



George Terry Chapman

July 29, 1945 - May 13, 2022

George Terry Chapman (Terry), 76, of Fairburn passed away May 13, 2022. He was born in Crawfordville, GA to the late Helen Steed and Walter Chapman. After graduating from Alexander Stephens Institute in 1963, he continued his studies at Georgia Tech before being drafted into the Army Corps of Engineers, advancing to the rank of first lieutenant. He served from 1966-1969, spending the entirety of 1967 in Vietnam. Upon his return, he married his high school sweetheart, Jo Ann Pittman, whom he remained devoted to until her untimely passing in 2008. He returned to Georgia Tech, graduating in 1972 with a degree in Civil Engineering and later graduated from Georgia State University with a Master of Business Administration in 1985. He spent decades planning roads, drainage systems, and sewers throughout the metro Atlanta area, often joking with friends and strangers alike that he was #1 in #2.

It wasn't until he retired, however, that Terry went to work. For years he'd been a dedicated Habitat for Humanity volunteer. That passion kicked into overdrive as he became a lynchpin volunteer for the Southern Crescent chapter of Habitat for Humanity, driving a nail in at least 155 Habitat homes (likely more). He founded the Gray Ghosts, a collective of retired men committed to the same cause of helping build people places to live. Later, that same passion for helping those in need of housing shifted to Christian City where he continued his mission of sheltering society's most vulnerable.

When he wasn't building someone else's house, you'd find him at his, in his backyard wood shop. He loved just about everything about woodworking—turning bowls, furniture making, fly rod crafting, you name it. He was a man of many hobbies—from bee keeping and model making to pie baking and gingerbread house decorating. He was a voracious reader, generous in a thousand hidden ways, and cherished his friends. In retirement, after building countless homes for others, he formally got his General Contracting license and started Gingercraft with dear friend Cara Welch—a home building enterprise. He was so proud of what they accomplished together.

Terry was dependable, whether for hard work or dumb jokes. He loved his son, his wife, taking care of people, eating at Judy's in Fairburn, that his picture was in the original Varsity downtown, and Kim. And he was so grateful for all those who cared for him during his illness, particularly Nelanie and Olivia McAfee, who he loved deeply.

He is survived by his son, The Reverend Dr. Jonathan Chapman and his husband Greg, of Killingly, Connecticut; niece Nelanie and great niece Olivia; brother, Bill Chapman, his wife Nancy, their daughter Lendy and granddaughter Sadie of Florida. He was predeceased by his wife, Jo Ann Pittman Chapman; sisters Jane Chapman of Crawfordville and Kathryn Chapman of Louisville, Kentucky.

Services will be held at Christian City's Children's Village (7345 Red Oak Road, Union City) at 10am on June 21, 2022 with a luncheon to follow for all in attendance. Interment with military honors will take place the same day at 4pm at Raytown United Methodist Church, 5011 Lower Mill Road, Crawfordville, GA. Memorial donations can be made to Christian City Development Office, 7345 Red Oak Rd, Union City, GA 30291, or online at christiancity.org/give/donate-now

Cemetery Details

Raytown United Methodist Church Cemetery

5011 Lower Mill Rd
Crawfordville, GA

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 21. 10:00 AM (ET)

Christian City Children's Village Pavilion
Union City, GA 30291

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of George Terry Chapman.*



June 19, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ *The first time I met Terry was when he interviewed me for a job back in 1990. He became a boss a week later but I never looked at him as my boss but as a good friend. We were both country boys so we had a lot in common. On a daily basis we would solve the problems of the world only to find out the next day that no one was listening. Over a 20 year period shared each other's heartaches, headaches and blessings. Terry was always the truest of friends.*

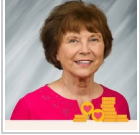
Jon was relatively the same age as my kids so we watched them more or less grow up together. Every day after dropping Jon off at school he would share what a great time they had that morning. We laughed for weeks about the time one of them, he never said who, spilt a Frosty down the AC vent of his truck.

Terry had more integrity than anyone I've ever met. He took pride in his accomplishments and would never, ever allow himself to be swayed by the opinions of others.

I've said it before that I am a much better person from having known him. A true fiend of mine and a friend to his community, you will be missed.

*Dudley Freeman
Locust Grove, Ga.*

Dudley Freeman - May 17, 2022 at 07:18 PM



“ *The picture of Terry in his workshop is the Terry we all knew and loved. Terry once told me that he and Jo Ann had been sweethearts since the second grade in Crawfordville, GA. Jo Ann left this world for her permanent home in 2008. That has been a long time ago and I can just hear her saying to Terry last Friday, "What took you so long?" They were always meant to be together and now they are.*



I cannot think of two people that have contributed more to this world than Jo Ann and Terry. Jo Ann positively influenced so many young people through her teaching. And how many people have benefitted from Terry's service to our country and his building and woodworking talent? For many years it was just the two of them, and then God sent them their cherished son Jonathan, who in his own rite is still making this world a better place by spreading the Gospel found in The Good Book. The world really is a better place because they lived. I am glad that they came our way and was fortunate to call them friends.

Matthew 25:23

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Margaret Kilgore - May 17, 2022 at 07:17 PM

DR

“ Terry was one of the kindest people I know. Only one kinder was Joanne. His love for her and Jon was always present. I've known Terry since working on a Habitat house in Fairburn in the 90's. We shared many a Saturdays breakfasts over the years at Judy's before our days work started. He would come to the site each morning with a smile and warm welcome for all volunteers. We would eat lunch and he would show me his newest hammer and tell me it was the best one he ever used. He always had a new tool to talk about or just kept talking about that California Framing hammer. He received joy and brought it to others showing them how to do simple and complicated tasks. Watching the expression on those he helped was magical when they had their "ah ha" moment. He was always quick with a quip that would bring a smile to all. He helped keep me grounded during the builds in dealing with the many volunteers that helped. It was a special day when Joanne and Jon would come out and have lunch with us. Seeing the happiness in their family was refreshing and heartwarming. It was great watching Jon grow up over the years and become the special person he is. I am comforted knowing Terry is now with our Joanne and our Lord watching over us. I called him my friend for years and will miss him greatly. I pray for peace for all that will be missing him.....

David Robinson - May 17, 2022 at 11:05 AM



“ Not sure where to start. I worked for Terry for 10+ years in Stockbridge and McDonough, Ga. He was hands down the best boss I've ever had. If you know Terry at all, you know what a great storyteller he was. I have so many memories of him in my memory bank and most of those memories include some of his corny lines.....

"There ain't but one show business"

"All battles were fought at the corner of 4 maps"

There's many more. I usually think about Terry at least once a day while I'm at work when I remember one of his lines and smile.

Terry had 3 loves.....JoAnn, Jonathan and helping others.

When my sister Leslie died very suddenly in 2000, I was the first person in the family that was notified and it was very early in the morning on a Tuesday. My mother was already at work and someone needed to let her know her daughter died. I was in no shape to do it so Terry got in his car and drove to my mother's office and told her. In 2016 when my mother passed away very suddenly, he came to her funeral. I was so happy to see him and I will never forget those two things.

Terry will always be in that circle of my friends who are as close as family members. I'm thankful I have so many memories of him.

Lorraine Canada - May 16, 2022 at 09:44 AM

SM

“ I offer my sincere sympathy to Terry’s family at this time of loss.

We worked together 25 years ago in McDonough, Georgia at CDE [Conceptual Design Engineering]. He was the consummate professional. I honestly can’t say enough good things about him. He was just a great guy, always upbeat and positive, and a mentor to his employees.

It should be noted that during his career Terry was a registered land surveyor [R.L.S.] here in Georgia as well as a licensed, professional engineer [P.E.].

Several years ago, I ran into Terry at Judy’s restaurant in Fairburn [his obituary notice mentions Judy’s, by the way]. We had a good conversation that afternoon and I remember mentioning that I had been a loyal customer since 1986 when they were in Peachtree City. Some of you “old timers” may remember Judy & Bubba Schell, the original owners of the restaurant.

*Scott MacLean
Forest Park, Georgia*

Scott MacLean - May 15, 2022 at 04:27 PM

BB

“ Jonathan, you are in our thoughts and certainly in our prayers at this difficult time of your dad’s passing. We hold so many fond memories of him and your sweet mama. We will always treasure his friendship, wisdom and humor. His most recent handiwork for us was he planed a farm table which has been in our family for well over a 100 years and now sits in our breakfast room. Also, he created a beautiful bowl from a walnut tree that stood in the yard of my mother’s and grandparents’s front yard in Heard County. So he holds a special memory in our home. So thankful to have had him as a friend. God bless you and your family.

Barbara and Charlie Biggs - May 15, 2022 at 08:01 AM

NM

He told me all about the bowl from the walnut tree and the table. It brought him lots of joy to work in those for you.

Nelanie McAfee - May 15, 2022 at 09:03 PM

AS

“ Dearest Jonathan and Greg, sending you love with hugs and prayers at the passing of your father. Love you both Anthony Smith from Chatham Ontario Canada



Anthony Smith - May 14, 2022 at 10:34 PM

BF

“ He came from a good family. His sister Jane was my suite mate at GSCW and I knew his sister Katherine from Southern Seminary. Prayers for the family!

Betty Jeanes Fields - May 14, 2022 at 06:06 PM