

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

-John 11:25-26



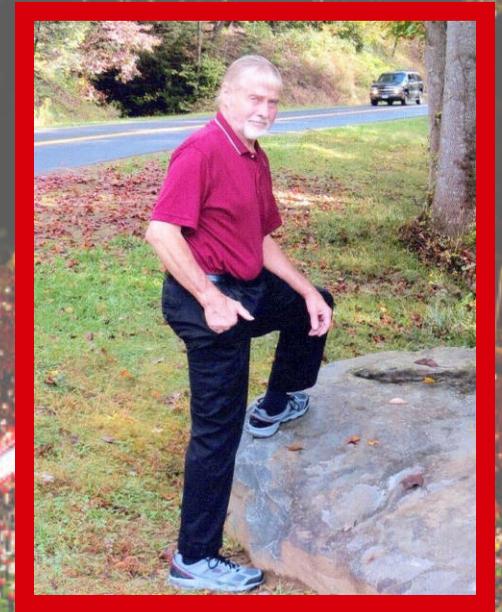
In the world of sports, certain individuals radiate a brilliance that extends far beyond the playing field. Their impact is everlasting, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those they touched.

The family wishes to thank you for coming today to honor the life of Gary. We appreciate the love, prayers, and support during this time in our life. It has been hard to lose Gary, who was a wonderful husband, a loving father, grandpa, papa, and great-grandfather to his family, and a supportive friend to many. Family and friends meant everything to him



A man preaches his funeral every day that he lives. At the time of his death, if people do not know who he was and what he stood for, nothing said that day will make any difference  
-Gary Palmer

Gary did not want to be remembered with tears, but with love, a smile, and laughter. So, when you think of him, shed a tear for a moment, but he would much rather have the thoughts of him bring a smile or laugh to you.



*A life well lived*

Celebrating the Life of  
*Gary Mark Palmer, Sr.*

*Sunrise*  
January 6, 1939

*Sunset*  
July 20, 2025

Sunday, August 3, 2025  
2 o'clock in the afternoon  
Steven's Grove Baptist Church  
Lexington, Georgia

*To know him was to love him*

Gary was born on January 6, 1939, at home in Lexington, Ga



He was the second son of Okee Hood Palmer and Pearl Louise "Trick" Coffey Palmer

Gary married Naomi Carol Anthony on January 19, 1980. They had two sons, Jeremy Michael Palmer and Nicholas Adam Palmer.



Gary worked hard all of his life. From picking cotton alongside his father as a teenager, then working at Eli Whit, Orkin, then as a contractor in his adult life



Gary loved to play and watch sports



But the biggest legacy he will live behind is his sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren



Gary enlisted into the Air Force on February 1, 1956, and served until he was honorably discharged on January 31, 1962



Gary loved music and played the piano, guitar, and harmonica. He played by ear; he could not read music



Gary married Vera Helen Carter on July 4, 1956. They had three sons: Okee Thomas Palmer (died at birth), Gary Mark Palmer, Jr., and Troy Dean Palmer. They divorced in 1979.



He loved to travel. He visited 37 states, Canada, Mexico, and numerous islands in the Bahamas and Caribbean

