loretta, I don't know if you remember me . I'm so sorry for your loss. Sometimes there are no words to express but you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Diana Reynolds Hollandworth

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**diana** - August 23, 2021 at 11:43 AM

MM

“ Gary and I were classmates and friends we shared a lot of good times together. He will be missed.

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**Mike Monday** - August 21, 2021 at 10:27 PM

JG

“ Words cannot express how heartbroken I am to hear of the passing of Gary. From first grade, thru the 12th, and beyond we were buds to the end. To his family, May God bless you and my prayers are with you.

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**Johney Gibson** - August 21, 2021 at 01:07 PM

LT

“ Loretta and Danny and family, we are so sorry about the passing of Gary. He was a good friend and a good man. He will be missed and our prayers for the family for all the comfort needed.  
Kenneth and Linda Tucker

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**Linda tucker** - August 19, 2021 at 04:43 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Gary C. Gray.*



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August 19, 2021 at 01:37 PM



“ *Sonja, Brian and Crystal were blessed to have had Gary Gary as a spouse and father. Gary was a very special man who touched many lives. He will be truly missed but never forgotten. Always in our hearts. Love you man.*  
*Gary and Connie Manor*

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**Gary and Connie Manor** - August 19, 2021 at 10:13 AM



“ *Trooper Gray was an asset to whatever he undertook, sometimes people thought of him as strict but he did his job for all the citizens he represented. Some thought he inherited that from his Dad if so it was a trait to be remembered. Johnny Hodges*

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**Johnny or Mary Hodges** - August 19, 2021 at 09:09 AM



“ *My condolences to the Gray Family. I always enjoyed working with Gary on different assignments. My prayers are with you all.*

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**Alex Sylvester** - August 19, 2021 at 12:15 AM

PP

“ Gary was such an amazing person, he taught me so much about investigations of child abuse. I learned not only how to conduct interviews, but interrogation techniques to use where you interview with grace and confidence to get what was needed for criminal investigations. He was such a gracious teacher and I spent my best years with ASP/CACD, learning from the best. Upon his retirement, he taught my conceal carry class. He spoke so highly of his kids, he was always so proud of his children, and loved his wife Sonja. I know he will be greatly missed. He was such a good man. My prayers are with his family. Rest In Peace friend! You fought the good fight and now you can rest, knowing you made a difference. Thank you Gary for being the kind of police officer and Trooper that made LEO an amazing community of family. 💙 🖤 💙 🖤

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**Peggy Poole** - August 18, 2021 at 09:30 PM

MM

“ This man was a good man and a kind man God bless his family

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**maxine. mccue** - August 18, 2021 at 09:01 PM

DS

“ Him and my dad drove truck together for sam Baker in Augusta when he wasn't on duty

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**Daniel Seigriest** - August 18, 2021 at 08:51 PM

LB

“ Gary and I were neighbors twice when he lived in Augusta. When we lived in McCain Addition, there was a gravel road beside our houses. I was not even 10, I think. I would ride my 3 wheeler up and down that road all day during the summer. I got in his yard several times. He told my parents. I didn't do that again when I was shown his police car. To this day, I still don't know why he didn't enjoy the tire tracks. 🙏♂

He and my Mother worked together. He helped my Father out with his trucking company. I have too many memories to share. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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**Leigh Ann Baker** - August 18, 2021 at 08:40 PM

DW

“ He and Rickey Dickerson let me ride along with them back in the day a I always wanted to get a job like theirs , he was an inspiration to me and he even did my background on me before I became a trooper. He was a man among men in our profession. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten. R.I.P. my friend.

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**Darrell L. Winston** - August 18, 2021 at 08:13 PM

LG

Gary was a great guy n will be missed by many, myself included

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**lloyd goree** - August 18, 2021 at 08:42 PM

NG

Gary was a firearms instructor for my troop school 98-A. I remember him being a kind and caring instructor who was happy to spend extra time with those who were struggling with qualifications to insure that they were able to become proficient with their firearms. He was a good man and a good trooper and I feel honored to have known him. The family has our deepest sympathies and condolences and will be in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Nick Gault** - August 19, 2021 at 10:50 AM

JO

*Gary was a good friend, we started our career about the same time at the White County Sheriff's Department. Gary was always good for a laugh and quick to tell about his hunting trips. He will be missed by a lot of people all over the state. The family is in my prayers.*

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**Jess Odom** - August 20, 2021 at 08:23 AM