



Mr. Howard Lawrence Gray

August 6, 1940 - August 15, 2022

Obituary

Howard “Tuttie” Lawrence Orlando Gray, age 82, passed away on August 15, 2022 surrounded by his family at his home in Blue Springs, Missouri. He was the fourth of five children born on August 6, 1940 in Purvis, Mississippi to Robert and Emma Gray. The family moved to Kansas City, Missouri in September 1940.

Howard grew up in the Kansas City, Missouri area and graduated from Central High School in 1959. He was a gifted athlete who played football and ran track. After high school, went on to attended college at Central Missouri State University (CMSU) in Warrensburg, MO, on an athletic scholarship for both football and track. He broke multiple track records in both high school and in college. At CMSU, Howard received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1964. He continued his education and in 1966, he earned a Master of Science in Education. After completing college, Howard started working for the Kansas City Missouri School District as a special education teacher at Manual High School. He also taught social studies, civics, history, and math. He was also a football and track coach. Howard was truly dedicated and enjoyed teaching and shaping young minds that after several years of teaching, he advanced his career by becoming the Vice-Principal of Westport Junior High School and Southeast High School. He later became the Principal at Manual Career Technical High before retiring in 2004.

Howard was a lifelong educator and spent 41 years working in the Kansas City, Missouri School district. After Howard retired, he served on the Kansas City Public School Retirement System Board of Trustees until he became ill.

In 1968, Howard married Donna Brown Hughes in Kansas City, Missouri. To this union a son was born, Howard C. Gray. He was also the stepfather to Dana Brown. He later married Heloise Mason Gray. To this union they have three children, Karin, Keith, and Kristopher.

Howard accepted Christ at a young age and was a member of Centennial United Methodist Church. He served as an usher and was on the Centennial Usher Board up until he became ill. Howard was a devoted father that enjoyed spending his time lifting up his family and pushing them to do better. He enjoyed traveling, especially taking cruises with his wife, his brother, Robert, and friends. He loved going fishing with his best friend Carl Evans, watching western movies, and listening to jazz music. His favorite hobbies were coin collecting and photography.

Howard is preceded in death by his parents Robert A. and Emma L. Gray, brother Robert E. Gray, sisters Annette Brown and Peggy Wilson. Howard is survived by his wife Heloise Mason Gray of Blue Springs, Missouri; his children, Howard (Lucinda) Gray of Kansas City, Missouri; Karin Gray-Medlin of Blue Springs, Missouri; Keith Gray of Blue Springs, Missouri; Kristopher (Gina) Gray of Blue Springs, Missouri; and step-daughter Dana (Craig) Pryor of Lee's Summit, Missouri; his sister Sylvia Ricketts of Kansas City, Missouri; his grandchildren, Joshua, Carlin, Korey, Kyrsten, Miles, Kyler, Karizma, Dylan, Nya, Keenan, Kyler, Kamilla, and Kade; his nieces, nephews, his lifelong friend Dennis Whitfield, Marie Hamilton, and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral service will be held Saturday, August 27, 2022, 11:00 am Centennial

United Methodist Church. Interment: Forest Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10:30am-11:00am at the church. Service conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website.

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Mr. Howard Lawrence Gray, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)

Tribute Wall

AG

“ A Memorial Tree was planted for Mr. Howard Lawrence Gray
We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ the staff at Lawrence A. Jones
& Sons Funeral Chapels-Missouri - Lawrence A. Jones & Sons
Funeral Chapels
Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree

A Memorial Tree was planted for Mr. Howard Lawrence Gray - May 25, 2023 at 11:34 AM

SC

“ When I to manual,he help me a lot about life,I didnt care at that time
in my life,but when I come back to kc and was at the new
manual,talk,and at this now I can hear his voice rip coach love you
Sam cooks

Samuel Cooks - August 31, 2022 at 02:39 PM

CM

“ My condolences goes out to the family of Mr. Howard Gray! He was
indeed a blessing to many lives. He had a cool, calm & collected
spirit about him. He was very respected when he would enter the
school. I pray that everyone will be comforted during this time of
grief. To the family, just know that METRO TECH HIGH SCHOOL
loved Mr. Gray!

Cynthia Middlebrooks - August 31, 2022 at 12:27 PM

MH

“ Mr Gray was life changing for all of us at Metro Tech, he saved me so many times from getting suspended and so many things, he was an amazing man, mad I missed his services, you are a hero sir, rest well I could only imagine what your family is going through, they lost a great man, thank you for all youve done for me and all of your students you loved so much.

Matthew Hill - August 28, 2022 at 03:50 PM

EC

“ Mr. Gray was an awesome man. I loved talking to him daily at school. Great mentor.

Ebony Clayborn - August 27, 2022 at 05:33 PM

CT

“ As a student at Southeast High School, I knew I was protected because Mr. Gray, Mr. Bucker, Mr. Myers, & Mr. Herron were there. They showed us what excellence & professionalism looked liked. For some, they served as father figures. Mr. Gray's smile could light up a room. As an adult, I spent a lot of time with Carl Evans & was able to see their friendship & experience Mr. Gray less as a Principal & more as a mentor & friend. It was an honor to be poured into by those elders, now ancestors. Thanks to the family for sharing him with so many of us. Our lives are so much better for it

Catina Taylor - August 27, 2022 at 10:21 AM

RW

“ I remember Mr. Gray having a calmness about himself and I consider him one of my first mentors who I learned a great deal from during my senior year in highschool. Rest well Mr. Gray and my deepest condolences to his family.

Rosylin Washington - August 27, 2022 at 10:01 AM

CG

“ Every time I came to town uncle Tutleran by the home is brothers to visit methe niece from (st!)..

cindy greene - August 26, 2022 at 11:02 AM

IM

“ Gray Family,God has Promised you Peace.Please accept our most sincerest condolences on the passing of your love one.Your family are in our prayers Ida, Wayne and Sean Medlin

Ida Medlin - August 25, 2022 at 07:49 PM

LH

“ Me. GRAY YOU WHERE THE COOLEST VICE PRINCIPLE VERY PLEASANT PRAYERS TO HIS FAMILY.

LaNiece Harvey - August 25, 2022 at 02:24 PM

MB

“ Class of 91 WE U MR. GRAY

Marla Williams- Brock - August 25, 2022 at 09:36 AM

EF

“ R.I.P. Mr.Gray you were a great principal greeted me every morning with a smile and said have a great day. My prayers go out to the family he will surely be missed. Evette Finner SE C/O 87

Evette Finner - August 25, 2022 at 12:22 AM

CH

“ Rest In Peace Principal Gray. Thank you for the sacrifice of your efforts. God Bless your family during this difficult time. Your legacy will continue in the hearts of all those youve touched along your way. Sincerely, Calvin Henderson- Southeast class of 91.

Calvin Henderson - August 24, 2022 at 03:27 PM

SK

“ My.Gray was a coool Principal

Simone Kirkwood - August 24, 2022 at 10:24 AM

LW

“ REST WELL MR. GRAY U WERE GOOD 4 US! TO THE FAMILY PRAYERS N CONDOLENCES

Laquita Wynn - August 24, 2022 at 09:34 AM

JB

“ A friend and mentor at a very young age. Rest from your labor on earth my friend and teenage neighbor.

Jerome Byers - August 21, 2022 at 02:18 PM

JW

“ I grew up in the same neighborhood, 28th Wabash as Howard Gray. He was such a wonderful person. His mother, father, sisters and brother were all wonderful people. I pray for his family during this difficult time. Jo-Anna Henry Warren

Jo-Anna H. Warren - August 20, 2022 at 09:17 AM

JR

“ Ellie and I send our deepest condoences.

John Rice - August 18, 2022 at 07:57 PM

GH

“ *A candle was lit in remembrance*

Groovy Grant S. Hopkins - August 18, 2022 at 03:27 PM

JW

“ *To the family of Howard Gray, you are in my prayers. Howard was a good man. I took Statistics with him, and I survived it with his help. May he Rest In Peace.*

Joyce White - August 18, 2022 at 01:31 PM