



Gerald Wayne Dinkins

May 31, 1941 - December 27, 2024

Gerald Wayne Dinkins of Annapolis, MO, entered Heaven on Friday, December 27, 2024, at the age of 83 years, 6 months, and 27 days. He was born May 31, 1941, in Ironton, MO, to the late Albert Ray and Mary Louise (Slusher) Dinkins.

On August 17, 1968, Gerald was united in marriage to Sheryl Arlene Palmer who preceded him in rest on December 20, 2009. To this union three children were born, Christina Dougherty and husband Chad of Cape Girardeau, MO, Dustin Dinkins and wife Kaylie of Annapolis, MO, and Benjamin Dinkins and wife Brandy of Annapolis, MO, all of whom survive.

After Sheryl's passing, Gerald found a new friend and companion in Lynn Henry Place, and on February 14, 2016, Gerald was united in marriage to Lynn who survives. Also surviving are nine grandchildren, Keagan, Kolton, Kasen, Drenin, Enzley, Drazic, Riley, Delaney, and Makenna, two bonus granddaughters, Ella and Addison; step-children, Richard Henry Place of Wappapello, MO and John Ethan Place of Lake St. Louis, MO, two sisters, Uyvonne Huddleston and husband Tom of Doe Run, MO, and Donna West and husband Garry of Fredericktown, MO, a sister-in-law Diane Dinkins of Ironton, MO, and many more loving nieces, nephews, family members, past students, and friends.

Gerald is preceded in rest by his parents Albert Ray and Mary Louise Dinkins, his first wife and mother to his children, Sheryl Arlene Dinkins, two brothers Clyde Dinkins and wife Virginia (Pal), and Donald Dinkins, and a sister Doris

Dinkins as a small child.

After graduating high school, he moved to St. Louis where he was employed as an iron worker working 300 feet in the air and also worked for Browning Arms Company. He served his country in the United States Army Reserve and eventually found his favorite job- connecting with people. He entered college, became a teacher and school became a second home. For more than 30 years, Gerald was an educator, coach, and counselor in the public school system. He spent 22 of those years with the Lesterville School district and finished his career at South Iron. He was a school counselor, taught history, psychology, and social studies. In addition, he coached basketball and tennis, including helping guide the 1977 Lesterville Bearcats all the way to the State Championship. His love for basketball never ceased and he was one of the South Iron Panthers' biggest fans. He was also active with other school and community programs. He was a member of the Happy Zion General Baptist Church, a Sunday School teacher and a trustee for his church. He was a Senior BETA sponsor for many years, an EMT and member of the Annapolis Ambulance Board, and a member of the Iron County Health Board. He was the owner of Dinkins Auto Sales for 42 years. When Gerald wasn't working or staying busy with his passions and hobbies, he could be found enjoying "God's creation" while adding even more beauty through his landscaping creations on "the land."

Gerald loved his family, his church, and his community. He always had time for a friend in need and was always ready to listen if you needed guidance. His smile, kindness, love, devotion, work ethic, and character will be missed by his family, but will never be forgotten. Gerald Wayne Dinkins will be missed by all who were blessed to know and love him.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2025, from the Happy Zion General Baptist Church in Annapolis, MO, beginning at 11:00 am. A Visitation for friends and family to gather together will be held on Friday, January 3, 2025, beginning at 4:00 pm and lasting until 8:00 pm from the Cole Family Funeral Home in Ironton, MO.

Interment will follow the services in the Annapolis Cemetery.

Rev. Mike Harrison and Rev. Mike Harrison, Jr. will be officiating the services.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Happy Zion General Baptist Church Youth Program.

Online condolences may be made at www.colefamilyfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Annapolis Cemetery

Annapolis, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 3. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cole Family Funeral Home
210 E Reynolds St
Ironton, MO 63650
(573) 546-0742

Celebration of Life

JAN 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Happy Zion General Baptist Church
209 N. Allen St.
Annapolis, MO 63620

Tribute Wall

ES

“ Gerald was a wonderful husband to my college roommate and BFF Sheryl Palmer Dinkins. I remember when they first fell in love at SEMO and how excited I was for my dearest friend. She was smitten and so deserved her Gerald! He was also a great father, and I'm so sad for your loss. 😞 Your memories of him and your Mom will be a blessing to you. I'm happy that Gerald had such a meaningful life and found love again after losing Sheryl. ❤️

Eleanor Sherfield - January 05, 2025 at 01:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.

January 03, 2025 at 10:01 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.



January 03, 2025 at 12:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.

January 03, 2025 at 12:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.

January 03, 2025 at 03:28 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.



January 03, 2025 at 01:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.

January 03, 2025 at 01:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.

January 02, 2025 at 06:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.



January 02, 2025 at 06:31 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.*



January 02, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ *Evelynn lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dinkins*



Evelynn - January 02, 2025 at 04:22 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.*



January 02, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.*

January 02, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ 20 files added to the album Life Tributes



Cole Family Funeral Home - January 02, 2025 at 03:01 PM



“ 43 files added to the album Life Tributes



Cole Family Funeral Home - January 02, 2025 at 11:54 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.



January 01, 2025 at 07:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.

January 01, 2025 at 07:25 PM



“ George and Lucy Reed purchased the *Treasured Lilies Spray* for the family of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.



George and Lucy Reed - December 31, 2024 at 12:04 PM



“ George and Lucy Reed planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald Wayne Dinkins.

George and Lucy Reed - December 31, 2024 at 12:04 PM



“ Christina, you and your family are in my prayers. Sending much love to you during this difficult time -Jill LeGrand

Jill LeGrand - December 31, 2024 at 09:27 AM



“ I am so very sorry to hear of your great loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. His love of basketball lives on in his children and grandchildren. I smile when I think of Gerald and his great smile. Ann LaPlant

Ann LaPlant - December 31, 2024 at 09:23 AM

ET

“ *One of the wisest men I have ever known. We had some very good discussions about things some may call just stuff. But it wasn't stuff to us. I always sought his point of view, and never even thought about questioning it because I knew he was a man of God, and was given the gift of teaching at a high and deep level. I love Mr. Dinkins and will deeply miss him. His family is in my prayers, and my door is ALWAYS open.*

Eric Thompson - December 30, 2024 at 11:12 PM

GK

“ *When your heart is empty, fill it with happy memories: Whatever is true, ... noble, ... right, ... pure, ... lovely, ... admirable ... if anything is excellent or praiseworthy ... think about such things. Philippians 4:8*

Georgia Kelley - December 30, 2024 at 07:56 PM