



Darrell Gray Strong

October 30, 1934 - July 7, 2016

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, the family requests donations be made to the First Baptist Church Friendship House, 801 W. Ave D, Garland , TX 75040 .

Darrell Gray Strong, aged 81, was born October 30, 1934 to Roy and Leta Estelle Strong in a farm house five miles north of Marshall , Texas . He passed from this life to be with his Lord and Savior on July 7th, 2016.

Darrell was the fourth of seven Strong siblings, four boys and three girls. He attended North Texas State University where he received a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music Education degree. Darrell and his sisters all taught school following graduation. After moving to Garland , he taught band at the middle school level until he retired. The majority of his time was at Jackson Middle School . He loved teaching kids the joy of music.

Darrell and Geraldine were married on February 11, 1956. They moved to Garland , TX in June of 1968 where they became very active members of the First Baptist Church of Garland. Darrell has always been involved in church ministries in one form or another. He has been Deacon, taught Royal Ambassadors (RAs), chaperoned camping trips, driven the school bus for the Child Development Center (CDC), worked on audio-visuals, supported the Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) leaders, sang in the choir, volunteered for mission trips, visited members in the hospital, taught bible study at Mayberry,

and much more. Following retirement, his calendar quickly filled with the many ministries he loved.

Darrell was a people person and could find a friend anywhere he went. He loved helping people and could be found mowing friends and neighbor's yards, cleaning out gutters, helping with repairs, and many other helpful jobs.

His favorite pastime, other than talking with people, was taking care of his garden and his wildlife. He loved flowers and was constantly adding to his beautiful garden. He even planted redbud trees and iris in the open space between his backyard and the creek. He added an iron fence to the back yard so he could see all the way to the creek and enjoy the blooms in the spring. All the neighborhood squirrels and birds knew where they could get a meal. He made sure his feeders were always filled so none went hungry. He loved to watch the wildlife.

Darrell loved reading and studying the bible. He was constantly researching bible passages and reading books to learn more so he could share with others.

Darrell was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Leta Strong, two of his brothers, Jimmy Royce (known as Sonny) and George Sherwood (known as GS), and his brothers-in-law Wayland Jones, Gordon Pierce, and Murray Jones.

He is survived by his wife, Geraldine Strong, his children Mike Strong and his wife Sheri, Jerri Strong Cozart and her husband Steve, and Donna Reeves , his brother Hillard Strong and his wife Sarah Joe, his sisters Maureen Jones, Ina Marie Pierce, and Betty Alexander and her husband Carnes, and his sisters-in-law Maxlene Strong and Ruth Strong. He is also survived by his grandchildren Chris Strong, Kelley Strong Gomez and her husband Jose,

Rebecca Reeves, Rachel Reeves, and Reagan Alcorn and her husband Chris, his great-grandchild Braden Alcorn, his Cuban family, Tania Fernandez, Vanessa, Alex and Lincoln Knagg, and Natalie, Rusty, and Sayla Simpson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Cemetery Details

Restland Memorial Park

13005 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, TX 75243

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 9. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Garland
801 West Avenue D
Garland, TX 75040

Funeral Service

JUL 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Garland
801 West Avenue D
Garland, TX 75040

Tribute Wall

JF

“ I was saddened to learn of your passing. Thank you for all the fond memories at Jackson.

Philippians 1:21

Jonathan Fogle - July 08, 2022 at 01:38 PM

DW

“ When anyone ever asked who was your all-time favorite teacher, from kindergarten to grad school, my answer was always easy. Mr. Strong infused into me a love of music that I have carried all my life. He was a man you never wanted to let down. He influenced me and thousands of other kids. Teacher, mentor, friend. The kind of man everyone should have touch their lives at least once. God bless Darrell G, Strong.

Doug Williamson - August 20, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ *Mr. Strong was my band director back at Jackson Middle School in Garland, TX from 1980-1983. I have thought of him often and never knew his whereabouts until just now. I recognize his picture on here. At Jackson Middle School, I got paddled by him, only once. Once was enough to never want to get my rear warmed up again! LOL He paddled hard and I really felt it. So I never shot another spit-wad in band class again after that!*

In some of his statements to us, the band, I can state several but here is one:

"If you took it and didn't pay for it, then you stole it." He would sometimes reminisce about his childhood memories. With that, he passed-on to us a part of American culture. I always thought of him likened as

a "50's style Rock-n-Roll doo-wap." LOLOL

Now, I am saddened to read that he passed away. I wish I was able to have visited with him before he died.

I am sorry for the loss to his family, and still saddened to find out that my old band director is gone. I really did respect him.

C.F. Larsen - July 01, 2019 at 12:52 AM



“ *Mr. Strong had a tremendous influence on my early life. He was always very supportive and went out of his way to help all the kids. I ran into him on a few occasions, years after graduating high school. Each time he remembered me by name, and we would have some very nice conversations. Not only was he a great teacher that cared greatly about his students, he was a great man. I had not crossed paths with him in several years, but have thought of him often... Our thoughts are with the family..*

Scott Ohman - July 10, 2016 at 01:52 PM

JF

“ *Mr Strong made a big impact on my son's life when he was growing up. Guy was in RA's and loved all the camping trips they all went on. He thought a lot of Mr Strong. So sorry to hear of his passing.* ”



Julia Faulkner - July 09, 2016 at 01:31 PM

DW

“ *Doris Miller Wilde lit a candle in memory of Darrell Gray Strong* ”



Doris Miller Wilde - July 09, 2016 at 11:33 AM

SB

“ *Such great memories. He always went that extra mile.* ”

Sammy Branam. - July 09, 2016 at 11:09 AM

TB

“ *Mr. Strong taught me how to play the flute at Jackson Middle School. He encouraged me to be my best. He was a good man.* ”

Tammy Borowski-Rivers - July 09, 2016 at 10:14 AM

LH

“ Every Monday and Tuesday while attending BSF I was greeted by Darrell. It has been a pleasure to serve our Lord along side such a humble loving man. I will look forward to seeing him in paradise one day. God is good and he smiles with this example of his Son's love. Praying for HIS peace for family and friends. I am unable to attend the service, but will be praying and enjoy the memory of this fine follower of Jesus!

Lisa Hackbarth - July 09, 2016 at 07:56 AM

RT

“ What a great man and friend! We have countless memories from days in Hutchins, RA adventures, annual couples anniversary dining, and church library work. Geraldine and Darrell were God's ideal couple. We love you.

Randall and Wanda Tuley - July 09, 2016 at 07:23 AM

LA

“ Mr. Strong instilled in me the great love of playing music. Some of my foundest memories were from his band hall. Prayers for his family and friends.



Laura Gafford Alonso - July 09, 2016 at 06:41 AM

CL

“ Mr Strong was my middle school band director. The best band director ever, I have never forgotten him. Rest in peace Mr Strong, I will see you again one day! :-)
Clare

clare - July 09, 2016 at 01:49 AM

DP

“ Dear Strong family,

We love you so very much, You are so precious. Darrell is now sharing his precious smile throughout heaven. Just a dear, dear man. Each of you are so dear.

Deborah Popnoe - July 09, 2016 at 12:14 AM

DH

“ *I cannot say enough wonderful things about my beloved, very first band director! He was fun loving, kind, so very patient, expected us to be "young ladies and gentlemen", encouraging, fatherly, a great listener, extended mercy and grace-yet was firm, and an inspirational Christian example to we young teens---at an age when we all needed his type of influence in our lives. He so graciously opened the Band Hall for a Christian teen meeting each week and many band kids attended. I taught with and for him a few years in my adult life, and after his retirement, have been blessed to run into him in hospitals where he was bringing comfort to others. I have been moved just reading others' heartfelt tributes of how he continually served our Lord all his days. I want to be like him. God's most enveloping comfort and peace to all his family all the times you need it. Thank you for sharing him with a bunch of band kids! Most sincerely, Diane Kayser Herrmann JJH Band '71-'74*

Diane Herrmann - July 08, 2016 at 10:18 PM

NB

“ *Mrs. Strong & family,
I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that I love & respect Mr. Strong! I have never known a more Godly man! Prayers for all of you in your time of sadness.
I'm sorry I cannot be there for his service, I am in Waco caring for my mom.*

Natalie Beach

natalie beach - July 08, 2016 at 10:04 PM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Darrell Gray Strong.*



July 08, 2016 at 09:22 PM



“ *Like Vickie, he was my band director, actually talked me into playing the clarinet!! Originally I wanted to play the flute, so glad he changed my mind. I have often wondered how he was...my heartfelt prayers are with his family, Cheryl Snye Heflin*

Cheryl Heflin - July 08, 2016 at 08:02 PM



“ *I felt the love of Jesus every time I saw Darrell. He blessed us all with his beautiful heart. God bless you all during this hard hard time. I know you rejoice that he is at the Fathers feet...and I know heaven rejoiced as he entered. Patti Scotch*

Patti Scotch - July 08, 2016 at 07:55 PM

VR

“ *Mr. Strong was my junior high school band director at Jackson Jr High School. Favorite memories... The first time I tried playing my trumpet... Don't know how he stood the awful noise. The Christmas concerts we did for the school, Sandy Lake band contest and swimming in that humongous pool they used to have, playing slap jack in the band hall before and after school. He had a lot of patience with us, most of the time.. A few flying batons. You were special to us and me. Rest in piece. Vickie Wolfe Rhoades*

Vickie Wolfe Rhoades - July 08, 2016 at 07:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darrell Gray Strong.*



July 08, 2016 at 05:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darrell Gray Strong.*



July 08, 2016 at 04:06 PM



“ *Island Memories Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Darrell Gray Strong.*



July 08, 2016 at 01:23 PM