



SgtMaj Wilbur "Butch" Ray Gay, Jr. Retd.

March 4, 1942 - January 17, 2025

North Augusta, SC – Visitation for Sergeant Major Wilbur Ray “Butch” Gay, Jr. (retired), 82, who entered into rest January 17, 2025, will be held at the funeral home Friday evening from 5 until 7.

Butch was the beloved husband of Mary Thompson Gay, who he considered to be the love of his life. He was the son of the late Wilbur Ray Gay, Sr. and Elizabeth Strickland Gay of North Augusta, SC. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Cecil D. Mears, J. Thomas Gay (Shirley) and Joseph C. Gay all of Jacksonville, FL.

Survivors include his daughter, Angela A. Chagaris of Davidson, NC; son, Bill and wife Randi of Greenville, SC; son, Robert W. Bazemore, Jr. and wife Amy of Frederick, VA; granddaughters, Catherine Chagaris, Nicole Chagaris, Audrey Gay, Lily Gay and Emma Bazemore; grandson, Andrew Gay. Additional survivors include a brother-in-law, Robert O. Thompson, Jr. (Norma) of The Villages, FL and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends. The family would like to thank Don Hamrick, Billy Simmons, Ralph Craven, James Perkins and Tommy Williams for having a major influence and impact on Butch’s life.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia and raised in Jacksonville, Florida until the age of nine and resided and made his home in North Augusta, SC since 1952. Butch

was a graduate of North Augusta High School and received an associate's degree from Augusta Technical College in Augusta, GA. He retired from E.I. DuPont and Savannah River Nuclear Site after 43 ½ years of service starting as a young nineteen-year-old, working in the lab and then as an employee counselor until 2005.

Mr. Gay was a decorated Vietnam Veteran with the 319th Transportation Company "Troxler's Truckers" Reservists, serving in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. He obtained the rank of Sergeant Major, received the Bronze Star Medal and numerous other medals and retired from the Army Reserves with 32 years of service.

Butch loved his family more than anything and considered them his greatest achievement. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved hunting, boating, fishing and a cold Budweiser as well as country music, traveling, NASCAR and Clemson Tigers. Butch loved nothing better than sitting on his deck, which he called his office, at Clarks Hill, drinking a Budweiser and watching the world go by.

He was a longtime member of 81st Wildcat Association, American Legion Post #63, Elks Lodge #205, NRA and the CSRA Shag Club.

Memorials may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, www.woundedwarriorproject.org or a charity of one's choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Posey Funeral Directors
1307 Georgia Ave
North Augusta, SC 29841
(803) 278-1181
admin@poseycares.com
<https://www.poseycares.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Posey Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of SgtMaj Wilbur "Butch" Ray Gay, Jr. Retd.



Posey Funeral Directors - January 21, 2025 at 03:19 PM

DS

“ My condolences to Butch’s family. So thankful for Butch’s service to our country!🇺🇸 Prayers for comfort and strength for the family!
Donna Byrd Sherman

Donna Sherman - July 11, 2025 at 01:05 PM

RB

“ I am so sorry for Mary's loss. Butch was an outstanding sergeant in the 319th Transportation Co. I always appreciated his leadership and sense of humor. Soldiers listened to him. I leaned on his experience and knowledge many times. When I would make an error in judgement or words, he would discreetly pull me to the side and offer his advice. He was a fine example of military leadership, and he knew how to find humor in ordinary things!
Rick Babb

Rick Babb - February 19, 2025 at 11:07 AM

SS

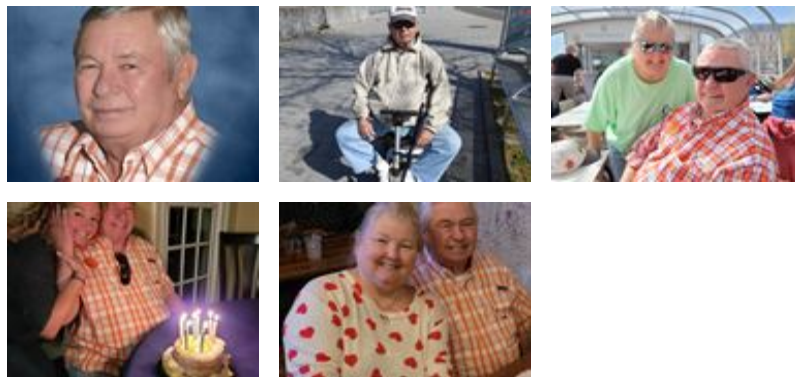
“ I worked with Butch at SRS. He was a good man. So sorry to hear of his passing. My prayers are with you all.

Sue Blankenship Stallings

Sharel Sue Blankenship Stallings - January 26, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ 66 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Posey Funeral Directors - January 21, 2025 at 03:17 PM

KP

I will always remember Butch's smile and laughter, especially when he and my husband, James Perkins, were telling stories. My thoughts and prayers are with Butch's family and friends. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

Katie Perkins - January 21, 2025 at 10:38 PM

JH

“ I am thankful for SGM Butch Gay’s career service to our nation in the United States Army Reserve, including decorated combat duty during the Vietnam War and his career service at the Savannah River Site. It is patriots like Butch that served to safeguard our freedom and liberty. I worked for Butch at SRS and with his wonderful daughter Angela. He was my friend. He was fair and honest, he was compassionate, and he was the consummate professional. He loved his family fiercely. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Angela and his extended family, may he rest in peace.

Jeff Hoefs - January 21, 2025 at 08:47 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of SgtMaj Wilbur "Butch" Ray Gay, Jr. Retd..



January 20, 2025 at 04:55 PM

PG

“ Butch was my first cousin. Our Dads were brothers, I was so shocked to hear of his death. I send my condolences to Mary, Angie and Bill. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Pat Gay Gillis - January 19, 2025 at 02:47 PM

TW

“ Tommy Williams lit a candle in memory of SgtMaj Wilbur "Butch" Ray Gay, Jr. Retd.



Tommy williams - January 19, 2025 at 09:28 AM

TW

*My best friend for 72 + years.will miss him dearly,but will have endless memories. love you buddy.
Tommy williams*

Tommy williams - January 19, 2025 at 09:31 AM

JP

*Hey Tommy! You two were the best growing up! Brother Pat was fortunate having both of you guys as best friends. So sorry about losing Butch! I wrote something but I haven't seen it. Butch was one of a kind and he will be missed by his many friends for sure. You take good care of yourself!
Jim Paxton!*

Jim Paxton! - January 21, 2025 at 06:22 AM

RW

“ *Butch and I where class mates a super nice person , may you rest in peace.*

Robert Whatley - January 19, 2025 at 06:37 AM



“ Mary,

Nancy text me the information this morning about Butch. My heart is just broken for you. I always felt that you were very fortunate, blessed to have found Butch when you did. You both always seem so very happy together. I will be keeping you in my prayers. I know your faith will help you through this. I love you.

Gwen

Gwen Austin-Vaughn - January 18, 2025 at 02:02 PM

NH

“ Mary,

I am so very sorry for your loss ! You remain in my heart, thoughts and prayers. May God bless you with peace and comfort in the days ahead, my friend.

Love,
Nancy



Nancy Harrison-Watson - January 18, 2025 at 01:40 PM

TW

*Mary,our loss is so great and hard,but knowing Butch is in peace and in the hands of the Lord makes it easier. know that Betty and I are here for you anytime.
God bless. Tommy williams*

Tommy williams - January 18, 2025 at 07:00 PM

FN

Condolences for you, Angie, Bill.

Frank & Sarah Neal - January 20, 2025 at 07:41 AM