



## Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr.

February 21, 1946 - May 31, 2023

Leonard (Len) M. Gavin, Jr. peacefully went home to be with our Lord Jesus Christ on May 31, 2023.

He was wrapped in love by his wife, Vickie. Len fought a brave and long battle with cancer after being exposed to agent orange in Vietnam. He was born on February 21, 1946 to Leonard M. Gavin, Sr. and Winifred Petway Gavin at St. Vincent Hospital. He is predeceased by his parents and sisters-Betty Joe Bishop, Barbara Mead, and Carolyn Crowson. Len leaves to cherish his loving memory, Vickie his wife of 30 years, and sons Allen Gavin (Maxine), Geoffrey Gavin (Hollye), Dr. Dillon Casey (Anna Catherine) and Aaron Gavin; four grandchildren, Ava Gavin, Rose Gavin, Stella Gavin and Walker Casey; In-laws, Gene and Carole Walker; brothers-in-law Gene Walker II (Heather), Jerry Mead (Jenesa), and Paul Crowson (Starr) and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Len was raised in East Lake. He graduated from Woodlawn High School in 1964 and Auburn University in 1968. While at Auburn he was a member of the Delta Chi Fraternity. Over the past few years, he has had a great time at the Orange Beach reunions. In 2022, Len received the honor as the Ford Game Day Hero for his exemplary military service career and was honored on the field during a time out break at Jordan-Hare Stadium. War Eagle!

After graduating from Auburn University, Len enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served a tour in Vietnam, as a Company Commander, on Hill 37 in Dialock. Following his active duty military service, Len returned to

Alabama and joined the Alabama Army National Guard. Lieutenant Colonel Gavin's leadership took him on various missions including Japan, Germany, and Panama. He completed 26 years of service and his last assignment was as the Inspector General for the Corps Support Command (COSCOM). He received numerous Military Service Decorations and Awards.

Returning to Birmingham in 1975, he joined the Birmingham Police Department and later was the Director of UNDO-United Narcotics Detail Operations. Len was offered a job to introduce an aspiring political presidential candidate to the State of Alabama. Len had the honor of taking George H. W. Bush throughout the state including meeting people and kissing babies. Len was the fourth person hired to the staff and was Regional Campaign Manger for Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Len's next adventure was as the Director of Security for Big B Drugs with the Bruno Family. In 1991, Len took a position on Governor Hunt's Cabinet as the Director of Alabama Law Enforcement Agency. Next, Len went back to politics and worked for the Alabama Republican Party. He held various positions; truly excelling in numerous campaigns with grassroots strategies. He did local, county, and state wide campaigns.

Leaving politics behind he completed a Master of Ministry with St. Michael's Seminary and was ordained a priest with the Anglican Church. For over 14 years he was the staff chaplain at Princeton Baptist Hospital. During this time he was instrumental in developing a program focused on supporting grieving families experiencing neonatal and premature infant death. He was also one of the founders of Princeton Baptist Hospital Palliative Care Program. He ministered to numerous families and guided many patients in their path to heaven. Len was assigned as the Chaplain at Princeton Towers, an independent living facility and was the Rector for the Anglican Church of the Most Scared Heart. Some outreach programs the church provided was a local food bank, soup kitchen, and vacation bible school for neighborhood children. After retiring from Princeton, Len was given the opportunity to be the Director of Discovery Clubs with Jimmie Hale Mission. Discovery Clubs is an after

school ministry for thousands of children across the greater Birmingham area, ages 2nd-5th grades.

Len was called Coach by many young men and women in the West End area where he started Princeton Lacrosse. The team started out as a Under 11 team and grew to Under 13 and high school teams—both girls and boys. He emphasized teaching teamwork both on and off the field. Through Lacrosse, several of his former players went on to receive athletic scholarships to play at the collegiate level. A few of these individuals would become the first members of their household to attend college.

Len was affiliated with numerous organizations including: U.S. Marine Corps Association, Vietnam Veterans Association—Chapter 419, American Legion—Post 911, Veterans of Foreign Wars—Post 668, Auburn Alumni Association, Delta Chi Fraternity, U.S. Lacrosse Association, Association of the Immaculate Conception, National Guard Association, Alabama, Chaplain Association, Blue Star Salute Foundation, and Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery.

Len was truly a prodigal son. During the final phase of his life, he returned to the Catholic Church. He was a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Bessemer, Alabama. He was a faithful servant of Our Lord and Savior and had a unique talent as a teacher of the faith and never met a stranger. Len was loved by many as a friend and mentor; he will be greatly missed.

The family wishes to extend their sincere thanks and deep gratitude to Dr. John Piede, Melissa, Karen, Courtney, and the staff at Alabama Oncology at the Bruno Cancer Center. Also, the great care provided by Affinity Hospice Services.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Len Gavin to Discovery Clubs, located at 1449 Medical Park Drive South, Birmingham, Alabama 35213 or by visiting their website: [discoveryclubs.org](http://discoveryclubs.org).

Services are provided by McCalla Memorial Funeral Home.

Services will be Friday, June 9, 2023 at St. Aloysius Catholic Church; 751

Academy Drive, Bessemer, Alabama

Visitation at 10 am followed by Mass at 11am and Burial at 2pm at the  
Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, Alabama

# Cemetery Details

## Alabama National Cemetery

3133 Alabama 119  
Montevallo, AL 35115

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Saint Aloysius Church  
751 Academy Drive  
Bessemer, AL 35022

## Funeral Mass

JUN 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Saint Aloysius Church  
751 Academy Drive  
Bessemer, AL 35022

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ In memory of Uncle Len we sponsored Angel at the Nashville Humane Society. We also gave to the Pets for Patriots organization. Hairy and Angel are featured on the Nashville Humane Society site. Hairy will soon be given to a veteran. Dogs are Gods healing angels. My Uncle Len took us to the zoo when we were little girls-a fun memory. Thoughts and prayers to Vickie, Geoffrey, Allen, Dillon and Aaron Christy and Pete Bezkor

Christy Bezkor - June 09, 2023 at 01:14 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr..



June 08, 2023 at 01:41 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr..



June 08, 2023 at 10:09 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr..

June 08, 2023 at 10:09 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr..



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June 07, 2023 at 10:37 PM



“ *Rest in the arms of the Lord faithful servant. Prayers for his family. In Christ Jesus. Bishop Kenneth Reihl (Anglican Church of the Americas)*

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**Bishop Kenneth Reihl** - June 07, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr..



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June 06, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr..

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June 06, 2023 at 12:04 PM

JE

“ My condolences to the Gavin family. Chaplin Gavin was an amazing man who generously gave his time, resources, and talents to the community. I'll never forget how he invested in me as a young lacrosse coach, the Princeton Lacrosse program, and the boys we coached along the way.

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**JohnMark Edwards** - June 05, 2023 at 03:34 PM

RM

“ When Len took over as Director of Discovery Clubs, he and Vickie treated me and my family like we were their family from the very first day. I've never met more loving, generous, Christ centered people. It was a blessing to work with and get to know Len and Vickie over the last 9 years and to be welcomed as a part of their extended family.

*Len loved his family, every single person in it, and was so proud of his kids and grandkids. He was always telling me stories about his mother, sisters, kids, grandkids, etc. He loved Vickie with every fiber of his being and bragged on her every day. He and Vickie were truly two halves of one whole and whenever possible she was with him. I had never met any other couple that did that like I do with my husband and it was so sweet to witness.*

*Len loved the Lord and did everything he could to make God proud and to help anyone he came in contact with that needed help. I know he not only made God proud, but everyone else who knew him. My life has been forever changed by knowing him and I know I'm not the only one who feels that way.*

*Stephen, the kids, and I send our love and prayers to you and your family, Vickie. May God give you comfort and peace. We love you.*

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**Rachel Moore** - June 05, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr..*



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June 04, 2023 at 09:42 PM



“ *Always enjoyed my conversations with Len. He had a great interest in caring for people. May he rest in peace.*  
*Fr. Patrick Cullen*

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**Fr. Patrick Cullen** - June 04, 2023 at 09:32 AM

AC

“ *Rev. Gavin was one of the kindest and most admirable men I've ever met.*

*He loved Jesus, his family, his friends and even loved his enemies.*

*His smile would light up a room, and he always knew exactly what to say to make life a little bit better.*

*Vickie, he adored you and frequently shared how blessed he felt because of you.*

*To his sons, your dad bragged about you all the time and expressed how proud he was of the men you've become.*

*Grandchildren, he loved you so much and had a twinkle in his eye every time he spoke of you.*

*The Rev. Lt. Col. Len Gavin will be greatly missed. May his courage, wisdom and compassion continue to be an example to us all.*

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**Anthony Cooper** - June 03, 2023 at 10:55 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr..*



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June 03, 2023 at 09:23 AM

MD

“ My condolences to Len's family and friends and all those who's lives he touched. What an abundant life he lived. A leader and servant, teacher and student who led others to Christ through his words and deeds.

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**Mark Davis** - June 02, 2023 at 11:36 AM

JP

“ And He heard, Well done though good and faithful servant. Praying for you all.

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**Joy pinto** - June 02, 2023 at 09:04 AM

SC

“ So many lives were touched by your presence. I thank you for all of your guidance and friendship. Father Gavin you earned your place in Heaven. Will Miss you. Love to you and your family. Shirley Cosby and Family.

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**Shirley Cosby** - June 01, 2023 at 11:03 PM

CM

“ Len was truly a great man and friend to the Martin family. I would not be where I am today in the faith without the hours of discussions that I had with Len over the years. He was a mentor and friend to me and I'll always be grateful that the Lord brought Len in my life. Rest in Peace my brother.

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**Clif Martin** - June 01, 2023 at 09:54 PM

SC

“ Vicki, Aaron ,Anna Catherine Walker and Dillion and extended family..... Len was a son, a brother, a dad and a husband I got to meet this sweet man... yes he will be missed.,, we love you Len rest now in the arms of your Heavenly Father Jesus Christ... until we meet again my Brother in Christ....

Love you Vicki and family  
I am deeply saddened by this news but we can rejoice knowing that we will see Len again one day.....❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

Stephanie CALL - June 01, 2023 at 04:26 PM

TS

“ The Fords & Spitzers purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Leonard Monroe Gavin, Jr..



The Fords & Spitzers - June 01, 2023 at 02:13 PM

JA

“ Love and Prayers to Vicky and her family. I have many wonderful childhood memories growing up with Leonard and his sister Carolyn, my dear sweet cousins. With Love, Janice Renda

Janice - June 01, 2023 at 11:46 AM

RD

“ You are all in my thoughts and prayers!

Rhonda Diffy - May 31, 2023 at 08:46 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



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**McCalla Memorial Funeral Home - Traditions - May 31, 2023 at 03:00 PM**