



Gay L. Webb

July 31, 1934 - July 26, 2024

Gay Webb, 89, of Cosby, passed away peacefully on July 26, 2024.

Gay was the youngest son of Matilda “Tildy” Jenkins Webb and Dewey “Zack” Webb. He was born on July 31, 1934, after the family had been relocated out of what is now the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Gay joined the Air Force at 17 by lying about his age because he wanted to see the world, and he was tired of milking cows. He was proud to serve his country during the Korean War. He traveled overseas, serving in China, Japan, and the Philippines, and finished his service stationed in Texas. After hitchhiking home, he finished his high school education at Cosby High. He then worked for 15 years at American Enka.

In 1963, Gay married Louise “Floss” Costner. In 1972, Gay opened Wilton Springs Hardware on Wilton Springs Road, on the family farm. The store sold hardware, but also groceries, general supplies, and gas, where a gallon cost about 30 cents. Floss opened a beauty shop attached to the store, and the couple, along with their two children, lived in an apartment around back. After Floss’s death in 1997, Gay decided to retire, and his son, Mitchell, along with his family, moved from Knoxville to take over the store in 2000. The store celebrated 50 years in 2022.

Gay was an avid traveler and hiker during his retirement. He traveled solo to Australia, Ireland, Italy, China, Costa Rica, and Panama. He was also a very active hiker in the East TN area, and well into his 80s was still hiking 10 to 12 miles a day. He hiked most of the local trails, and his favorite was the Mount

Cammerer/White Rock trail. He was incredibly passionate about conservation and preservation of local trails, creeks, and rivers, especially the Pigeon River. He was instrumental in the cleanup of the Pigeon River.

Gay was part of the Dead Pigeon River Council, Appalachian Environmental League, and Keep Cocke County Beautiful, and served for several years on the board of the Cherokee National Forest. He was very proud of his work to clean up the river, traveling to Nashville several times to petition the governor, and other members of state government. In 2019, he received the Love Where You Live award from the state of Tennessee. He was glad to see all the tourism because of the river, and was very happy when eagles returned to the area. He was also involved in preserving the Rankin Bottoms area on Douglas Lake.

Gay enjoyed being involved in local government, eating out, and watching UT sports, and the Braves. He loved being involved in his community, and was very proud of where he lived. He was also a very proud grandfather, and loved to introduce people to his favorite granddaughter/ grandson, leaving out that he only had one of each. Gay was delighted to learn that a great-grandchild is on the way, and that Baby Webb will be joining the family in February of next year.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Louise "Floss" Costner Webb; parents, Matilda and Dewey Webb; sister and brother-in-law Reva Dean and W.J. Bryant; brother-in-law Kenny Sutton; and brother and sister-in-law Larry and Dorothy Webb; and sister-in-law and husband, Lois Costner and Sunny Presnell.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Mitchell and Sonya Webb; granddaughter, Emily Webb; grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Nathan and Kelsey Webb; daughter, Susan Webb; sister, Ida Sutton; brothers-in-law, Gene (Patty) Costner and Freddy (Ann) Costner; sister-in-law, Lola (Bobby) Parks; and several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Brad Jones, for his faithful care, Sonya Hance and staff, and to the staff at Morristown Hamblen

Hospital.

The family will receive friends 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at Manes Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow at 7 p.m. in the Manes Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at the Webb Family Cemetery in Newport, TN.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

JUL **30**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Inc.
363 East Main Street
Newport, TN 37821
(423) 623-6952
manesfuneralhome@bellsouth.net
<https://www.manesfuneralhome.com/index.cfm>

Funeral service

JUL **30**. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Burial Service

JUL **31**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Webb Family Cemetery
335 Wilton Springs Road
Newport, TN 37821

Tribute Wall



“ *Manes Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Gay L. Webb*



Manes Funeral Home, Inc. - July 29, 2024 at 02:12 PM

BH

“ *Dearest Susan and Mitchell and family
We just saw your previous dad's obituary. Your sweet Mom was our mother's dearest friend. Mr. Gay was a kind person who was funny and always gentle. Blessing on each of you from South Carolina.
Becky (Bell) Hunter.*

Becky Hunter - August 09, 2024 at 10:39 AM

SH

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Wishing you peace and comfort.*

Sandra & Frank Hoilman - August 01, 2024 at 12:30 PM

SH

“ *Gay was a good friend of mine whom I thought highly of. Two years ago my dog bit me in the face. Everytime he saw me afterwards he ask if I had removed the fog from my household. He was worried i was going to get bit again. He was a loving friend whom I will miss...my sincere condolences to his family.*

Sharon Hirschfield - August 01, 2024 at 10:59 AM

BG

“ Praying for your family. Love, Buck Gregg and family

Buck Gregg - July 31, 2024 at 09:19 AM

LM

“ Susan and Mitchell, I am so sorry for your loss.

Lisa Parks Mounkes - July 30, 2024 at 08:42 PM

CW

“ Really sorry to hear that Gay had passed. I knew him pretty much my entire life and he was always the same person wherever I seen him. The entire Cocks county community will certainly miss him.

Charlie & Lana Williamson - July 30, 2024 at 07:40 PM

DE

“ Denise Suggs, Tootsie Jacobson

Denise - July 30, 2024 at 06:52 PM

LG

“ Sorry for you loss Mitchell. I have fond memories of dad taking me with him to buy guns and ammo from your dad when I was a kid. We are praying for comfort. Larry and Jessica Green

Larry Green - July 30, 2024 at 05:18 PM

TR

“ There was and will always be only one Gay Webb. He was instrumental in the Dead Pigeon River group, a friend to so many and a man you could trust and respect without question. One day, Christians believe, we will all reunite in a world far better than the one Gay left. And will look forwards to seeing his wonderful smile once again. Because even on the worst of my days he could put a smile on my face just spending time with him. Until then I will remember Gay as one of the most decent human beings I have ever met. May God rest his soul.

Tom Rosberg - July 30, 2024 at 04:45 PM

JC

“ We are so sorry for your loss , what a great man he was , did so much for the community. He & my Dad , Chester Bell , were such great friends !!! Jerry & I had the privilege of hiking with him , he sure loved to hike & was so knowledgeable about all things to do with the park !!!! He will be missed !!! Our prayers are with you all . Jerry & Han CAUGHRON

Jan Caughron - July 30, 2024 at 01:18 PM

JN

“ John & Suzanne Phillips, Janie Newton purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gay L. Webb.



John & Suzanne Phillips, Janie Newton - July 30, 2024 at 09:40 AM

JN

“ John & Suzanne Phillips, Janie Newton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gay L. Webb.

John & Suzanne Phillips, Janie Newton - July 30, 2024 at 09:40 AM

SF

“ So sorry for your loss Mitch and family he was a great man. I spent lots of time at Wilton Springs "Gay Webb's" as my dad (Delmar Brown) called it. Great memories of my childhood he will be missed. Prayers for the days ahead 🙏

Shelly (Brown) Ford and family - July 29, 2024 at 10:14 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gay L. Webb.



July 29, 2024 at 09:13 PM

CK

“ Curtis, Tina, Lindsey, Caley and Kendall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gay L. Webb.

Curtis, Tina, Lindsey, Caley and Kendall - July 29, 2024 at 09:13 PM

MF

“ Mike Proctor Jr. and Family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Gay L. Webb.



Mike Proctor Jr. and Family - July 29, 2024 at 12:52 PM

JA

“ Jamey and Sheri Atkins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gay L. Webb.



Jamey and Sheri Atkins - July 29, 2024 at 10:52 AM

JA

“ A truly Great Man. Sheri and I enjoyed our brief visits with him over the years. We are better for knowing him and his family. May you be comforted in the knowledge we will meet again in the Great Reunion with his and our Savior. Love from Jamey and Sheri Atkins and Family

Jamey Atkins - July 29, 2024 at 10:44 AM



“ 107 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Manes Funeral Home, Inc. - July 29, 2024 at 09:49 AM

JK

“ *My most sincere condolence to the Family and Friends on the passing of Mr. Gay. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

Janey Kinser - July 28, 2024 at 10:54 PM

CB

“ *Susan an Mitchell my heart breaks for you all. You had wonderful parents an you both have made them so proud. I spent most of my high school years with you all in that apartment out back. Absolutely the best memories there. Thank you for sharing such a wonderful man with the community. May God hold you a little tighter on the weeks to come. Love you all. Cathy Breeden*

Cathy Breeden - July 28, 2024 at 11:46 AM

RK

“ So sad to allow our loved ones to graduate to graduate even to Heaven. We are not designed to let go of our loved ones. Teaching us, in part, the Pain the Father had in turning His back on Jesus when He was in the cross dying for us. Prayers for the family who now must treasure the memories they shared.

Richard and Carol Klein - July 28, 2024 at 11:08 AM

LR

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Gay's passing, he was such a good man and he helped our community so much. My prayers are with his family. He will be missed.



Lisa M Raines - July 28, 2024 at 03:34 AM

NS

“ I grew up my early years at the store my dad Jerry Stuart worked in the store my mom cleaned house and beauty shop. Such fond memories. Prayers for Mitchell Susan and family. Norma Stuart

Norma Stuart - July 27, 2024 at 07:10 PM

LM

“ Gay and Floss were dear friends of my mom and daddy. Gay always made me feel special. He always stopped to say hi to the two girls that were running in and out of his house. Susan and Mitchell are life long friends. I love you Linda Bell Meeks

linda Meeks - July 27, 2024 at 06:31 PM

RW

“ Sorry for your loss our prayers for the family loved him very much wish we could come but circumstances won't allow. Will stay in touch next time we are up there. Love y'all. Rodney & Yvonne Webb. Leesburg Georgia

Rodney Webb - July 27, 2024 at 06:18 PM

DG

“ Deepest Condolences to All of the family and friends 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏



Debra Gann - July 27, 2024 at 06:15 PM

TC

“ Tim and Kim costner lit a candle in memory of Gay Webb



Tim and Kim costner - July 27, 2024 at 05:05 PM

TL

“ Mitchell and Family ; sorry to hear about your Father. My thoughts are with you and your Family during this difficult time .

Tura Lawson - July 27, 2024 at 04:26 PM

JG

“ Rest in peace Gay. You were my friend and I will miss our conversations. Paul and Jane Gollis

jane gollis - July 27, 2024 at 02:38 PM

JB

“ Gay Webb has been missed! He was always a supporter of our trying to clean the Pigeon River and worked with us tirelessly to succeed. Cocke County has been so fortunate to have him through the many endeavors we went through together! Thank you, family, for sharing him and his sweet wife all of those years! I know he has been missed lately and will be even more so! Much love to each of you! Jeanne Wilson Birdwell

Jeanne Birdwell - July 27, 2024 at 12:11 PM

RM

“ We are very sorry for your loss. We will pray for his family and his many friends.



Rob and Lisa Myers - July 27, 2024 at 10:02 AM

BN

“ Sorry for your loss sending love and prayers 🙏🙏

Bert Naillon - July 27, 2024 at 09:29 AM

RS

“ Thank you, Gay, for all you did for your community. Your tireless work paid off with a cleanup of the Pigeon River, primarily as a result of your diligence. Rest in peace, my friend.

Ray Snader - July 27, 2024 at 09:10 AM

NO

“ Nancy Matthews Owens lit a candle in memory of Gay Webb



Nancy Matthews Owens - July 27, 2024 at 08:49 AM

DO

“ Gay Webb was one of the best citizens Cocke County has ever had. His leadership and support in the efforts to clean up the Pigeon River alone earned him our eternal gratitude. It was my distinct pleasure and honor to serve with him on several boards. He always gave his best and made a positive impact. My condolences to all the family. Gay was the real deal.

Duay O'Neil - July 27, 2024 at 07:53 AM

RM

“ We were very sorry to learn of his death. We will be praying for his family and many friends!



Rob and Lisa Myers - July 27, 2024 at 07:36 AM

DE

“ So very sorry for your loss. All are in my thoughts and prayers

debbie ellison - July 26, 2024 at 10:28 PM

AS

So sorry for your loss! I always enjoyed Gay serving on our Board. He was a delight to be around! He will be missed by so many! Prayers for peace and comfort in this time of bereavement!

Angie Shelton - July 27, 2024 at 08:04 AM

JB

Mitch and Susan so sorry for your Loss-he did so many good things for our County and his community!! 🙏

Jan Brockwell - July 27, 2024 at 11:00 AM

DB

I will miss his hugs! He worked hard for our community and taught me So much! Glad CWEET captured some of his stories on film. Gay was a wonderful, fierce and beautiful man.

Deborah Bahr - July 27, 2024 at 12:13 PM

JP

Chopper and I send our sincere sympathies to the entire family. I always enjoyed every visit with him. A very kind, and honorable man who loved his Saviour, his family, friends, customers, and community. He will be missed. He was a great example for all to follow. Love and prayers for all of you.

Johnnie Sue Phillips - July 28, 2024 at 09:31 PM

NM

“ *Our community has lost an advocate, mentor and friend. Don't think he ever met a stranger, or struggled to start a conversation. Such a wonderful person. He certainly leaves behind quite a legacy. Prayers for his family. He will certainly be missed.*

Nancy & Dale Murrell - July 26, 2024 at 09:51 PM

BC

“ *Brenda cook lit a candle in memory of Gay Webb*



Brenda cook - July 26, 2024 at 09:48 PM

AJ

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. He will be remembered as a special man. I was glad to call him my friend.* ❤️🙏



Audrey Jones - July 26, 2024 at 08:25 PM

LH

“ *Prayers! Mr. Gay was a good man!*



Louise & Jimmy Hux - July 26, 2024 at 08:04 PM

JB

“ *Sorry for your loss prayers for your family, Lloyd.Mary and Janice Bryant*

janice bryant - July 26, 2024 at 06:59 PM