



## Gary L. Hammonds

January 21, 1943 - February 14, 2025

Gary Hammonds, a respected pharmacist, and beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, coach, and pillar of his community, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2025, at the age of 82.

Born on January 21, 1943, Gary dedicated his life to serving others—whether through his profession, his passion for coaching, or his leadership within his community. He founded Town and Country Drugs in 1974, where he revolutionized pharmacy services in Newport by introducing computer-tracked prescriptions, a drive-thru window, and even the chance for customers to pet a live parrot. More than a business owner, Gary was a trusted advisor, a problem-solver, and a friend to thousands who sought his guidance—whether for a prescription, a home remedy, or solving life's problems at the round table.

Before opening his own pharmacy, Gary worked at Todd & Armstead Pharmacy and Z-Buda Pharmacies in Knoxville and surrounding areas. Regardless of where he practiced, his true calling was helping people. His generosity was boundless—he never hesitated to give medicine to a family in need, provide medical supplies to a stranger, offer his famous "Gary's cough syrup" to a friend, or simply lend a helping hand whenever it was needed. Beyond his pharmacy, Gary was a passionate coach and mentor. As the first head coach of the Cocke County Middle School football program when it launched in 1999, he helped shape young athletes both on and off the field. But his coaching legacy spanned over four decades, as he guided and

inspired countless children in the little league program at the Newport City Park.

His commitment to his community extended even further. Gary served on the Jefferson-Cocke County Utility District's Board of Commissioners, including as President of the Board during his tenure. He was deeply involved in several local churches, serving as Sunday School Director at West End Baptist Church and currently a member of Providence Baptist Church.

Gary's love for the outdoors was equally strong. Whether hiking and horseback riding in the Smoky Mountains, saltwater fishing along the coast, or caring for his wide array of waterfowl, birds, and farm animals, he found joy in nature's beauty and simplicity.

Above all, Gary's greatest love was his family. In 1967, he married Peggy Farr Hammonds, and together they built a life rooted in love and faith. They raised four children, Molly (Rodney) Scarbrough of Athens, TN; John (Shelley) Hammonds and Clint (Amy) Hammonds of Newport, TN; and Dan (Jenna) Hammonds of Greeneville, TN. His legacy continues through his 14 grandchildren: Laura (Andy) Towne, Hannah (John) Tapp, Max (Hannah) Hammonds, Wilson Scarbrough, Faith Hammonds (Patrick Ledford), Dixie Hammonds, Eli Hammonds, Leah Hammonds, Emma Hammonds, Miley Hammonds, James Scarbrough, Julia Scarbrough, Anna Hammonds, and Presley Hammonds. Gary is also survived by his brother, Benny (Beverly) Hammonds of Gatlinburg, who shared in his love for family, hard work, and a good conversation—values that kept their bond strong through the years and will continue to live on in the stories they created together. He also leaves behind a steadfast group of nieces and nephews who will forever cherish his wisdom, humor, and generosity, as well as a host of dear friends who were like family to him, each carrying memories of his kindness, laughter, and unwavering support.

Gary Hammonds was a man whose heart was always open and whose generosity knew no bounds. His impact will be felt for generations, not just in the family he adored, but in the lives of the many people he helped, mentored,

and uplifted. Though he may be gone, the kindness, wisdom, and warmth he shared will forever remain in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Now in his heavenly home, Gary is reunited with his father and mother, Don and Mamie Hammonds, and his brother Richard Hammonds.

The family will receive friends from 4 pm -7 pm Monday, February 17, 2025 with the funeral service following at 7 pm in Manes Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Stephen Neal officiating.

Burial will be held 11 am Tuesday, February 18, 2025 in Union Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Children's and Youth Ministry of Providence Baptist Church located at 2263 Cosby Highway, Newport, TN 37821. 423-625-0557.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at: [www.manesfunerahome.com](http://www.manesfunerahome.com).

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Receiving Friends

FEB 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Chapel  
363 East Main Street  
Newport, TN 37821

## Funeral service

FEB 17. 7:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Chapel  
363 East Main Street  
Newport, TN 37821

## Burial

FEB 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Union Cemetery Inc  
420 Mineral St  
Newport, TN 37821-3900  
(423) 623-6918

# Tribute Wall

TM

“ *Praying for you and your family. Ps 23 , Ps 121*

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**Tonya D Thornton Moyers** - April 12, 2025 at 09:14 AM



“ *Mrs Hammonds, Molly and family... So sorry for your loss... My thoughts and prayers are with you...  
Sam*



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**SamnSheryln Eli** - March 19, 2025 at 11:41 PM

TC

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Gary. I have many fond memories of him when we were kids. I know we visited one time and all the boys had stilts. I thought they were so cool. I even tried to walk on them. When I went to college, the pharmacy was close to UT in Knoxville. I would often walk to it to see Gary. He was always so kind. He will be missed.*

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**Theresa Calfee** - February 26, 2025 at 03:02 PM

BW

*Dear Peggy I am so sorry about Gary him and William we all grew up to gether I love Gary Benny and dicky we were good friends played football in our yard on 7th Street I have a lot of memories of All the boys well I love all of you are like my family those are like my brothers love you*

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**Bobbie Briggs worth** - March 03, 2025 at 06:48 PM

SQ

“ Sorry to hear about Gary passing. He was always friendly nice to me. I’m sorry I just found out he died. He was a funny guy always gave me discounts at the pharmacy. Stand up guy you will be missed Gary. Praying for his lovely wife and children grand children during this time of bereavement.

square - February 22, 2025 at 09:42 PM

AR

“ Gary was such a good man. I was fortunate enough to work with him at the drug store. He was always so kind and supportive to his customers. He will surely be missed by all who knew him. I will keep each of you in my prayers in the coming days. May the Lord comfort and bless you all.

Angela Ramsey - February 19, 2025 at 06:30 PM

SH

“ Gary was so kind to my daddy when we were going thru hard times he was so good Rest n peace. Prayers for his precious family



Sandy Campbell Hurley - February 19, 2025 at 10:46 AM

CG

“ Mrs. Hammonds, John, and family. So sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

Craig Gardner - February 19, 2025 at 08:50 AM

JB

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of your family. I have great memories of times spent at the Hammonds residence while growing up. It’s been a while since I have had the chance to spend much time with any of you, but I cherish the memories. I know you all will find comfort in each other and the great memories you have of a great man.

Sincere condolences,  
Jared and Erin Ball

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**Jared Ball** - February 19, 2025 at 06:15 AM

DJ

“ Kim and I are so sorry for your loss. We thought the world of Gary he was always so nice and kind to the both of us every time we would cross paths. We will be praying for your family during this difficult time. Donald and Kim Suggs

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**Donald E Suggs jr** - February 18, 2025 at 09:13 PM

SO

“ Peggy and family..... I just saw this and I am so so sorry. I was out of town and had no idea. My heart is broken for all of you. I would have been there Peggy. I’m so sorry my friend. Mom and Dad sure loved the two of you. I know your hearts are shattered. God be with you in the days ahead. I am praying for God to give you comfort and strength. I love you Peggy. 💔



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**Susie O’Dell** - February 18, 2025 at 07:21 PM

HM

“ Jesse always enjoyed talking pharmacy with Gary. He will be greatly missed. Sending love and prayers

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**Heather & Jesse Mullins** - February 18, 2025 at 03:05 PM

PS

“ We camped at Paint creek some with them. He was a good guy. Prayers for you Peggy & your family. We walked by your house today & just found out. Sorry I didn't get to come. I found out to late.

Peggy Stephenson - February 18, 2025 at 01:32 PM

BF

“ Peggy and family..so sorry for your loss,Gary will be one of those the Paint Creek campers will never forget..

Billy Freeman - February 18, 2025 at 08:33 AM

NH

“ So sorry for your loss. May God comfort you all. Norma and Ted Hill

Norma Hill - February 18, 2025 at 06:43 AM

GA

“ So Sorry Peggy and for your family. Glen's email I found Monday night 11 pm. You were there for Us and I am Sorry we were not there for you. Blessing and All thee Loving Comfort you will receive from your Family and Friends. We send you Ours in Thoughts. Gary is Home and Safe, You will receive the comfort you need . Gayle and Families, Diane and Families with Love.

Gayle - February 17, 2025 at 11:12 PM

MC

“ Peggy and family, we are so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Our deepest sympathy with prayers for peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Jay Harold and Mary Ann Chrisman

Mary Ann Chrisman - February 17, 2025 at 10:32 PM

AN

“ So sorry to hear about Gary. I bought my medication from his pharmacy for years. I attended West End Baptist when I was growing up. Gary was such a nice man. He was friends with my Dad. Prayers for you al.



Angela - February 17, 2025 at 10:02 PM

BB

“ My heart is broken for each of you. Gary was such a special person. May his memory always be a blessing to everyone who knew him!

Brooke Fullington Boggs - February 17, 2025 at 07:26 PM

RG

“ Sending love and prayers ❤️



Ron and Debbie Greene - February 17, 2025 at 06:26 PM

GO

“ Peggy and family we are sorry to hear of Gary's passing, y'all are in our thoughts and prayers. Shelby Owens and Gina James

Gina Owens-James - February 17, 2025 at 06:24 PM

GB

“ Dan and I are keeping you and your family in our prayers during this difficult time.

Dan and Gail Burchette

Gail Burchette - February 17, 2025 at 06:22 PM

PD

“ So sorry for your loss. We pray the memories of past happy times with Gary will fill your minds in the coming days and help comfort you all. Ronnie and Phyllis Douglas

Phyllis Douglas - February 17, 2025 at 06:03 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary L. Hammonds.



February 17, 2025 at 12:25 PM

DI

“ Diana Arrowood

Diana - February 17, 2025 at 12:10 PM

SH

“ Mr. & Mrs. Dot Ramsey, Jr

Shea - February 17, 2025 at 12:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary L. Hammonds.



February 17, 2025 at 11:30 AM

CW

“ We are sorry to hear about Gary passing away.

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**charlie&iana williamson** - February 17, 2025 at 10:41 AM

TF

“ So sorry for your loss. May God's loving Presence comfort you, His perfect peace restore you, and His promise of eternal life sustain you during this difficult time.

*With Heartfelt Deepest Sympathy,*

*Jabo & Tammy Francis*

*Smoky Mountain Home Health & Hospice*

*Jabo's Pharmacy*

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**Tammy Francis** - February 17, 2025 at 10:20 AM

JB

“ Sending prayers for Peggy Hammonds and the family.

*Beatrice Brooks*

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**Jan Brooks** - February 17, 2025 at 09:56 AM

VB

“ Peggy and family, we send our deepest sympathy, prayers and friendship at this time and the days ahead.

*Larry and Vickie*

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**Vickie Butler** - February 17, 2025 at 08:36 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Gary L. Hammonds.



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February 17, 2025 at 08:30 AM



“ So sorry honey. There are certain couples That should not be split up. Like Charles and Kathy, Gary and Peggy. Love You guys!!! Molly, John...so many great memories!!! 🥹🙏❤️😞🌸

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**katheryne Chesteen** - February 17, 2025 at 02:32 AM



“ I have so many wonderful memories of Gary, Peggy, and all the children. I was lucky enough to be called teacher by Molly, Clint, and Dan. Somehow, I missed John. Then, I was lucky enough to get to teach Faith. I've enjoyed years of friendship with Peggy. Gary was my pharmacist until he retired. I credit Gary with saving my life some years ago. I ended up in the ER. It was an allergic reaction to an antibiotic. At the ER, I was given another antibiotic. Gary wouldn't fill it until I had seen my internist. By the next morning my internist had me in St. Mary's Medical Center. My internist said that my pharmacist had probably saved my life. He wouldn't fill that second antibiotic. I have always had a very special place in my heart for Gary. I've always felt that I might not still be here today without Gary's wisdom. It was such a joy teaching his family. It was a joy going to the drugstore. Gary was always happy. Peggy and all the family my heart aches with yours. The entire community has lost a wonderful man, but it also has so many memories to keep.  
*Pamela Lewis*

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**Pamela Lewis** - February 17, 2025 at 12:10 AM

TA

“ Molly: Remembering you and your family with special thoughts and prayers.



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**Trina Ammons** - February 16, 2025 at 09:59 PM

PC

“ So sorry for your loss! Prayers for you all.



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**Preston and Kay Cureton** - February 16, 2025 at 09:22 PM

PB

“ Everything that his beloved son John said in the announcement of Gary’s departure and the Obituary is true but so much more could be said. Working for Gary from the age of 14 to 18 and some Summers following that opened my eyes to his giving nature. I don’t think I ever saw him say no to any request unless it was illegal. Unfortunately, as a Pharmacist, he was sometimes faced with such requests. Gary was one of the few men I ever met that was athletic, intelligent (with book sense and common sense), kind and so dedicated to his dear wife Peggy and family ❤️. He would repeatedly tell everyone the story of their first meeting and date to all. Gary even advised me on a college major after he and Peggy helped me gain the confidence to go to college as part of my earthly father’s last wish for all the girls. I could write a book and might just do that for the family later to describe this giant of a man so well respected. For now, praying for all of you and please reflect on him with his loved ones preceding him in his true Heavenly Home but also surrounded by the things of nature that he loved 🌿.



Patti and Kevin Banket - February 16, 2025 at 08:49 PM

PB

“ Peggy and family- I am so sorry to hear of Gary’s passing. May family and friends find peace and comfort in the days to come..

Paula Bearden - February 16, 2025 at 08:36 PM

SW

“ I’m sorry for your loss. May God comfort you all through this difficult time .

Jamie Wheeler

Shandi Wheeler - February 16, 2025 at 08:33 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary L. Hammonds.*



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February 16, 2025 at 07:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary L. Hammonds.

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February 16, 2025 at 07:57 PM



“ *Happy Memories I have of Gary at the Drug Store..We always had something to laugh about...Billy Epley for instance...Prayers and condolences for you Peggy and all of Your Family .....Donna and Ronnie Ottinger*

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**Donna Ottinger** - February 16, 2025 at 07:01 PM



“ *Peggy and family please know you are in our prayers. We as well as everyone loved and have the utmost respect for you both. May the good Lord comfort you and your precious family. Charlie and Kim Lowery*

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**Charles Lowery** - February 16, 2025 at 06:50 PM

JT

“Peggy we are so sorry for your loss. Gary was a good man. Gary will really be missed. Sending you hugs and love. May God wrap you and your family in his loving arms. Love you so much. Jim and Jewelene

Jewjew Travis - February 16, 2025 at 06:10 PM

TP

“The Cocke County Partnership purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gary L. Hammonds.



The Cocke County Partnership - February 16, 2025 at 04:58 PM

LD

“Peggy and family, I was so very sad to hear Gary had left you all to go to his Heavenly home. But, I thought how happy Dickie is to see his older brother again. And his parents. I know you will all miss him so much, but remember his love is always with you until you see him again. I am keeping all of you in my heart and prayers during this sad time, and days to follow for God to bring you comfort and peace, as only he can! I shall never forget Gary's friendship, kindness, and respect when I was around him more in earlier years. May God Bless all of you!



With Love,  
Linda Dawson

Linda & Bud Dawson - February 16, 2025 at 04:25 PM

MP

*Dear Peggy and family. i mike and I want to express our heart felt condolences to you all . Gary is in heaven now praising the Lord now and sick no more . praise the Lord just to know he's there! We will have you in our prayers and thought's.may God give you the strength and peace that everyone will need God bless all of you .we love you. ❤️ We love you all.*

Mike and Barbara proffitt - February 16, 2025 at 06:40 PM

MW

“ *So sorryto hear about the passing of Gary. He was a great man and will be missed. Praying for the family.*



Missy and Mike Wood - February 16, 2025 at 03:42 PM

GW

“ *Sorry to hear of Gary's passing. He will be dearly missed. My condolences to the entire family. Gay and Carol Williamson*

Gay Williamson - February 16, 2025 at 03:16 PM

AF

“ *Peggy and family we are so very sorry to hear of Gary's passing. He was loved and respected by all. His love and kindness will live on through the people he has touched in this life. Please know that you are in our hearts during this difficult time.*

Anne Freeman - February 16, 2025 at 01:36 PM

DF

“ *My sincere condolences to you Peggy and the entire family.*

Debbie Fullington - February 16, 2025 at 01:26 PM

VI

“ So sorry to hear of Gary’s passing & I know he will truly be missed. With deepest sympathy. Prayers for the entire family.

Vickie Chrisman Ivey - February 16, 2025 at 12:33 PM

HM

“ Gary was a wonderful, loyal friend and dedicated servant to all of Newport and Cocke County. Our prayers and sympathies to your whole family.

Ken Johnson MD

H K Johnson MD - February 16, 2025 at 11:46 AM

JO

“ Judine oakley lit a candle in memory of Gary Hammonds



Judine oakley - February 16, 2025 at 11:37 AM

JO

“ Benny and family, I'm so sorry.. You're all in my prayers...

Judine oakley - February 16, 2025 at 11:37 AM

MM

“ Our Deepest Sympathy

Lynn & Martha Murray  
Dorothy Hughes

Martha Murray - February 16, 2025 at 10:39 AM

CF

“ So sorry for your loss. The Finchum family

Carl Finchum - February 16, 2025 at 10:23 AM

BH

“ Gary will be missed. He was an inspiration to everyone he met.

Betsy Huff - February 16, 2025 at 09:22 AM



“ Pat Evans Larry Stephenson sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Hammonds



Pat Evans Larry Stephenson - February 16, 2025 at 09:12 AM

CS

“ You all are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Cynthia Schoolcraft - February 16, 2025 at 09:09 AM

MT

“ Praying for all of you.  
Willard & Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor - February 16, 2025 at 09:07 AM

CA

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for comfort during this time..

Carroll and Marilyn Austin - February 16, 2025 at 08:51 AM

LR

“ Prayers for the family ,he was such a nice man.



Lisa Raines - February 16, 2025 at 03:55 AM

JJ

“ Rip Coach the world lost a great man  
Sorry for your loss



Joe Belles Jr - February 16, 2025 at 02:02 AM

JF

“ Peggy and all the family, we are so sorry for your loss. Gary was a wonderful man and friend. All of you will be in our thoughts and prayers. May God be very close to you in the coming days. Love , James and Gail Frisbee

James and Gail Frisbee - February 15, 2025 at 11:12 PM

JF

“ James and Gail Frisbee lit a candle in memory of Gary Hammonds



James and Gail Frisbee - February 15, 2025 at 11:05 PM

KG

“ Peggy and Family I am so sorry to hear about Gary. He was such a good person. Heaven gained an angel for sure. My prayers for your sweet family.

Karen Graham - February 15, 2025 at 10:23 PM

CB

“ Our prayers are with Peggy & all his family. Gary was a wonderful kind man that will never be forgotten ❤️

Connie & Marsha Ball - February 15, 2025 at 07:39 PM

BS

“ Peggy and family, we're so sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you at this difficult time. With love and sympathy , Bryce and Sherry Strange

Bryce and Sherry Strange - February 15, 2025 at 06:15 PM

BC

“ Our sincerest condolences to Peggy and all the family.  
Bettye & Carl Jay Carver, Jr.

Bettye Carver - February 15, 2025 at 04:36 PM

TM

“ what a loss to our community this man's death will be. Peggy and kids, we all loved Gary. It was a joy to serve several years as pastor to this family. We shall see him again in Heaven. God bless you!  
Tom Mooty

Tom Mooty - February 15, 2025 at 04:35 PM

LH

“ Prayers!



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**Louise & Jimmy Hux** - February 15, 2025 at 03:29 PM

VM

“ Remembering how several times over the years Gary would exit his home for our Alcoa High School girlfriend 2 or 3 day reunions. What a guy to welcome us so graciously into their home. Peggy we are all grieving your loss. Larry and I send you our prayers and love. We will see you Monday. Love, Vickie M.

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**Vickie Rule Moore** - February 15, 2025 at 02:43 PM

CS

“ Sorry for your loss!! Charlie & Patti Seehorn

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**charlie seehorn** - February 15, 2025 at 02:21 PM

TR

Peggy we are so sorry for your loss you and your family are in our prayers. Wayne & Trish Runyen

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**trish Runyen** - February 16, 2025 at 08:07 AM

RL

Sending prayers to a wonderful family. May the good Lord above wrap his arms around you all and comfort you. Gary was a wonderful man.

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**Rochell Lewis** - February 16, 2025 at 12:11 PM

DP

*Peggy and family, we're so sorry for your loss.*

*David and Sandie Popiel*

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**David and Sandie Popiel** - February 16, 2025 at 02:36 PM

PP

*So sorry for your loss. Praying for all the family*

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**Peggy pace** - February 17, 2025 at 12:52 PM

CJ

*Peggy, John and family, we are so sorry for your loss. May God protect you and keep you. May he make his face shine upon you and give you peace.*

*Charles and Darlene Johnson*

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**Charles Johnson** - February 17, 2025 at 03:36 PM