



Mr. Samuel Gillis

June 24, 1940 - August 24, 2021

Mr. Samuel Gillis

A life well-lived was that of Samuel Gillis (Sam), born June 24, 1940 in Linwood, Alabama with his sun setting on August 24, 2021. In his 81 years, he brought joy and light to those that knew him. His family knew him as caring, devoted, witty, wise and brilliant, all of which contributed to the fullness of his personal relationships and professional achievements. He loved Burger King, Old Granddad, Coca Cola, and his 1967 Chevelle SS.

Samuel graduated from Academy Street High School in 1957, followed by a pit stop at Alabama A&M University and degrees from the University of Nebraska and Cal Western University. He had a distinguished military career in the United States Army of 21 years. He retired at the rank of Major, having served his country state-side and overseas in Europe, Korea, and Vietnam. During his military service, Sam met and married Atty, who gave birth to their daughter, Mariam. He instilled in his only beloved child a deep and abiding disappointment in the San Diego Chargers and a respect for guns: gifting her a .380 to match his own when she started law school.

After his military service, Sam worked for and retired after 25 years from AT&T in San Diego, California. It was there he nurtured and grew his political awareness as a union member and community organizer, where his daughter

took her first steps in a picket line alongside the members of CWA Local 9509. Upon his retirement in 2001, Sam returned to Troy to care for his mother and continue to grow his political acumen in the Alabama Democratic Conference, where he served as county chair, and NAACP. Boy did he love debating. You knew you were in for a treat when he started with "In these United States of America..." Sam told tall tales and enjoyed spirited discussion all over Troy, from the hallways of the county courthouse to the debate forum at Mama Jane's.

Sam was an active member of St. Paul AME Church where he continued to work and faithfully serve our Lord as a vocal church trustee and men's ministry member. True to his faith and upbringing, Sam served with a wholehearted belief in God's bounty – as reflected by his extensive lottery ticket collection, none of which were purchased in the state of Alabama.

He hated low sodium foods and saddy folks. He loved sugar, Powerball, and his beloved dog Moses. We marvel at the lives he lived; his extensive memory of friends and family from long ago and far away. He could cut a rug, sing a song, and made friends wherever he went. A man of principle who had so many plans for that jackpot he just knew he was going to win: they all involved helping folks out and indeed being his brother's keeper. Which is why he was a Democrat: a rising tide lifts all boats. Unless you voted for George Wallace. Laughter was a guarantee in his presence and no topic was off limits: natural hairstyles, modern fashion, and trap music were all held to account in the courtroom of one Samuel Gillis: a man with no hair and a devotion to Member's Only jackets and the sharpest Sunday attire. He ate slow, talked fast, and always had a joke to share.

Sam was preceded in death by his ever-loving parents Henry Grant and Fannie Laura Gillis, his sisters Vera, Mary Lois, and Connie, his brother Theodore, and his wife and Mariam's dear mother, Atty. Grieving our loss of

Sam today include his loving daughter Mariam Gillis, his sisters Fannie (Jimmie) King, Vallanda (Lorenza) Baker, Cynthia (Willie) Parker, his brothers Henry Lewis (Gladys), and Elijah (Dora); numerous nieces, nephews, cousins,' relatives, and friends. And his favorite friend and trusted companion, Moses.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in Alabama, there will not be a funeral at this time. All are welcome to visitation on Monday, 8/30 11am to 5pm at Grubbs Funeral Home in Troy. Masks are required.

The family will host a celebration of Sam's life in Troy sometime next year.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church

Linwood, AL

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 30. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (CT)

George F. Grubbs Funeral Home, Inc.

208 E. Madison St.

Troy, AL

grubbsfuneralhome@verizon.net

<http://grubbsfuneralhome.net>

Tribute Wall



“ Mae Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis



Mae Lawrence - September 01, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



George F. Grubbs FH Family & Staff - August 31, 2021 at 10:44 PM



“ Dr. Warren and staff at WBC purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Samuel Gillis.



Dr. Warren and staff at WBC - August 31, 2021 at 09:59 AM



“ Sara Johnson Sapjohnson@hotmail sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis



Sara Johnson sapjohnson@hotmail - August 31, 2021 at 03:56 AM

JS

“ So sorry for your loss, sending condolences from Janice Flowers and the Flowers family, our prayers are with you..

Janice Steele - August 31, 2021 at 01:37 AM

JT

“ So sorry for your loss praying for the Gillis family from Bronella Williams and family



Jennifer Terry - August 30, 2021 at 05:21 PM

JT

“ Jennifer Terry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis



Jennifer Terry - August 30, 2021 at 05:17 PM

BC

“ Beverly Cope lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis



Beverly Cope - August 30, 2021 at 04:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Samuel Gillis.*



August 30, 2021 at 03:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Samuel Gillis.*



August 30, 2021 at 08:30 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. He had a full life*



carol Hendricks - August 29, 2021 at 06:53 PM



“ *Mariam's MCRMC Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Samuel Gillis.*



Mariam's MCRMC Family - August 29, 2021 at 03:13 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Samuel Gillis.*



August 29, 2021 at 01:50 PM



“ *Clarence Coskrey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis*



Clarence Coskrey - August 29, 2021 at 09:36 AM



“ *Cathy Dixon sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis*



Cathy Dixon - August 28, 2021 at 08:34 PM



“ *We pray for the comfort of the Gillis Family and all those who loved Uncle Sam Gillis. We knew him to be mild mannered and interested in helping people. He had a good sense of humor, and his smile will be missed.*
Michele
Deacon and Mrs. Albert Baker



Michele Seepersad - August 28, 2021 at 07:52 PM

Rose
Bean

“ *Rose Bean lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis*



Rose Bean - August 28, 2021 at 03:04 PM

AS

“ *In memory of Family and Friends*



Ann Stewart - August 28, 2021 at 11:10 AM

CC

“ *Calvin Carter from Enterprise Alabama Send his Deepest Condolences to the family.*

Calvin Carter - August 28, 2021 at 10:49 AM

CC

“ *Calvin Carter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis*



Calvin Carter - August 28, 2021 at 10:48 AM

AK

“ Annie L Kelly sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis




Annie L Kelly - August 27, 2021 at 08:31 PM

AK

My deepest heartfelt condolences and prayers to the Gillis Family! Sam was such and nice & kind person. We always shared a laugh or two when our paths would cross.

Annie L Kelly - August 27, 2021 at 09:00 PM

JT

“ *It's with heartfelt condolences to the Gillis Family!! My entire is devastated at the loss of a true warrior working to the advancement for the citizens of Troy!! From Pearlie Mae Thomas and family!! He will be missed from Juretha Thomas!!* 



Juretha Thomas - August 27, 2021 at 06:29 PM

EG

Mr. Sam Gillis was a very active, and concerned citizen in Troy, Alabama. His political endeavors will be missed by many. My prayers have been lifted for his relatives. Elizabeth Grubbs

Elizabeth Grubbs - August 28, 2021 at 06:35 PM

SK

“ *Sylvia Kennedy-Davis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis*



Sylvia Kennedy-Davis - August 27, 2021 at 03:43 PM

HM

“ *Will keep your family in my daily prayers.HubertMaddox*



Hubert Maddox - August 27, 2021 at 02:36 PM

BA

“ *Brenda McGuire Allen lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis*



Brenda McGuire Allen - August 27, 2021 at 10:10 AM

DL

“ *Doris Lee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis*



Doris Lee - August 27, 2021 at 09:38 AM

CW

“ Sending our prayers and condolences to the family!



Cornelia&Jimmy Woods - August 26, 2021 at 06:23 PM

JS

“ Jacqueline Martin Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Gillis



Jacqueline Martin Smith - August 26, 2021 at 06:43 AM



“ My heart thoughts through prayers 🙏 goes out to his whole entire family in close friends I am very sorry for your lost May God comforts All of you in Gives you strength Rest well in Heaven 😊🙏🕊️ take it All one day at a time for it gets harder each day be Encouraged for better days are coming for A family that prays together stays together



Yolanda Harrison - August 25, 2021 at 04:46 PM