



Mr. Aubrey Thomas Gray

August 19, 1929 - March 13, 2014

Mr. Aubrey Thomas Gray, (A.T.), of Winter Park, FL. passed away on March 13th at Hospice of the Comforter in Altamonte Springs, FL. He fought many health issues valiantly for the past 6 months, along with his wife, Mary J., who never gave up on him. He was preceded in death by his father, Allison T. Gray: Mother, Lyma Alice and brother, Professor Wallace A. Gray of Columbia University, NYC. He is survived by his wife, Mary J, son, Capt. Thomas A. Gray of Ft. Lauderdale; and daughter, Elizabeth (Beth) of New Smyrna Beach and his grandchildren: Paul, Ryan, and Sean. He also has a daughter, Rebecca , a son Kevin, from a former marriage and two grandchildren , Kara, and Conor., all of Hawaii.

He was born near Alexandria, La. where he grew up to become was an Eagle Scout. Tennis was his great joy in life. He won a tennis scholarship to college. and later ran the Martin/Marietta tennis tournaments every year until he retired. He has many trophies for his doubles matches. He also loved fishing and hunting with his son, Tom Gray, nephews, Glenn Pugh and Eric Pugh; and brothers-in-law, Irby ,Mike, Bill, and Charles Pugh.

He was class President of his college, Southwestern Louisiana Institute and later at Northwestern State. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Signal Corps and was stationed at Army Electronic Proving Ground, Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. After leaving the service, he was a Senior Research Engineer for

General Dynamics in Pomona, Cal. Always a leader and innovator in ground and air defense systems, he moved to Orlando in 1962 as a systems engineer with Martin Marietta, now Lockheed/Martin. Some of the programs he worked on until he retired in 1994 included the Patriot Missile, vertical launching system, ADATS, and worked in Air Defense Advanced Programs. From a younger colleague, "He taught me that getting to the truth was essential, that it was ok to disagree and argue with the boss, that having an opinion was important (even more important if that was the case) , that doing things "right" was the standard, and that caring for and taking care of the family cannot be compromised."

Although he had his serious side, he was also well known for his being quite a character. Someone said that he could make an adventure out of going to the 7-11. In the mid 80's, while working in Switzerland, he and his wife, Mary J, visited the great art museums of Europe. He was always very proud of her work as an artist.

Mr. Gray, a veteran, will be interred at Bushnell National Cemetery. There will be an opportunity for some AT stories at the "Celebration of Life" gathering, which is in the planning stage and will be posted on www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, 9001 N. Orlando Ave. Maitland, FL 32751 (407) 695-CARE (2273).

Tribute Wall

DE

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



degusipe - March 31, 2014 at 02:46 PM

MG

“ Thanks for all the nice letters. It has been difficult to write. Yesterday, we laid Aubrey to rest at the National Cemetery in Bushnell. The service was breathtaking and the place is beautiful and peaceful. While there, I visited my brother, William Pugh's, grave site. It will be a place to visit every year for the family to gather in his honor on his birthday or in March.

The Gray Family

Mary J. Gray - March 31, 2014 at 12:49 AM

JW

“ Mary: Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Jim worked with AT for many years. He was an extraordinary mentor. Jim and Joyce White Ormond Beach, Fl.

Jim and Joyce White - March 25, 2014 at 09:32 AM

MG

Thank you. The "Celebration of Life" service is tomorrow at Leu Gardens, 2-4:30pm.

mary j. Gray - April 04, 2014 at 11:23 AM

MG

Sorry. the "Celebration of Life" service is Sunday, April 6, 2-4:30pm in the camellia room. Leu Gardens.

mary j. Gray - April 04, 2014 at 11:27 AM

SF

“*Mary, We are so glad to have shared so many things with you and A.T. over the years. We'll never forget our trip to the Bahamas together where we chartered a ten passenger private airplane (Vintage Airlines) to fly us to the Bahamas. Within 90 to 120 minutes of departing Sanford, we all had pina coladas in our hands. You, A.T., Irby, Susan, the Dunegans, Barry and I had such a great time. We will always treasure the birthday parties, holiday parties, weddings, restaurants, trips, etc. we shared with you and A.T. these past 25 years. The notice above where it says A.T. could make an adventure of going to the 7-11 was hilarious and so true. It must have been the engineer in him to never omit a single detail, LOL! We were glad to have been with you, A.T., Mike, Tommy and his family two weeks ago. We will all miss A.T. very much. Susan Logan & Barry Fail Sanford, FL*



Susan Logan & Barry Fail - March 23, 2014 at 10:00 PM

MG

Thank you Susan. I'll see you at the life celebration on sunday.

mary j. Gray - April 04, 2014 at 11:28 AM

SF

“ Mary, We are so glad to have shared so many things with you and A.T. over the years. We'll never forget our trip to the Bahamas together where we chartered a ten passenger private airplane (Vintage Airlines) to fly us to the Bahamas. Within 90 to 120 minutes of departing Sanford, we all had pina coladas in our hands. You, A.T., Irby, Susan, the Dunegans, Barry and I had such a great time. We will always treasure the birthday parties, holiday parties, weddings, restaurants, trips, etc. we shared with you and A.T. these past 25 years. The notice above where it says A.T. could make an adventure of going to the 7-11 was hilarious and so true. It must have been the e,ngineer in him to never omit a single detail, LOL! We were glad to have been with you, A.T., Mike, Tommy and his family two weeks ago. We will miss A.T. very much. Susan Logan & Barry Fail Sanford, FL



Susan Logan & Barry Fail - March 23, 2014 at 09:35 PM

JS

“ Our block will never be the same without AT. He was the best neighbor anyone could have, always ready to help, specially since my husband passed away 11 years ago. We "shared." news paper pick up, or watching the house, when I went on vacation, or he and Mary went out of town, never said no when i asked for help, always ready to do more than expected. At was a really caring and loving person, starting with Mary, his wife, you could tell.. Also I will always remember with a smile how well he got along with my friend Umberto, At spoke English, Umberto only Italian and Spanish.but they managed to communicate somehow. It shows what an intelligent and open minded person he was I am glad he will rest in Bushnell, a beautiful, peaceful cemetery. My children and I will go by and say hi when we visit every year in March. Rest in peace AT and keep watching over your family and our block
Josie Sanders

josie sanders - March 22, 2014 at 10:35 PM

MG

Thanks Josie. Hope to see you at his life celebration on Sunday at Leu.

mary j. Gray - April 04, 2014 at 11:29 AM

BB

“ I will always think of AT fondly and laugh. Mary and AT let me stay with them over the summers while I worked at Disney. We always had a lot of fun. We would load the kids up and go to the beach. Once they took me with them to Sanibel Island. I remember AT would hide Russell Stover candy around the house and we would find it. Mary,the kids and I would eat it. He would get so mad.No one loved fishing for shnook over near Tampa better than him, except maybe the Pughs. All of them were obsessed with fishing.I will miss you AT Gray...

Becky Bradshaw - March 21, 2014 at 10:33 PM

BB

“ I have very fond memories of AT. Mary and AT let me stay with them during the summers while I worked at Disney. We all had alot of fun, we would load up the kids and go to the beach. Once they took me to Sanibel Island. They were all so funny to be around. He was obsessed with fishing(shnook). That's all the Pughs and Grays talked about. So I hope heaven has fishing. I will always remember how he used to hide Russell Stover candy. We would sometimes find it and Mary and I would eat some...I will think of him fondly and laugh.

Becky Bradshaw - March 21, 2014 at 10:06 PM

EP

“ AT and I had many good fishing trips and duck hunts. In particular, took AT to Mexico dove and duck hunting and what a blast we had literally haha.

AT was blasting those doves and laughing at the ones he couldn't hit close by haha.

One night he was dancing with the señoritas at the resort laughing and having so much fun. That's the AT I REMEMBER!! He was such a smart man who told me about so many times he talked his way out of any issues he had haha. Sure miss him and happy to spend that week together on the best bird hunting trip he ever had!!!

Merganser Grey lost his motor in the bay but ready to hunt the next day :))

I'm sure he's shooting birds in heaven right now and dancing with the ladies hahaha.

Eric Pugh - March 21, 2014 at 08:51 PM

MG

Love you Eric. Hope to see you at his life celebration on Sunday.

mary j. Gray - April 04, 2014 at 11:30 AM

MF

“ A.T. accepted me as part of the family when I moved to Florida after college. I stayed at their house for a few months. Over the years he was not only a great uncle but a friend as well. We had some good times together and I enjoyed watching tennis with him. He also provided good advise . A.T. kept the most pristine pool I have ever seen. I will miss him greatly.

Marilynn Faulk - March 21, 2014 at 09:10 AM

MG

Well, you are my niece. Wish you could be here for the "Celebration of Life" event on sunday. Miss you. Good luck on your new job.

mary j. Gray - April 04, 2014 at 11:32 AM

GP

“ I remember staying over at the Grey's and Uncle At making some awesome blueberry pancakes in the morning. He also showed me how to hold and swing a golf club. He was a scratch golfer. I feel priviledged to have known him and greatful he took enough interest in me to include me in many family functions. His son Tom Grey and I are best friends still. AT had a huge influence on me. I told him before he was even sick that I appreciated all the stuff we did. I will miss him. GLENN EDWARD PUGH.

GLENN PUGH - March 18, 2014 at 11:09 PM

MG

Love you Glenn. A.T. thought the world of all of you. Hope to see you at the "Celebration of Life" for him on Sens.unday at Leu Gardens

mary j. Gray - April 04, 2014 at 11:34 AM

PJ

“ I MEANT IF YOU NEED ANYTHING YOU KNOW WHERE I AM..LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU. A.T. KNOWS THAT I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.HE WILL BE MISSED .

Pam Jennings - March 18, 2014 at 09:46 PM

MG

Sorry it took so long to respond. Hope to see at his "Celebration of Life" event at Leu Gardens on sunday. You have been a great friend.

mary j. Gray - April 04, 2014 at 11:36 AM

PJ

“ Dearest Mary,
I am so sorry to hear about A.T.
I always enjoyed waiting on you all at
Giovanni's. He will be missed he always had
a great smile and brought laughter ...He is a
angel in heaven now looking over us smiling...He you need anything
let me know.
Love you both , Pam



A LETTER FROM HEAVEN

To my dearest family,
Some things I would like to say,
But first of all, to let you know
That I arrived ok.
I'm writing this from Heaven
Where I dwell with God above,
here there's no more tears or sadness
There is just eternal love.
Please do not be unhappy
Just because I'm out of sight.
Remember that I'm with you
Every morning, noon, and night.
That day that I had to leave you
When my life on earth was through,
God picked me up and hugged me
And He said, I welcome you.
It's good to have you back again
You were missed while you were gone.
As for your dearest; family
They'll be here later on.
I need you here so badly
As part of my big plan.
There's so much that we have to do
To help our mortal man.
Then God gave me a list of things

*He wished for me to do.
And foremost on that list of mine
Is to watch and care for you.
And I will be beside you
Every day and week and year.
And when you're sad,
I'm standing there to wipe away the tears.
And when you lie in bed at night
The days chore put to flight
God and I are closest to you
In the middle of the night.
" When you think of my life on earth
And all those loving years,
Because you're only human
They're bound to bring you tears
But do not be afraid to cry
It does relieve the pain.
Remember, there would be no flowers
Unless there was some rain.
I wish that I could tell you
Of all that God has planned,
But if I were to tell you,
You would not understand.
And to my many friends trust,
God knows what it best.
I'm still not very far away from you
I'm just beyond the crest.
And now I am contented that my life,
It was worthwhile.
Knowing as I passed along the way
I made someone smile.
When you're walking down the street
And you've got me on your mind,
I'm walking in your footsteps
Only half a step behind.
And when you feel that gentle breeze
Or the wind upon your face,*

*That's me giving you a great big hug
Or just a soft embrace.
And when it's time for you to go
From that body to be free,
Remember, you're not going,
You are coming here to me.
And I will always love you
from that land way up above.
I'll be in touch again soon,
P.S. GOD SENDS HIS LOVE*

LOVE, PAM

Pam Jennings - March 18, 2014 at 09:39 PM

PJ

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Pam Jennings - March 18, 2014 at 09:19 PM

NK

“ We will miss you A.T. Rest in peace.

Nancy and kids - March 18, 2014 at 07:41 PM