



Gayle Ledbetter Temple

June 22, 1949 - May 7, 2020

Gayle Ledbetter Temple was born June 22, 1949, in San Antonio, Texas to Robert William “Will” Ledbetter and Mildred “Mikki” (Kossey) Ledbetter. She died Thursday, May 7, 2020, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the age of 70 years. Gayle was raised and educated in the Houston, Texas area and graduated with the Houston Memorial High School Class of 1967 where she formed lifelong friendships on the Markette Drill team. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas in 1971. She was also a proud member of the Delta Gamma Sorority at TCU. Gayle spent most of her working life as a registered nurse with various practices in the Houston area. She was married in Houston on April 3, 1993 to Joseph M. Temple, Jr. They moved to Owasso, Oklahoma from Galveston, Texas in 2018 and joined Owasso First United Methodist Church. Gayle was passionate about service to other people, volunteering on missions to South America since she was 16, and church youth mission work later in life. In her spare time, she enjoyed volunteering at Moody Gardens in Galveston. Those she leaves behind who hold many cherished memories include:

Husband;

Joseph Temple, of Owasso, Oklahoma

4 Children;

Nicholas Diaz and wife Erin, of the Greater Washington D.C. Area

Ben Diaz and wife Katherine, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Susanne Kimball and husband Michael, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Buck Temple and wife Jessi, of Skiatook, Oklahoma

2 Grandchildren;

Benjamin Diaz

Grace Kimball

Brother;

Ron Ledbetter and wife Julie

She was preceded in death by her parents, Will and Mikki.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at First United Methodist of Owasso, Oklahoma. In the meantime, in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations can be made to Gayle's preferred charity, Christmas Everyday Fund maintained by First United Methodist Church of Owasso in the Give section of the <https://www.fumcowasso.org> website.

Previous Events

Memorial

JUN **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church Owasso
13800 E. 106th St. N
Owasso, OK 74055

Tribute Wall

KA

“ I worked with Gayle at Omega OBGYN in Arlington. She was the kindest person and I adored her. I had no idea she had passed since we lost touch when she moved away. My prayers are with her family that I know she loved dearly.

Kim Allgood - October 25, 2025 at 12:02 PM

KC

“ Jay I'm so sorry. Gayle was so important in my life and I couldn't find her after Galveston. She and I navigated the perils of ConocoPhillips world and we held each other up. She was selfless and giving and I loved being at your wedding. She lived you with all of her heart. May God hold you and your family everyday. Steve and I send our love to you and your family. ❤️

kati chupa - October 30, 2020 at 07:03 PM

MW

“ *What a beautiful service today for our dear precious cousin Gayle. I watched with tears in my eyes as the minister so portrayed the fine Christian woman that Gayle showed to her friends, family, and the world. Truly she had the gift of joyful service in her heart.*

One thing I wanted to express was her love for the Fulton family. Her grandmother, Neva Fulton Ledbetter, was such a tremendous influence in her young life as was her father William Ledbetter. She started attending family reunions as a girl and continued when possible with her own children when they were young. Last summer, even when she was fighting so hard for her life, she came with her beautiful smile and cheerful outlook. She brought so much joy to these reunions over the years, and she was truly beloved by the Fulton family. We will miss her so much and cherish the times we have shared over the years.

Martha Fulton Wells - June 22, 2020 at 03:39 PM

HS

“ Although I am deeply saddened to hear of Gayle’s passing, I feel truly blessed to have known her and Jay. I met Gayle at Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX where she volunteered in the rainforest. She thought she was going to be working with plants but due to a miscommunication she worked with the animal department and I was so fortunate to work with her many times. Her spirit, joy, & kindness were infectious and we became close friends. She & Jay welcomed me into their lives and became like second parents to me. I treasure all the moments we spent together and thank you both for letting me and the beagles be a part of your lives. Before the move to Oklahoma, y’all gave me a lantana from your yard that was overgrown. Despite my poor success rate growing plants, Gayle ensured me it would be fine. It flourishes in my backyard and I affectionately call it Gayle’s lantana. Jay & Gayle, you are both such incredible people and I love you dearly. God Bless.

Heather Samper

Heather Samper - June 08, 2020 at 11:14 PM

SJ

“ I met Gayle at Spring Branch Jr. High School when we were twelve. She was lovely and loved by all that were lucky enough to have her during our lives. Gayle often asked me how I was doing when I had contacted her to see how she was doing. Even during her last months on this earth, my text messages from her started off with "how ARE you?" Gayle remembered my children and even asked about them and my concerns for them at any given time. She was amazing like that.

Gayle was the circle of our friends in high school. As members of the Markettes at Memorial High School, Gayle was our greatest fan and encourager in every way. She made each of her friends feel like they were the best performer in the 100 group. She cheered us on to do our best week after week.

My husband and I were lucky to spend a weekend with Gayle and Jay before they moved to Galveston. They had rented a house on the beach. Our photos of that weekend show a loving couple who enjoyed the sunset most when they could see it together. They were lucky to find each other and marry 27 years ago. I believe God gave them to each other.

I will miss Gayle most when I remember her beautiful smile, her joy in the moment and her care for me as her friend.

Sheryl Jorgensen

Sheryl Jorgensen - June 03, 2020 at 04:42 PM

NB

“ I will miss my precious Gayle. She was my favorite cousin with the shared experience of being raised by the Kossey girls! We were years apart, but had a camaraderie that grew closer as we grew older. If we had an opportunity to spend time together, it was like time had not passed. When I spoke with her on the phone, she always wanted to talk about what was going on in my family rather than her own life even when she was experiencing challenges. Her strong faith was woven through her joys and as well as the hard times and her wisdom, peppered with God’s grace, was often timely. Gayle’s unique and admirable gentle voice and demeanor truly defined her. There are so many fun memories of stories and laughter. She would smile so hard when she laughed that her eyes would practically disappear! She loved her family and her family’s history.

Gayle’s relationship with Jay proved that our God is truly a God of second chances. It seems unfair that her last 6 years were such a struggle. A struggle that she endured with much courage and optimism. I do know that our God is also a fair God and he will restore the years that the swarming locusts had eaten. (Joel 2:25.) Gayle said to me in one of her last texts, “ I am looking forward to my heavenly body!” I can see Gayle sitting with Jesus, laughing with her squinted eyes, wanting to talk about what is going on with Him.

With love,

Nancy Benedic Brown
Cincinnati, Ohio

Nancy Brown - May 31, 2020 at 08:59 PM

KD

“ To Jay and family,
Gayle was a treasure to me and my lifelong friend! We met in high school and shared Markette memories at Memorial high school. Then continued our friendship at TCU! I still see her smile and sparkly eyes as she always had a kind word for everyone. A plus was her sense of humor! She would bring a smile to so many!! She was my roommate in the DG house at TCU... that was a gift! Most of all I remember our talks about Jesus! Her faith was strong and shining!
May our God comfort you in these days!
I thank you, Jay, for loving her and caring for her!
My husband, Joe, and I send our thoughts and prayers!
Karin (Gustafson) Deming



Karin Deming - May 30, 2020 at 01:53 PM

LS

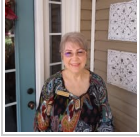
“ Dear Jay,
How do I put into words what Gayle has meant to me and I believe so many others. She was more than an inspiration, although she was definitely that, but she was also a good friend (sister for so long) and a confidant. She loved so many things about life and it's endless possibilities. She found silver linings when all seemed darkest. She was gracious, adorable, young at heart, loving to all, and excited to share her life and love with you and her friends. Oh, how much smaller and sadder the world is now that she's no longer here with us. But I can just hear her saying, "It's OK, I'm up here looking after all my loved ones", she's God's newest angel, watching over us like she always did.
Kirby and I are both praying for you.
All our love,
Leslie and Kirby

Leslie Stevens - May 29, 2020 at 05:11 PM

MP

“ Dear Jay and Family,
I have never known a more selfless person than Gayle. She always thought of others first and herself last. She was my squad leader in the Memorial Markette Drill Team. I will always remember her funny personality but more importantly how she was such an encourager to me. I remember one football game when I was the only drill team member who forgot to put on my white gloves before marching on to the field for our high kick routine. She had to give me demerits for forgetting my gloves and I think she felt so bad about it that she cried! Gayle never spoke an unkind word about anyone. She brightened my high school days with her big smile and affirmative words. She fought her battle with cancer with courage and dignity, and she will always be an example on how to live life to the fullest. Jay, i also know how much she loved and adored you. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.
Love,
Margie Torn Patrick

Margie Torn Patrick - May 28, 2020 at 12:58 AM



“ Dear Jay and Family:

What an absolutely beautiful person our Gayle was! She was voted by her Markette sisters as "Outstanding Markette" in our senior year at Memorial High School for a reason. She was always that sweet spirit we could always count on to be upbeat at all times, to offer words of encouragement and inspiration before each performance on the field, to handle stress with a quiet demeanor and to always show what it truly means to be a friend. She was a beloved friend to us all, and one of the most generous, selfless, loving and thoughtful people I, personally, have ever known. I will always cherish the treasure she was in this life and the gift of perseverance and faith she leaves behind. I take such comfort in knowing that I will see her again when "all knees will bow" before the Throne of Grace one day. Lord Jesus, please take care of this precious soul with such a servant's heart and grant her the eternal joy and peace she deserves now.

Elizabeth Williamson (formerly Betty Greenwood)

Elizabeth Williamson - May 21, 2020 at 09:15 PM

AR

“ Dear Jay and to all of Gayle's family— what a wonderful, beautiful person Gayle was! We first met as freshman in high school. She was already a joy to be with even as a young girl and she had a smile that shone from then til now. Her friendship blessed my life and touched my heart. I will always be grateful to have been friends.
Alisa

Alisa Rowe - May 21, 2020 at 01:58 PM

KM

“ Dear Jay and Family -- My recollections of sweet, smiling Gayle go way back to high school days first as friends, then as fellow Markettes for Memorial High School, where Gayle served as our President our senior year. Gayle and I and a couple other friends joined Houston's Amigos de las Americas as medical missionaries to small villages in Central America, spending high school summers in Honduras, at first, then spreading to other countries. Over the years, we had fun looking back to those shared experiences. We attended each others' weddings, kept up through newsy cards, and loved renewing in-person connections at recent small Markette Reunion Luncheons, where I met you, Jay, when you dropped her off for this female gab-fest. At one of these luncheons, when talking about you, she used your same words when she told me: "Jay is my Soulmate, a gift from God." We will all miss her terribly but will be inspired as we move along by her determination and courage and exuberance with life. With Love, Kay (Prehn) Minter

Katherine Prehn Minter - May 21, 2020 at 12:29 PM

PF

“ She was my precious little cousin who I adored since my youth. We both fought through the first round of cancer and supported one another. I do not have the words to properly express my sorrow. I will miss her for the rest of my life, but I know she is watching over all of us who loved her. I miss you , Little Bit.

Perry Fulton - May 20, 2020 at 07:13 PM

DM

“ Jay - Ken and I were so sad to learn of precious Gayle's passing. She had a great impact on our lives during a trying time that we all shared. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Denise Meyer

Denise Meyer - May 17, 2020 at 11:21 AM

GT

“ Gayle's love of life, people and God was evident in everything she said and did. She made everyone feel special and LOVED! Through all of the "tough times" of her life....and she had way too many....she maintained an amazing spirit of grace. Her presence in this world will be greatly missed.

And to Jay, yes, you all were truly soul mates and a joy to watch together as you both loved, enjoyed and APPRECIATED one another so very much.

Let us all cherish the memories of Gayle!

Gretchen and Ron Thorp

Gretchen Thorp - May 16, 2020 at 04:23 PM

DS

“ What a sad day to here of this tragic news. I know she will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She was such a wonderful loving soul. My prayers to Jay and the whole family during this sad time. May Jesus bring comfort to all of you during the greaving process. Sending love and peace ,

Donna Shepard

Donna Faye Shepard - May 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM

MC

“ Will always remember Gayle's smile and huge heart for others. No surprise that she became a nurse. She loved her boys and Jay. She is definitely a sparkly star in the night sky.

melanie chaya - May 15, 2020 at 07:59 PM

AT

“ *Gayle will live forever in all of our memories. Her loving, thoughtful and caring ways for every single individual she was around, her sense of humor, smile and wit, her selflessness, fight and determinationAll of these and more are things that we carry in our hearts. The Fulton family will miss this precious cousin so much and the void is huge, but her testimony is etched on our hearts forever! Love to each of you...dear Jay, Nick and Erin, Ben....we praise God for how He used this lady in our lives! I am certain the Lord is saying " Well done, thou good and faithful servant!" Love to each of you, Anne Gilliland Todd*

anne todd - May 15, 2020 at 09:18 AM

JT

“ *She was my love, my soulmate. She made me a better man. I miss her. Her long journey is now over.❤️*

Joseph (Jay) Temple - May 14, 2020 at 06:26 PM

MD

“ *I will always treasure her laughter and her smile! She would always brighten up the room. Sending you lots of love and prayers, Jay. You were so good to her.*

Michelle Douglas - May 13, 2020 at 07:55 PM

GM

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Grant Mowery - May 13, 2020 at 11:09 AM

RM

*Oh, sweet Gayle! So many memories...She will always be with me.
Love you, Jay and kids.
Hugs from Ed and me. Becky*

Rebeca Monto - May 13, 2020 at 08:02 PM

CA

Jay, I cannot tell you how sad I was to hear about Gayle. I know your heart is heavy and there is not anything I can say to ease your pain...but know that Gayle gave all that knew her so much joy. She had a heart of gold, and she loved you so much. I remember the wedding in pouring down rain, which was a new beginning for both of you. Everyone who knew her will miss her.

carolyn - May 14, 2020 at 09:05 PM

CG

“*Jay, Carole Gard here from Galveston. So sad when I think how much you and all will miss her; so comforted when I remember her joy, her strength, her caring for her friends, for anyone she met. What a warrior! She fought this fight better than anyone. She now has won the reward to be with her Savior. I loved her. She was one of God's angels. God bless you and family.*

Carole Gard - May 12, 2020 at 10:30 PM

BM

“*I will long remember dear Gayle. We shared many good and challenging times working together in hospice. then retired we had some fun! Visits to dear Mary, party and lunch at your beach house, Bible study, "talks" after church. She was a courageous and wonderful person who loved her family dearly. Rest In Peace Gayle! much love to you Jay and family!*

Bev McCormick

Beverly McCormick - May 12, 2020 at 09:41 PM