



## James Phillip Gatewood

September 2, 1957 - January 23, 2026

James Phillip “Phil” Gatewood, 68, passed away with family by his side on Friday, January 23, 2026 due to complications of neurosarcoidosis.

Phil was born in Louisville to his late parents, Jim and Joyce Gatewood, who were from Huntingdon, Tennessee. Throughout his life, Phil maintained his Tennessee culture, even while he grew up in Louisville. Phil graduated from Jeffersontown High School in 1975, and it was there that he met his spouse, Dottie (Pike), of 44 years. At J-Town High, he played football, and he went on to coach football at J-Town Little League in the years afterward. Later in life, Phil loved traveling with Dottie to quirky places, country music, and barbeque. He was also an avid follower of college sports. Phil was pleased to end his working career as staff at J-Town High. Phil loved the simple pleasures of life: going out for a quick meal, spending time with his beloved granddaughter Kennedy, or listening to the radio.

Phil is survived by his spouse, Dottie; his daughters, Amanda Gatewood (Bert Chee) and Allison Henderson; his sister, Andrea Heger (Joe); and his granddaughter, Kennedy Henderson. He also leaves behind loving extended family, including his mother-in-law, Elsie Pike; beloved sisters- and brothers- in law, and many nieces and nephews.

Phil’s visitation will be from 1-5 pm on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Owen Funeral Home, 9318 Taylorsville Rd, with a brief service at 5pm.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be sent to the Lucky Fin Project (<https://luckyfinproject.org/>) or the Foundation for Sarcoidosis

Research (<https://www.stopsarcoidosis.org/>).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

FEB 7. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Jeffersontown  
9318 Taylorsville Road  
Louisville, KY 40299  
(502) 266-9655  
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

## Memorial Service

FEB 7. 5:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Jeffersontown  
9318 Taylorsville Road  
Louisville, KY 40299  
(502) 266-9655  
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Owen Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of James Phillip Gatewood



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Owen Funeral Homes - March 16 at 04:34 PM

WH

“ I was a friend of Phil's at J-Town High. Over the years, I would reconnect briefly with Phil by telephone or email. About a year ago, I spoke with Phil over the telephone for over an hour and caught up on some of his present life. He was putting together a reunionish get-together. I learned that he was running a very lucrative shoe business having retired from his job as counselor at J-Town High. He never mentioned that he was sick other than the pain in his knees. I was shocked to see this obituary. I can attest that I had an awful lot of fun with Phil, starting when we met in Mr. Jerry Week's Core glass in the 8th grade. He was very popular then and all throughout HS. In that regard, we were total opposites! When I joined the Marines in 1975, I lost touch and never seemed to be able to connect with him on my brief returns to J-Town on leave. But, when I was at WKU in mid-career of the USMC, Phil called and asked me to be in his wedding. I have some vague memories of having done. He was still the same Phil that I knew form the past. I am sorry to hear that he is gone. In the 9th grade, I remember that Dottie called me for his phone number when she first knew that he was The Guy. It is cool to know that they stayed together and had raised a great family. When I talked with Phil last year, he expressed interest in visiting us in my home in California. I regret that he could not take us up on that offer. It would have been special!

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**Wally Hunt** - May 14 at 01:33 PM

LY

“ We're sorry for the loss of your brother. May the Lord be with you during this difficult time.

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**Linda and Gary Yeagle** - February 02 at 07:09 PM

DJ

“ *Former Student at Jtown High year 2003-2005!! He would always get on me about being Late to class !!! Gave me great encouragement throughout high school! You'll truly be missed !! Praying for his family during this time!!*

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**Darrin Lee Jr** - January 31 at 09:00 PM

DD

“ *What a wonderful man! His quirky way with working with students was always a joy to observe. May his memory brighten the days of sorrow.*

*DeAnna Deneen*

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**DeAnna Deneen** - January 31 at 12:31 AM

SL

“ *A great J-Town colleague. Always had a smile. So sorry for your loss.*

*Sam Lewis*

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**Sam Lewis** - January 29 at 06:04 PM

BW

“ *Former Colleague; wishing the entire family peace and healing. Phil was a righteous Friend.*

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**Bill Whitaker** - January 29 at 01:36 PM

DC

“ I’m so thankful i was able to spend time with Phil and Dottie at our class get togethers. Phil was one of the kindest guys in our class. Always happy and smiling and always joking. He was just a all around great guy and always do kind. Phil your certainly gonna be missed and always remembered for you smile and Kindness. Fly high friend 🙏🙏🙏

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**Debbie Walls Carney** - January 26 at 07:32 PM