



Mr. Gerald Earl Baumgardner

FEB 8, 1937 - NOV 17, 2024



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Funeral Service for Mr. Gerald Earl Baumgardner, 87, of Alexander City, Alabama, will be Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 1:00 pm at the Chapel of Radney Funeral Home. Minister Brendan Chance will officiate. Burial will follow in the Alexander City Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, November 21, 2024, from 12:15 pm to 12:45 pm at Radney Funeral Home.

Gerald Earl Baumgardner, a man whose passion for tennis and love for his family knew no bounds, passed away surrounded by his loved ones. Earl was a beacon of joy and determination in the lives of all who knew him. Born to the late Fitzgerald and Thelma Baumgardner, he learned the values of family and hard work from a young age. His sister, Phyllis Wroten, preceded him in death, leaving behind a legacy of love and memories.

Earl's life was one marked by accomplishment and service. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Southern California on a tennis scholarship. His skill on the tennis court was undeniable, and at the age of eighteen, he was ranked number one in tennis in the nation. His prowess led to his selection for the U.S. Davis Cup Team, an honor that spoke volumes about his dedication to the sport.

Following his achievements as a player, Earl channeled his love for tennis into coaching, shaping the lives of countless young athletes. He was a professional tennis teacher in Dallas and later served as a coach at both Tennessee and Alabama, where his influence extended beyond the court, instilling values of sportsmanship and integrity in his students.

Beyond his professional life, Earl was a devoted father and a doting grandfather. He is survived by a loving family, including his sons, Ron (Renay) Baumgardner, Earl (Charla) Baumgardner, Russ (Laura) Baumgardner, and Danny Baumgardner; his daughter, Becky (Bobby) Cleveland; and his cherished grandchildren, Benjamin, Brock and Bradley Baumgardner, Philip and Charles Caswell, Eric (Lindsey) and Dylan (Zhenya) Baumgardner, Mindy (Chad) McWhirter, Savannah, Lexi, and Sophia Baumgardner; as well as his great-grandchildren, Patrick O'Brien, Harrison, and



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Heidi Baumgardner. Earl's legacy continues to thrive through the lives of his family members, who remember him as a guiding force and a source of endless support.

Earl's interests were as varied as they were engaging. He enjoyed playing golf and bowling, but tennis remained his first love. His passion for the game was infectious, and he mentored his children and grandchildren in tennis, sharing with them the joy and discipline the sport had brought to his own life. His commitment to family and tennis was a testament to his character, a blend of friendliness, intriguing stories, and a passionate heart.

A man of faith, Earl attended the Alexander City Church of Christ, where he enjoyed fellowshiping with other members. His presence was a comfort and inspiration to the congregation, and his contributions to the community were felt by all. Earl's friendly demeanor, interesting conversations, and passionate outlook on life made him a cherished member of his community and an unforgettable presence in the lives of those he touched.

Gerald Earl Baumgardner lived a life that was full and rich, marked by the love he gave and the love he received. His memory will be cherished and kept alive in the hearts of his family, friends, and all those fortunate enough to have crossed paths with him. As we say goodbye to Earl, we celebrate a life well-lived, a game well-played, and a man well-loved.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Enhabit Hospice for the wonderful care they provided for Earl.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made to Alexander City Church of Christ, 945 Tallapoosa Street, Alexander City, AL, 35010.



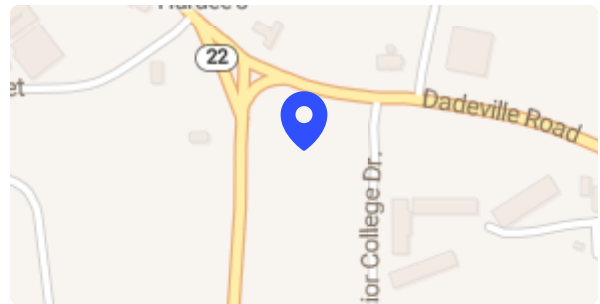
Events

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Visitation

- Thursday**, November 21, 2024
- 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM CT
- Radney Funeral Home**
1326 Dadeville Rd, Alexander City AL 35010



Funeral Service

- Thursday**, November 21, 2024
- 1:00 PM CT
- Chapel of Radney Funeral Home**
1326 Dadeville Rd, Alexander City AL 35010



Cemetery Details

- Alexander City Cemetery**
Alexander City AL 35010





Tribute Wall

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Richard E Johnston posted:

Earl the Pearl --Worked for him many years at Russell Tennis Center. One of the nicest people I have ever met also bowled in Russell bowling league with Jimmy Bradshaw and Rickey Milam. Great FUN times

November 20 at 7:37 AM



Kathy Blanks posted:

Many wonderful memories of us all on bowling trips. Prayers for the family as I remember the class and compassion demonstrated by Earl. Kathy Blanks

November 19 at 9:28 AM



Patricia C. sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Baumgardner family.



November 19 at 7:01 AM



Patricia C. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gerald.



November 19 at 7:01 AM



Jerry O'Neil posted:

I have so many fond memories of Earl from bowling and golf. As a bowler, he was always joyful and cheerful, having fun with a huge smile on his face. Played many rounds of golf with him, and if he taught me anything, it was to just enjoy the game. We have surely missed Mr Earl at the lanes, and especially myself on the golf course. You might be gone from this earth, but your memories will last forever! Jerry O'Neil

November 19 at 6:29 AM



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Anonymous sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the Baumgardner family.

November 19 at 5:47 AM



Wayne And Mary Forbus lit a candle in honor of Gerald.

We have known Earl for many years. He was always friendly and smiling. Condolences to his family.

November 19 at 5:05 AM



Kate Davis posted:

Becky,I was saddened to read of your Dad's death. I am thinking of you and yours.Much love,Kate Scroggins Davis

November 18 at 5:54 PM



Charlie Owens posted:

Earl was my tennis coach for several years at the Tuscaloosa Racquet Club. He was a great player, coach, and person! I chose tennis as a profession to be like him! God bless him and his family and friends 🙏🙏❤️

November 18 at 5:05 PM



Melissa (Mcmorrough) Nelson And Family sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Baumgardner family.

November 18 at 3:50 PM



Udora Berry lit a candle in honor of Gerald.

November 18 at 9:27 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gerald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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