



Joseph "Joe" V. W. Gaston

February 28, 1939 - February 9, 2024

Joe V. W. Gaston, 84, died peacefully on Friday, February 9, 2024, at his home in Springfield, Tennessee. He was born in Burlington, Iowa, on February 28, 1939, to Charles Marion and Gertrude Williams Gaston. After growing up in Iowa, Joe spent most of his adult life in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where his mother's family originated, and in Nashville and Springfield, the home of his wife's family.

Joe is survived by his devoted wife, Kay Baker Gaston; daughters Healan Gaston of Framingham, Massachusetts (Andrew Jewett) and Josephine Larson of Springfield (Andrew); grandchildren Erika Larson, Emma Larson, Elijah Larson, Joseph Jewett, and Samuel Jewett; and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his twin brother, Charles Gaston Jr. of Jacksonville, Florida, younger sister Hilda Tecklenberg (Paul) of Greenville, South Carolina, and brother-in-law Tom Baker (Mary Hocken) of Amherst, Massachusetts. Joe was predeceased by his older sister Peggy Wiseman (Reid) of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, and sister-in-law Lynne Rudder Baker of Amherst, Massachusetts.

After graduating from Burlington High School, Joe attended Duke University. There, he studied history and played varsity tennis, winning the Atlantic Coast Conference singles and doubles championships. He then earned a degree at Vanderbilt Law School and served in the United States Air Force and the

Tennessee Air National Guard.

Joe married his partner and soulmate, Kay Baker of Nashville, on May 20, 1964. The Gastons settled in Chattanooga, raising their family on Signal Mountain and attending Pilgrim Congregational Church. Joe practiced law with the firm of Chambliss, Bahner, Crutchfield, Gaston & Irvine. He also served as attorney for the town of Walden and board chairman for the Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute, among other civic duties.

Joe and Kay later retired to Woodard Hall Farm near Springfield, where they oversaw the restoration of a historic house built in 1792 that is listed on the National Register. Viewing himself as “a recovering lawyer,” Joe lent his expertise to civic groups such as the Red River Watershed Association, the Robertson County Fair Board, 840 Alternatives, and the Stokes and Sarah Brown Charitable Foundation. His other interests and hobbies included tennis, aviation, horseback riding, history, and politics.

In accordance with Joe's wishes, there will be no formal service, but the family welcomes your condolences and remembrances. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to McCoy Farm and Gardens on Signal Mountain (<https://mccoyfarmandgardens.com>) or the charity of your choice.

Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of these arrangements.

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME-
509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, TN (615) 384-1000

Tribute Wall



“ I was so lucky when I returned to Duke sophomore year & found cousin Joe!
We had many good times. I was indeed proud to watch several of his tennis matches, Best of all was simply knowing he was there. He was kind enough to simply visit me in the dorm. Once or twice I had a gentleman caller, Marion who had dinner with both of us. For many years I appreciated your family making efforts to stop in and see us in NC. What a pleasure to be good friends with Joe! I loved his conversation...so interesting and funny. I feel so blessed that he became part of my wonderful college experience. Once he invited several of us to visit in Chattanooga. What a highlight to visit your lovely home! And Kay, thanks for staying in touch What a blessing!

I'm aware that time has elapsed. I'm sure you miss him dearly. I hold you all in my heart .

Sarah Also Brad and Steve

Sarah Borders - July 16, 2024 at 08:43 PM

BM

“ Kay, those of us in Burlington High School's Class of 1957 will always remember Joe with fondness and respect. His work in civic affairs, in mental health, and on that tennis court began here. And, as artfully noted in the remembrance continued throughout his life. We are so sorry for your loss and want you to know that the times you and he returned to Burlington were enjoyed as was his contribution to our efforts on Bracewell Stadium. Thank you for sharing him with us in your many comments to emails. It has been a joy to stay in touch. Blessings of the many memories you and your family will hold in your heart.

Barbara McRoberts - February 18, 2024 at 10:22 AM

JS

“ Kay, I have such fond memories of Joe and such respect for you both. You had such a remarkable partnership and love story. I'm so sorry for your loss and send my sincere condolences to you, Healan and Josephine and your family.
Fondly, Judy Schwartz

Judy Schwartz - February 18, 2024 at 08:36 AM

JJ

“ Cousin Joe the family is going to miss your smile, your hearty laughter, your zest for life on the farm, and your contributions to family and community. You added so much to our understanding of mental health, the history of Walden, and how to play tennis in a senior moment.
Kay and children, we say a prayer for you and hope to visit again along the journey.
Joe V Williams III

Joe V Williams III - February 17, 2024 at 10:08 AM

AC

“ Dear Kay, My sincere condolences to you and all your family. You may remember, I worked at CBCG&I with Joe as his secretary first, then paralegal for at least 20 years until you moved to Springfield. I remember when your children were born and how excited Joe was when he talked about them. I came to know you like family. I'll always remember the comfort I felt when you and he drove from Springfield to be with me at the funeral home in McMinnville when my husband died in 1999 (2 days before Thanksgiving). Joe was one of the good guys! My thoughts are with you. Anita Cook

Anita Cook - February 15, 2024 at 04:15 PM