



Howard Gray Little

July 28, 1947 - February 19, 2016

Howard Little

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“Every day has been the best day of my life. Life is a magnificent experience.”

- Howard Little

Howard Gray Little is a character. The present tense is required because once a character, always a character. He passionately and forever loved his beautiful wife of 45 years, Janice, because she is the kindest person he knows and she dedicates herself to her family every day. He loves his children, Leigh Ann and Andy, more than anything in the universe because they are gloriously, perfectly themselves. He considers being a husband and father a full-time job. He expanded his heart with the addition of a daughter-in-law, Lindsay, and a son-in-law, Phillip. This addition eventually expanded to include four grandchildren, Kennedi, Drew, Reagan, and Riley who created the twinkle always shining in his eyes. He connected in a unique way with everyone he met that made them feel special. The greatest memories are from the lives we share, the love we have, and the household activities that we call tradition.

Ever since he was born in Memphis, Tennessee, Howard’s life has included generous ingredients of love, joy, and laughter. In his words, “It rocked his world.” Howard has enjoyed being a student of life. He attended Central High School in Muskogee and was a proud member of the Class of ’65. His senior year he even vied for the title of Central’s ugliest senior boy; a title he was

glad he didn't win. While there he made lifelong friendships that he cherished every day of his life. He went on to attend Northeastern State University for his Bachelors of Accounting degree. After college in 1969, he served in the United States Army Reserves. Howard spent his professional career as an accountant in the oil industry with Sun Oil. As a result, he was transferred to Texas several times and Louisiana, allowing him the opportunity to create amazing friendships with neighbors and co-workers. After retiring in 1984, he volunteered for the IRS VITA program preparing tax returns at the library. He also volunteered at Muskogee Regional Medical Center taking pictures of the babies, driving people from their cars to the door, calling people to get a survey of their stay, and playing the doctor in "Let's Play Hospital" program for kids.

Gratitude encompasses Howard. He felt positively grateful for his blessed, happy life; for his adored and astonishing wife, children, and grandchildren; for his mother Jerry and late father Jack; for his brother Jack Little and late sister-in-law Marilyn, for his mother-in-law Earlene Coplan and late father-in-law Evertt, for his brother and sister-in-law, Ron and Phyllis Coplan, for his nieces Sherry, Katie, and Emma; for his nephews Shawn, John, Will, Jon and TO, his seven great nieces and nephews, for his extended family; for Jesus and his First Baptist Church family, for his heart donor; for his camera that captures the things he loves, for the Little hall of fame displayed in the hallway, for OU football, for his 2hearts and his license plate with those words, for his yellow truck that draws attention to organ donation, the vulnerability and pride of being a parent and grandparent, for watching his flowers grow, for the feel of the wind on the sailboat, opportunities to love, grow, fail, struggle, succeed, reflect, share, and laugh; for life. As joy comes from gratitude, Howard was unabashedly joyful.

On 10-10-86, a miracle happened. Howard was given a second chance on life when he received a new heart. The gift had such magnitude for our family that we all try to share our insights as to how God has blessed us. Howard had an

enormous, incredible sense of gratitude and he celebrated his miracles every day. Annually at Christmas, he put up a heart light display in the backyard. He frequently said, "There is something to be said for illuminating an area and adding a little joy and perhaps laughter with a coating of love. It is one of the ways we celebrate the gift of life and you have to see the heart lights to get the full impact." Thoughts of people like you always warmed his heart. Those wishing to make a contribution to the world in Howard's honor and memory, make your wishes about organ donation known. Check the form when you renew your driver's license, tell your family. Organ donations save lives - one saved his!

In lieu of sorrow, express your love. Somewhere deep inside you is where love starts. Smile when the people you cherish enter a room. Let them see your eyes light up. Again and again. And again.

Until we meet again, from the joy in our life to the joy in your life. May every day be the best day of your life.

There will be a visitation from 5:30pm-7:30pm on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at Cornerstone Funeral Home.

A celebration of Howard's life will be held at 1:00 PM, Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at First Baptist Church with Rev. Corey Seitz officiating. Interment will follow at Greenhill Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Greenhill Cemetery

1500 N. York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 23. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Family Visitation

FEB 23. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Service

FEB 24. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Muskogee
111 S. 7th Street
Muskogee, OK 74401

Tribute Wall



“ *Howard Gray Little*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Janice and family, It has been years since we saw you in your home with my family. Judy always spoke highly of Howard. I know you have had a good life together. May your memories keep you strong.*
Ken Webb

Kenneth Webb - February 28, 2016 at 06:31 PM



“ *Marsha Herrick(Maikoski) sent a virtual gift in memory of Howard Gray Little*



Marsha Herrick(Maikoski) - February 24, 2016 at 05:14 PM



I always remember him as being a sweet guy, with a great smile

Marsha Herrick(Maikoski) - February 24, 2016 at 05:15 PM



“ *Lit a candle in memory of Howard Little* 🍷



Julie Aich - February 23, 2016 at 08:35 PM

JR

“ *Our prayers are with your family. We remember Howard for his great kindness and his love for his children.*
Calvin and Joyce Rock

joyce rock - February 23, 2016 at 08:33 PM



“ *Kim Jackson Hammer lit a candle in memory of Howard Gray Little*



Kim Jackson Hammer - February 23, 2016 at 07:42 PM

KJ

“ *We remember going to the airport to see Howard off as he left on his way to get his heart transplant. So thrilled he got such a gift that gave him so many extra years of life. He will be missed. A wonderful person who was kind to all.*

Thinking of the family during this time,

Kenny & Kathy Jackson

kathy Jackson - February 23, 2016 at 06:04 PM



“ 117 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - February 23, 2016 at 03:11 PM

JK

“ *Howard was our younger cousin. Whenever our families visited each other, we could always count on laughter being a major part of the day. As time passed his personality didn't change, laughter was part of who he was. Loved his photos that took him to places that only his imagination could conjure up.*
Love from your California cousins, Beverly, Peggy Bob Joyce and John

Joyce krcmarik - February 23, 2016 at 01:05 PM

CH

“ *Goodbye Howard...fellow CSH 1965 Classmate. Connie Hobbs!*

connie Hobbs - February 23, 2016 at 12:59 PM

MD

“ We have known Howard Little for more than 30 years and we remember him being gifted with a healthy heart! He is so kind and friendly to everyone he comes in contact with! Thank you Howard for knowing us and being a friend! We will see you soon!

Mark and Johnna Downing

Mark and Johnna Downing - February 23, 2016 at 10:42 AM



KQ

“ Kris Quesenberry lit a candle in memory of Howard Gray Little

Kris Quesenberry - February 23, 2016 at 08:56 AM



KQ

I always looked forward to seeing Howard. Such a positive man. He will be missed.

Kris Quesenberry - February 23, 2016 at 08:58 AM

LG

“ Le Greuel lit a candle in memory of Howard Gray Little

Le Greuel - February 23, 2016 at 12:05 AM



LG

“ *It's with heartfelt sentiment that we express our condolences to Janice and the family. We are so sorry to hear the passing of Howard. He was an inspiration to many of us among heart transplants with his love of life, gratitude, sense of humor and cheerful spirit. He will be missed by all those who knew him. Our prayers are with you and your loved ones. May God embrace you and comfort you during this difficult time. Love,*
Carl and Le Greuel

Le Greuel - February 23, 2016 at 12:04 AM

PA

“ *Patty lit a candle in memory of Howard Gray Little*



patty - February 22, 2016 at 09:58 PM

PA

Thanks for you great friendship and amazing attitude of gratitude. We are watching your star.

patty - February 22, 2016 at 10:02 PM

MS

“ *Melanie Staner lit a candle in memory of Howard Gray Little*



melanie staner - February 22, 2016 at 04:39 PM

JW

“ I feel fortunate that I got to spend time with Howard at the Muskogee Central High 50th reunion this past summer. Such a fine, wonderful caring man. Rest in Peace Howard.
Jeff Webb

jeff webb - February 22, 2016 at 03:46 PM

KS

“ Remember him well on his visits to see the cardiologist. He was always so thankful for this life and was a spokesman for transplant. HE will be missed. Karen Scott, Nurse practitioner.



Karen Scott - February 22, 2016 at 02:31 PM

JY

“ Jake York lit a candle in memory of Howard Gray Little



Jake York - February 22, 2016 at 08:51 AM

GP

“ Gene And Christy Polston lit a candle in memory of Howard Gray Little



Gene and Christy Polston - February 22, 2016 at 08:51 AM

CC

“ *So very sorry for your loss. Howard was so a good, kind, loving man* ”



Carol Clutter - February 22, 2016 at 08:27 AM