



Frank Thomas Gates

January 16, 2012

Gates, Frank Thomas, 89, went home to be with the Lord, January 16, 2012. A resident of Louisville since 1945 and a native of South Norfolk, VA now known as Chesapeake, VA. Frank was co-founder of Gates & Lenz Optical Company, later known as Gates, Stocker, & Lenz and retired as an optician from Wood Optical Company. He was past president of Kentucky Guild of Prescription Opticians and the Society of Dispensing Opticians of Ky. He served the community as a member of the Louisville Kiwanis Club and was a member Lorraine Lodge No. 4 Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F). He was a founding member of Beechmont United Methodist Church, presently a member of Epworth United Methodist Church. Frank was a 55-year member of the Gideons International, Louisville S.W. Gideon Camp. Being honored with many medals, he was an Army veteran of WWII, serving in General Patton's 3rd Army and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, the former LaVerne Miller. Survivors include his present wife of 30 years, the former, Verla F. (Greenhill) Flannery; daughters, Laura Palmore (Al), Brenda Poston (Robert), and Karen Smith (Benjamin) of Atlanta; sister, Martha Spatarella of New York; step sons, Dr. Anthony Flannery (Robin) of Glasgow and Martin Flannery; step daughter, Paula McGuffey (Allan); 13 grandchildren; eight great grandchildren. Funeral service will be 11am Friday at Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Highway with burial in Resthaven Memorial Park. Visitation will be Thursday 2-8 at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gideons International Camp

#U16076 Attn: Jeff Tate, 10713 Alberta Drive, Fairdale, KY 40118.

Tribute Wall



Matthew
Leffler

“ I grew up next door to the Gates, I remember them as this calm exceptionally nice couple that didn't mind me using their drive way as part of my bike loop when racing around our street, or cutting through their back yard on my exploration of the world.

Every Halloween they'd have candy ready, we had only a few kids on the street so if we didn't come to their house for candy they'd ask where we were. :-) They planned for us.

We had dinner with them when we moved to the neighborhood back in the mid-80s...they were that kind of neighbor, people don't try to get to know their neighbors anymore.

We had a small fire one afternoon before my dad got home from work, and I remember yelling to my brother to go to Mr. Gates. He was the next door dad in-charge in my mind.

He and his wife were those good people that you hope someday to be remembered as by someone else.

Matthew Leffler - November 16, 2019 at 11:33 PM

PB

“ For Verla, Laura, Brenda, & Karen:

What a pleasure it has been to know you all. I always felt welcomed at the Gates home--the former and the current. My late mother and my 89-year-old father also cherished the friendship they enjoyed through the years.

Dad and I enjoyed the visit with Verla, Frank and Brenda during the week before Christmas Day. Frank was alert and called us by name. I'm so glad we were able to see him in this life one more time.

What a heritage you enjoy: Frank's vibrant testimonial of his love for God, the Christian home he began with LaVerne, and his work with Gideons International.

Thanks be to God!

Phil (Sharon and David) Bowles

Phil Bowles - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

CW

“ Dear Karen and family;

Remembering our times with your dad and families.

Sharing your loss and may God give you strength and peace at this time

Shalom-the Wus

Charles n Susan Wu - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

AT

“ *Laura & Al Palmore,
Karen Smith & Family
Jeannie & Steve Ladden,*

Our condolence to you and the family, may Christ grant you strength and grace for such a season to sustain you and may His presence empower you through it all.

You Dad lived a good life - what we will call Valiant. WE remember he and Verla having us over for dinner and always having word filled with encouragement. As you celebrate his life, remember that it is a "See you soon" not a "Goodbye" because he will be with all the other saints of Christ.

With love

ASTRIDA & IVO TENENG - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

JK

“ *Karen, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time. I'm happy to hear that your Father had such a long and good life.*

Jana Kicklighter - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

TR

“ *Cousin Verla and family. So sorry to hear the loss of Frank. He seemed a very kind and loving man. Know that he lives on in your memories, and will be watching over you all, always. Love you all and take care. Teresa and Gary*

Teresa Robinson - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

LE

“ Verla we are truly sorry for your loss. We did not know him but reading his obituary makes us believe he was a truly good man and lived a long life. Take care.our thought & prayers are with you & all the Family. Love, Loretta

Loretta Duncan Evans - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

AS

“ My thoughts and Prayers are with you Aunt Verla and Family. I miss you all very much and I truly wish I could have seen Uncle Frank before he passed away. I will miss his loving smile and kindness he always showed to us all. He's one of our Angel's waiting for us now. I love you Uncle Frank.

Amy Spears - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

GS

“ My heart goes out to all of the family. Anyone who ever knew Frank Gates has to have a sense of loss because he touched our lives so gently and kindly. He was endowed by all Christian values: loving, charitable, mercifulness, patience, integrity, honesty---the list is unending. He enriched my life when he stepped into it.

---Gloria

Gloria Spurlock - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

LH

“ *Laura,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family as you feel the loss of your father's home going while at the same time celebrate the excitement of his homecoming. I didn't know him but his daughter attests to the wonderful legacy he has left behind. May God bless these next few days, weeks and months with endearing memories, eternal perspective and amazing grace. Love you! Linda (Hefner)*

LINDA HEFNER - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

GR

“ *Brenda, We are sorry for your loss.
You and your family are in our prayers.
We Love You
The
Reilly's*

Greg & Paula Reilly - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

CB

“ *What a wonderful man he was, hope you girls are doing OK.*

C Vernon Bumstead - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

MN

“ *We will miss you Uncle Frank. Love ya Milton & Dan*

Milton Nolan - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM

NG

“ *It was a pleasure to know Frank Gates. He was an mighty man of God. We will miss him here on earth but I am sure they are rejoicing in heaven.*

Best wishes to all his wonderful friends and family.

Sincerely,

Nathan

Nathaniel J. Goetz - June 28, 2018 at 04:10 PM