



Julian "Pinky" Gray

Joseph Julian Gray III was born on Nov. 1, 1936, in Waycross to Joseph Julian Gray Jr. and Mary McGauley. When he was six, his family moved to St. Simons so his father and grandfather could work in the shipyard. A lifelong resident of Glynn County, he attended St. Simons Elementary School and Glynn Academy, where he was an all-state football player. Known to family and friends as "Pinky," during his high school years he worked at Ward's Drug Store at the Pier. After graduating from high school in 1955, he attended Georgia Tech, graduating with a degree in industrial management. He was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. While in college, he married his high school sweetheart, Alma Lou Slade, and they had two children, Mary Gay and Gary. He later married Linda Batton and they had one son, Bryant.

Upon graduation from Georgia Tech, Pinky returned to Brunswick to work with his father in the heating and air conditioning business, eventually owning Gray's Climate Control. He was one of only a few HVAC specialists in the Golden Isles with the training and certification to work on large industrial installations including Hercules, the pulp mill, First Baptist Church in Brunswick, the Glynn Place Mall, and many oth-

er businesses and churches throughout the area. Early in his career he was president of the Jaycees. Pinky was an avid football fan who also loved fishing and running marathons. Perhaps his favorite nickname was "Coach," because he loved to coach young people in football and track and field.

He died on July 14, 2022, in Jacksonville, Fla., at Ascension St. Vincent's Hospital-Riverside, after a seven-week fight to recover from open heart surgery. He was predeceased by his parents and his first two wives.

Left to celebrate his life are his third wife, Judith Anne Gary Longfield; his sister, Dr. Mary Chri Gray of Brunswick; his brother, Jon Richard "Dick" Gray (Martha) of Brazelton, Ga.; his sons, Dr. Gary Richard Gray (Doreen) of Salinas, Calif., and Bryant Batton Gray of Brunswick; and his daughter, Mary Gay DelBuono (Rico Maddanna) of East Dennis, Mass. Pinky will always be remembered for the special care he took of his father and his son Bryant.

A celebration of his life will be held Wednesday, July 20 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Coastal Georgia, 1710 Gloucester St., in Brunswick, across from the Glynn County Board of Elections. Visitation will begin at 4:30 p.m., with the service to follow at 5:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Gray HVAC Memorial Fund. If you would like to contribute to the completion of Pinky's final project make checks payable to UUCG; please note that your contribution is for the Gray HVAC Memorial Fund. You may also donate online at <https://www.uuacg.org/>.