



Russell "Dusty" Gillham

August 9, 1955 - May 16, 2017

Mr. Russell "Dusty" Gillham, age 61, of McDonough, GA passed away Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Dusty was a published song writer, an Eagle Scout and a graduate of the University of Georgia. He is preceded in death by his mother, Margaret Gillham. He is survived by his wife, Chris Gillham; father, Bob Gillham; brother, Scott Gillham and his wife Debbie of Newnan, GA; sister, Laura Hughes and her husband Keith of Snellville, GA; nephews, Cody Post, Justin Gillham and Carson Post. A funeral service will be held Saturday, May 20, 2017 at 11 o'clock at the chapel of Parrott Funeral Home with Pastor Eric Sloth officiating. Interment will follow at Holly Hill Memorial Park. Those wishing may sign the online guestbook at www.parrottfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Russell to support lung cancer research: Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University c/o Office of Gift Records 1762 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30322. The family will receive friends Saturday morning from 10:00 until the time of service at Parrott Funeral home and Crematory, 770-964-4800. Following the burial there will be a celebration of life at Hammers located at 898 Virginia Avenue in Hapeville, GA 30354.

Cemetery Details

Holly Hill Memorial Park

359 W. Broad Street
Fairburn, GA 30213

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Parrott Funeral Home & Crematory
8355 Senoia Road
Fairburn, GA 30213
(770) 964-4800
info@parrottfuneralhome.com
<https://www.parrottfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

Parrott Funeral Home & Crematory
8355 Senoia Road
Fairburn, GA 30213
(770) 964-4800
info@parrottfuneralhome.com
<https://www.parrottfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

GG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gary Gillikin - September 16, 2024 at 02:26 PM

GG

UGA/Delta Chi Brotherhood. Miss you "Dusty".

Gary Gillikin - September 16, 2024 at 02:28 PM

GG

“ *Russell W 'Dusty' Gillham, UGA/Delta Chi initiate 11/17/1973 RIP Brother Gillham.*



Gary Gillikin - September 16, 2024 at 01:24 PM

RG

“ *Missing you Dusty! Thinking of all the good times at our High School reunions at the Twilight, (Which you arranged for us)....Missing that too.....Just wanted you to know you may be gone but you will never be forgotten.....Sending love to your dad and brother.*

Rita (Lacey) Goode - February 08, 2019 at 08:42 PM

EF

“ Chris,
Rick and I were so shocked to learn of Dusty's death. I remember when you ad Dusty got married and how much he loved you. You had picked some bedding for your bedroom that most men would have found too feminine. Dusty's response: " I don't care how she decorates it, as long as she's in my bed at night!"
We had lots of fun with the old SmithKline gang and met up again recently at Doug's funeral. Never would have expected this less than 2 years later.
Stay stong Chris. I hope we can get together sometime soon.

You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers,
Evelyn and Rick Fuller

Evelyn Fuller - May 20, 2017 at 08:01 PM

DS

“ To the Gillham family,

God bless you at this time. May you be comforted, in time, by the memories of your loved one. We are thinking of you and praying for you.

The Board of Directors
Christian Corners II the Woods Home Owners Association

D. Simon - May 20, 2017 at 01:19 PM

LD

“ Linda Durden lit a candle in memory of
Russell "Dusty" Gillham



Linda Durden - May 20, 2017 at 11:53 AM

LD

“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Wish we could be there with all of you today. Dusty was very special and we loved him so much!
Sending love and hugs your way,
Linda Durden and Jarrell Family

Linda Durden - May 20, 2017 at 11:48 AM

KC

“ Karen & Elvis Carden lit a candle in memory of Russell "Dusty" Gillham



Karen & Elvis Carden - May 20, 2017 at 09:35 AM

KC

“ Dusty you will be missed by all who had the pleasure to know you . Chris Bob Laura Debbie and Scott my heart goes out to you and family. Rest in peace Dusty ,

Ken Crook



Ken Crook - May 20, 2017 at 09:24 AM

FS

“ We send our love and prayers for all of Dusty's family.
Fred & Betty Stewart



Fred & Betty Stewart - May 19, 2017 at 09:17 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



May 19, 2017 at 04:54 PM



“ *50 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Parrott Funeral Home - May 19, 2017 at 03:19 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



May 19, 2017 at 03:09 PM

MR

“ *The first time I meet Dusty was in Buffalo NY . He was so happy about a house he bought online. I tried to talk him out of it because it was in one of the worst area and in some bad shape .
Dusty said no he was going to save this house on Coit street no madder what it cost. So for a few weeks in the summer we worked on his Dream house and became Brothers same age. a Yankee and a Rebel or so we joked He would go out of his way to send me hot roasted peanuts every year for Christmas. That was just the kind of man he was. he brought music and laughter where ever he went. I am honor to have met him will miss him very much. (Keep Rocking Dusty) Mark Reynolds and family*

Mark Reynolds - May 19, 2017 at 12:14 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



May 19, 2017 at 12:13 PM

LW

“ *Lincoln Windows purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



Lincoln Windows - May 19, 2017 at 12:08 PM

JG

“ *Few people leave us with the gift of memories that last a life time. Dusty was one of those rare individuals. Gone but, certainly not forgotten. My sincere condolences to Chris, Big Bob, Scott, and Laura; my prayers are with you. I know that a small part of Dusty will always be with me.*

John Goggans

John Goggans - May 19, 2017 at 11:06 AM

BB

“ *Chris
Know that you have my prayers and support through this difficult time. God Bless,
Brian*

brian brunelli - May 19, 2017 at 08:51 AM

TM

“ *Our most sincere condolences to Dusty's friends, coworkers and family from the Lincoln Window family.*

Todd Metz - May 19, 2017 at 08:35 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



May 19, 2017 at 07:54 AM

JD

“ *Jen, Jon, Angie, Jason, Jeremy, Stephanie, Debbie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



Jen, Jon, Angie, Jason, Jeremy, Stephanie, Debbie - May 19, 2017 at 07:53 AM

WA

“ *have known dusty since our days in athens in the early to mid-70s. one hell of a good friend and laura and i have many wonderful memories of dusty. our condolences to all.*

walter geiger

walter - May 18, 2017 at 08:31 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



May 18, 2017 at 07:08 PM

JS

“ Dear Gillham family we are so saddened by Dusty's passing. Dusty you were an incredible person whom I never saw without a smile and I will remember your laugh. Many years ago you were our "go to" person when we wanted to book a cruise. You will not be forgotten. I will not think of you as being gone- you just changed locations. Go help some scouts get their Eagle, go help a band that needs a new face, go spend some time with your mom and do some catching up. You ain't gone - you just changed locations. Peace.



The Stewart's,
James, Rhonda, Cullen & Chase

James K. Stewart - May 18, 2017 at 05:50 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.



May 18, 2017 at 05:30 PM

ML

“ I am so lucky to have known such a talented, uplifting person. I knew Dusty for many years at Delta Air Lines Marketing in Los Angeles. He had a gift for story telling, laughter and making everyone smile. My thoughts are with you, Chris, and the rest of your family. Mooche. Lippman

Mooche Lippman - May 18, 2017 at 05:02 PM

NO

“ We are so very sorry!!!!!!

Gene and Lou Norton

Norton - May 18, 2017 at 02:29 PM

JM

“ *Chris & Family,
Ross and I's deepest sympathy for you. We have fond memories of
Dusty from the many years ago when I worked with you, Chris.
We've been married many years now but Dusty helped Ross and I
plan the first Anniversary trip that included a vacation out of the
country and away from children so it was memorable!*

*Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.
Jeanne & Ross Mielke*

Jeanne Mielke - May 18, 2017 at 01:47 PM

WX

“ *With my very deepest sympathy, Jenny Barnette
XO purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the
family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



With my very deepest sympathy, Jenny Barnette XO - May
18, 2017 at 11:13 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



May 18, 2017 at 10:58 AM



“ *Dusty was one of a kind. Always optimistic, funny and lifting up those around him. Talented beyond measure. His smile would light up a room. I am honored to have known him and to call him and Scott friend. Thoughts, prayers and love to the Gillham family.*

Ranae Collier

Ranae Collier - May 18, 2017 at 10:31 AM



“ *It had been a long time since I spoke with Dusty in person. But I remember the conversation vividly. I always enjoyed those times when Dusty was around. He was the close friend, of a close friend of mine, so he was my friend, and he was always asked about. Makes me very sad for him, his family, Chris. I have been thinking of him much these past days. His warmth to me, as the friend of a friend, will be with me all the rest of my days, until I see him again.*

Dean Stein

Dean Stein - May 18, 2017 at 09:13 AM

RL

“ Rita Lacey lit a candle in memory of Russell
"Dusty" Gillham



Rita Lacey - May 18, 2017 at 08:27 AM

RL

“ My name is Rita (Lacey) Goode....I lived in Cliftdale with the Gillham's. My best friends were the Tidwell's....I knew the Gillham's through them and school. Always thought the Gillham boys were so nice and polite....like real gentleman!.....After I met Bob...I knew where that came from....Dusty was a kind sweet precious man.....More talent in his little finger than most people have in a lifetime. I remember when Dusty's mom was killed suddenly in an auto accident many years ago....I can't imagine the devastation at such a young age...I remember the community seem to have gotten very still....Bob, what an excellent father you are.....those boy's are a direct reflection on you and it's all good....I didn't know Laura but I'm pretty sure she is as precious as her brothers, that was confirmed through conversations I've had with other classmates....I ran into Dusty on several occasions....funerals.....twilight club.....and in Dallas, Ga. We both had a liking for a Chinese Buffet located there...he was an awful nice person and gave the BEST HUGS.....My heart goes out to all that ever knew him and especially his family....please know prayers surround this family today and in the many days aheadand will continue till the end of time....The loss of a child never gets better.....I'm so sorry Bob....Scott....and Laura.....and to his wife whom he loved with everything in him.....

Rita Lacey - May 18, 2017 at 08:21 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



May 18, 2017 at 06:07 AM



“ *I worked with Dusty at Worldspan for a while. He was so sharp with such an easy manner. We did a large project together in Norfolk, VA over several weeks. He was a super instructor and a valued colleague. I did have to always give him a hard time about walking down the hallway of the hotel eating things off the Room Service trays as he went by. Such a great friend, such a sad loss.*

Mike McLarty - May 17, 2017 at 09:20 PM



“ *You meet many people during your lifetime. But you always remember those that make you smile, always cheer you up. That was Dusty. I feel blessed to have known him. and I'm sure, even in this sad time, his family and friends also smile when they think of him.*

John Roop

John Roop - May 17, 2017 at 06:41 PM

BH

“ *Bubba Hambrick lit a candle in memory of Russell "Dusty" Gillham*



Bubba Hambrick - May 17, 2017 at 06:22 PM

TF

“ *Tom & Marsha Malench, Brandon and Leslie Fowler purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



Tom & Marsha Malench, Brandon and Leslie Fowler - May 17, 2017 at 05:21 PM

CA

“ Thinking back, I'm not exactly sure when or how I met Dusty - except that I know it was after college in 1985 and before I had children in 1993. He encouraged my songwriting and made the first recordings of a number of my songs. He had a warm and generous spirit, always ready to jam and eager to make everyone else sound good. When my two children came along, he sent each of them a harmonica engraved with their names, telling me that every child should have the ability to make music, mine especially. He came easily to the world, with a pocket full of guitar picks, a head full of stories and an easy grin, but the world didn't always come easily to him and he battled demons and disease with the strength of a warrior. If death came for him as it does in stories, I can only imagine him saying, "All right, we can go - but let's just have one more song, okay? Here - you can play this egg shaker." The world is a little too quiet without him around to fill it with music, but I'd imagine Heaven is throwing one helluva party, with Dusty at the mic, guitar perfectly in tune. My heart goes out to his family, friends and all who loved him. Sing loud, my friend - we're all listening for you.

Corey-Jan Albert - May 17, 2017 at 05:08 PM

WB

“ Thank you for being our friend, you were the most kind, positive and fun person. We will miss your smile, your wit and you! Thanks for all that you had shared and done for us, it'll forever be in our memories. Chris and Winnie Barker

Winnie Barker - May 17, 2017 at 04:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Russell "Dusty" Gillham.*



May 17, 2017 at 04:47 PM



“ *Brenda Potts Palmer lit a candle in memory of Russell "Dusty" Gillham*



brenda potts palmer - May 17, 2017 at 04:11 PM



“ *My family and the Gillham/Smith Family have been close friends since Bobby and I were toddlers. His grandmother Pearl was my mother's best friend and like a second mother to me. While we only saw Dusty on a few occasions we enjoyed visiting with him., the last time at Bobby's 70th Birthday Celebration. My heart aches for all of the survivors, his wife, siblings and dad who mourn a life gone at such a young age. Our sincere sympathy. Marijo & Jerry Culwell, Julie and Gary Auton and Peter Yaun*

Marijo Culwell - May 17, 2017 at 03:56 PM

MO

“ Mike And Sue Otwell lit a candle in memory of Russell "Dusty" Gillham



Mike and Sue Otwell - May 17, 2017 at 02:24 PM

SG

“ I met Dusty in 1989 when I was an account manager with the airline industry in Atlanta, I'm pretty sure I walked into the office where Dusty worked wearing a stuffy, business-proper outfit and trying to act all grown-up and corporate...and I'm pretty sure by the end of our "business meeting" I was probably sitting in a chair with my feet up on a desk, tearing up with laughter, talking about everything except business and feeling like I'd just been with a long-time friend instead of someone I'd met in the past 30 minutes. Isn't that how Dusty made everyone feel? I worked with Dusty until he left the travel industry and we remained friends and kept in touch after both of us left the industry. You meet Dusty once; you're friends for life. What a kind, talented, funny and sweet soul! I am heartbroken to hear the news of his passing. He's too good to leave this earth so early. My heart goes out to Chris, his family and his friends. In those early days when I still lived in Atlanta, he talked a lot about his family and friends...especially Chris and her horses, and Glenn and Cookie. He loved his family and friends. Be at peace, Dusty. Play and sing your heart out in heaven. I still have the cassette recordings you gave me years ago and I look forward to listening to them over and over again. I'll never forget you. Sincerely, Susan Gray (Charlotte, NC)

Susan Gray - May 17, 2017 at 01:33 PM

DS

“Dusty was such a talented kind man that smile would light up the room. Thoughts and prayers for the family and Comfort in knowing now he's singing with the angels



DeAnna Smith - May 17, 2017 at 01:19 PM

Hollie Joy Petty

“I met Dusty about 9 years ago when he contacted me about auditioning for his band. He came out to listen to me sing with my band, and as soon as we met, I loved him. He was just that way! Full of life and love. I will miss him dearly. I feel like a piece of my heart left with him.



Hollie Joy Petty - May 17, 2017 at 01:00 PM

GN

“Gloria Netherland lit a candle in memory of Russell "Dusty" Gillham



Gloria Netherland - May 17, 2017 at 12:31 PM

HH

“Dusty and I shared Thanksgiving dinner with Chris's family every year and enjoyed discussing books and travel. I will miss our lively conversations. Love ya Dusty!!!

Harriett Holliday - May 17, 2017 at 12:02 PM

MW

“ Having been a next door neighbor for 8 years and a classmate and friend of Dusty for over 45 years there are too many memories to post. Be assured that they are all good and many very funny and unforgettable. RIP Dusty you will be remembered for all the good things you did and said.

Mike Wright - May 17, 2017 at 10:47 AM

MW

“ Mike Wright lit a candle in memory of Russell "Dusty" Gillham



Mike Wright - May 17, 2017 at 10:44 AM