



## Richard Gayle Neal Sr.

January 25, 1948 - September 30, 2016

Richard Gayle Neal Sr.

Gayle, age 68, passed away on Friday, September 30, 2016 at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He was a native of Albany, LA and a resident of Pumpkin Center. Gayle graduated from Acadia Baptist Academy High School and later went on to attend and graduate from Louisiana College and Southeastern Louisiana University. He was a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. Gayle led a passionate career as a basketball coach and teacher of Livingston Parish as well as the Assistant Dean of Continuing Education at SLU, Assistant Superintendent of LA State Department of Education, and Juvenile Officer for the 21st Judicial District. He was a member of many organizations such as the National Association of Basketball Coaches, Fellowship of Christian Athletics, Past President of the Alumni Association, and Past Master of Albany Masonic Lodge. Gayle was known for being an avid basketball fan and has attended the NCAA Final 4 every year since 1972. He was a hardworking, loving, and caring man who greatly loved his children and grandchildren, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Gayle is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Cynthia Forrest Neal; daughter, Missi Neal Sturdivant and husband Shane; sons, Ricky Neal, Brad Neal and wife Laura; sisters, Irma Booth, Charlene Redmond; brother, Erlo

Neal and wife Ailene; and grandchildren, Sidni and Allie Sturdivant.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Lizzy Neal; sister, Iris Bishop.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the visitation at First Baptist Church of Ponchatoula, on Monday, October 3, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 2:00 p.m. Dr. David Cranford and Rev. Dane Blakenship will officiate and interment will follow in Jerusalem Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Gayle Neal Scholarship at Southeastern Foundation, SLU 10703 Hammond, LA 70402 in honor of Mr. Gayle.

# Cemetery Details

## Jerusalem Baptist Church Cemetery

11109 Jerusalem Church Rd.  
Hammond, LA 70403

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 3. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Ponchatoula  
325 E Pine St.  
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

## Funeral Service

OCT 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Ponchatoula  
325 E Pine St.  
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ Coach Neal was Amazing! He was my history teacher. I am thankful for my time in Maurepas and to all of the teachers in the 70's. Class of 78 May His family have peace.

tina Starling - November 01, 2017 at 10:35 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Gayle Neal Sr..



October 06, 2016 at 12:08 AM

IW

“ Another coaching legend from Livingston Parish has sadly passed away. 'Coach' Neal in my first years in Livingston Parish your coaching style and knowledge were an inspiration to me. My thoughts and prayers to Cindy and family.  
Irvin West

Irvin West - October 05, 2016 at 05:06 PM

AP

“ I don't know coach Neal but he did coach my Daddy and my uncles I'm basketball

Ashley Patterson - October 03, 2016 at 08:46 PM

GZ

“ *Gayle was the most genuine person I have ever had the honor to meet. Our friendship grew through many hours on the golf course. His positive attitude and love of family and friends was infectious. Golf will never be the same. The world has lost a great man and heaven has gained one. Rest in peace brother.*

*Gus*

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**Gus Zieske** - October 03, 2016 at 08:16 AM

DM

“ *When I arrived in Louisiana to teach at Southeastern La. University way back in 1979 one of the first people I met was Coach Neal. He became a good friend immediately. In fact, he invited me to speak at his high schools athletic banquet that same year. Knowing him was like you knew him all your life. His graciousness, smile, and caring personality has always guided in my own journey on this planet. I know he has gone to a better place and this gives comfort to all that new him! Thanks for who you were....Mark Maneval*

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**Dr. Mark Maneval** - October 02, 2016 at 07:42 PM

GA

“ *So sorry for the loss of a great guy and friend. He will truly be missed by many. And our prayers are with you.*

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**Gordon Anderson** - October 02, 2016 at 04:47 PM

DL

“ *Prayers for your family.  
Stormy & Denise Lee*

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**Denise Lee** - October 02, 2016 at 02:31 PM

KD

“ I met "Gabby" while we were both students at Louisiana College and felt immediately like we had known each other all of our lives. Gayle Neal, a most trustworthy, dependable friend. Gabby will be missed and he will never be replaced.

Ken DeWeese - October 02, 2016 at 01:59 PM

PC

“ Cindy and family, I am so very sad over the loss of Coach. What a kind and gentle soul who will be greatly missed by all of us who loved him. I know he is in a better place with lots of rosa wine, sausage , punkin bread and clean sheets., hope he saves some for us Cindy. What great memories we have to hold dear . Know his legacy lives forever thru your children and in our hearts always. May God grant all of you peace and strength as you go thru this most difficult time. My prayers and love to all of you.  
Pam "Odie" Crimmins

pam cantrell crimmins - October 02, 2016 at 12:57 PM

BE

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your husband, Cindy, and your brother, Charlene. My prayers for both of you and all of your families. May God's Love comfort each of you, especially the next several days and in the days ahead.



Barbara Rottmann Ergle - October 02, 2016 at 10:53 AM

BE

Cindy, since it has been so long (I was Barbara Rottmann from PHS.).

Barbara Rottmann Ergle - October 02, 2016 at 10:58 AM

NF

“ NATHAN FOSTER, TROY GLORIOSO, VIRGINIA & ALEX SHARP & FAMILIES purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard Gayle Neal Sr..



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**NATHAN FOSTER, TROY GLORIOSO, VIRGINIA & ALEX SHARP & FAMILIES** - October 01, 2016 at 08:31 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Gayle Neal Sr..



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October 01, 2016 at 06:18 PM

WJ

“ Coach,  
I will truly miss you. You and Cindy gave Karen and I tours of Maurepas, excellent seafood restaurants, and introduction to your many, many friends. It seemed like everyone knew The Coach and loved him. In my life I have had bad friends, just friends, and good friends. You, Gayle Neal, rank among the great friends I have been fortunate to have.

Coach, save a court side seat for me. 😭

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**william Moran Jr.** - October 01, 2016 at 03:41 PM