

# In Memoriam: Guy Leslie Judkins

## April 8, 1947 – February 1, 2022

From the *Daily Corinthian*, 3 February 2022

On February 1, 2022, Guy Leslie Judkins left this life and entered into the loving arms of his heavenly Father. Guy was born April 8, 1947, in Indianapolis, Ind. to Elmer Joe Judkins and Marian Elizabeth Hickman Judkins. He attended the first eight years of school in New Whiteland, Indiana. When his father was transferred with his job to St. Louis, Missouri, he attended his high school years at Riverview Gardens High School where he graduated in 1965. Guy joined the Navy in Indianapolis in 1965.

While stationed at NAS Millington, Tennessee, he met the love of his life, Gale Pace, in Memphis. They married there in 1969 and enjoyed a blessed marriage of 52 and a half years. After completing his tour of duty in Maryland in 1970, they moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he attended and graduated from Spartan School of Aeronautics. His first job turned out to be at the local airport in Corinth where he planned to gain some experience and then apply to FedEx in Memphis. But they fell in love with this pretty town, made many friends and found a wonderful church home. They decided this was where they wanted to raise their children.

After working at Corinth Airport and McNairy Co Airport for several years, he eventually started his own business, Corinth Small Engines LLC. He was proud to be able to do that. When an opportunity came to work at Caterpillar, he took it. He retired from there in 2006 after 19 years, where he made many friends.

Guy made his decision to follow Christ in the spring of 1970 in Tulsa. They joined Cincinnati Ave Baptist Church. After relocating to Corinth in 1971, they joined Tate Baptist Church and have been active members ever since. Guy enjoyed every role he had: working with the small children in Sunday school (and often reminisced about them and the funny things they would say and do); he loved music and enjoyed singing in the church choir. He had a very nice bass voice. He enjoyed serving on several committees, working with children in AWANAs, serving on the kitchen committee where he competed with his friend, Ronnie Martin, to see who was really in charge of the rest of the staff for the Wednesday night meals.

He was an avid fisherman for most of his life. He was a founding member of North MS Bassmasters, a fishing organization that held tournaments and benefits for forty years. He enjoyed fishing with that group of men and sharing the "fish got away" stories with the members and treasured those friendships. He was privileged to have as a long time fishing partner, Bro. Joe Spencer. Those two hit the lake regularly until the last year, when a back problem prevented Guy from participating very often in the sport he loved.

Guy enjoyed college sports, especially football. He was an Ole Miss Rebels fan. He enjoyed NASCAR most of his life, and in his youth was part of a pit crew with some friends from high school who raced at dirt tracks. When his sons got interested in go carts, he served as their person-of-one pit crewman. He loved it. Guy enthusiastically enjoyed watching and rooting for any activity his sons took on. He was their biggest fan and rarely missed a football or soccer game they played. He also supported his wife in her quest to study their family history, and took her on many trips to do just that. When asked

by people about his genealogy hobby, he quickly informed them that he appreciated the information, but he was "just" the driver and copy machine operator, and dinner companion only. She considered him much more than that on those trips, of course (he had been known to rescue her from livestock while she attempted a tombstone photo in a pasture, or removed a snake in waist high grass in another old cemetery), and he would listen as she happily shared her latest find.

On February 28, 2017, Guy joined the William Gray Chapter of the SAR through the service of his patriot Charles Hamilton. His son Compatriot John Leslie Judkins became a member of the chapter on that same date.

Guy is survived by his wife, Gale Pace Judkins, son, John Leslie Judkins (Tabatha) of Oxford; grandchildren Julianna Judkins, James Pace Judkins II, and Jessa Judkins, all of Oxford. His aunt, Lometa Judkins (TX), his sister in law, Peggy Judkins (IN); nieces Tina Judkins Robinson (Brian), Michelle Judkins Baily(Clyde), and nephew Tony Judkins (Sherry), all from IN. He is also survived by a very special group of first cousins in TX and IN, whom he loved dearly. He is also survived by his loving church family and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, James Pace "Jamie" Judkins, his parents, two brothers, Bobby Judkins and Gary Judkins; his father and mother in law, Roy and Roberta Smith Pace, and eight aunts and four uncles.

