



## Gaines Spencer Beard

February 18, 1950 - April 14, 2026

Gaines Spencer Beard passed away unexpectedly on April 14, 2026, in Huntersville, NC. Born on February 18, 1950, in Salisbury, NC, to the late Bryce Parker Beard, Jr. and Mary Marshall Murphy Beard (Mary Marshall Murphy Murdoch), Gaines certainly lived a life full of laughter, great stories (that were in many respects, true on some level), tastefully reserved showmanship, and a love of silver linings, friendships, family, and golf.

While his passing was unexpected, the family remains comforted by the fact that Gaines passed away after 18 holes of golf, a warm Epsom salt bath, and a tasty cigarette.

Gaines grew up as an Air Force brat, moving throughout the United States, as the Air Force career of his beloved stepfather (Seth Speight Murdoch) took the family from place to place. That experience certainly shaped his wonderful knack for quickly making a friend out of everyone he met. Though he lived in many different places through high school, North Carolina remained home in every meaningful sense, and he carried that identity with pride throughout his life.

He graduated from Wingate College with a degree in mechanical engineering, and as a member of the golf and diving teams. After several years as a golf professional, his path soon led him into the materials handling industry, where he built a long and successful career spanning more than 45 years. He was known not only for his technical ability and strong work ethic, but also for his creativity, problem-solving skills, and genuine relationships with the people he

worked alongside.

Those who knew him well will remember his big personality, sharp sense of humor (accompanied by his signature loud laugh that his children can remember hearing from many rooms away when they were growing up), and ability to tell a story that made everyone want to listen. In addition to golf anywhere and the Old North State, his next favorite place on Earth was the British Virgin Islands, preferably sailing and smiling with his treasured wife Nancy, and spending ample time together on Saba Rock.

Gaines is survived by his wife, Nancy McEneny Beard of Denver, NC; his son, Gaines "Spencer" Beard, Jr. (Emmie King) of Wilmington, NC, and their children, Parker Beard and Charlie Beard; his son, Marshall Hopkins Beard (Joan Bolick) of Salisbury, NC; and his stepchildren, Phillip McEneny (Summer Ratcliffe), and Ashley McEneny (Josh Davis). He is also survived by his former wife, Grace Beard of Salisbury, brothers Bryce Beard, Pat Beard, and John Beard, sister Katherine Murdoch (Tripp Clement) and many other cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Gaines' life will be celebrated, in no surprise to anyone who knew him, at the Country Club of Salisbury, where he enjoyed so much time, not only on the golf course, but around the card table, in the grill room, or legendarily challenging teens and young adults half his age to diving competitions at the swimming pool.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, April 19th, from 1:00-3:00pm at the Country Club of Salisbury, in Salisbury, NC.

In memory of Gaines, donations can be made to First Tee Triad: [www.firstteetriad.org](http://www.firstteetriad.org).

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Beard family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **19**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Country Club of Salisbury  
747 Club Dr  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
(704) 637-3200

# Tribute Wall

KR

“ *Such a pleasure to meet an exciting personality as Gaines, circa 1970-80's, Taylor Mfg. He was a very quick wit that made us laugh a lot! He will definitely be missed. Give Robbie Hay a shout out please. We miss Robbie too.*

*Kay & Woody Ruff*

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**K Ruff** - April 21 at 02:51 PM

DM

“ *Gaines invited me to The Surf Club Invitational still my fondest memories ever which I was fortunate to have many with Snappy.*

*My favorite round of golf ever played with Gaines was the final round of the surf invitational which Gaines shot 67 on his own ball and we shot -8 as a team. The best part of all was playing against Mike & Brian Tiddy. We laughed and played great golf that day we still talk about it today. They shot minus 7 and we birdied the par 3 18th hole to beat them by only one shot.*

*Gaines I will miss your infections laugh and your perfect penmanship on all the tournament scorecards you filled out for me. Also scoreboard calligraphy!!*

*Dennis McCormac*

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**Dennis M McCormac** - April 18 at 12:38 PM

RH

“ Dearest Nancy,

*There are moments when words feel wholly inadequate and yet, the heart insists on reaching out.*

*When I learned of Gaines' passing, I was stilled. And then, as I learned the details 18 holes, an Epsom salt bath, a cigarette I smiled through tears. He lived fully, joyfully, and entirely on his own wonderful terms, right to the very end.*

*I was there at the very beginning, and I followed your adventures and your love of the Caribbean with such joy through the years. The life and love the two of you built together is a beautiful thing to have witnessed. And I am overjoyed to know that I had a small part in bringing you together.*

*Though I cannot be there beside you, please know you are so very present in my heart. These flowers carry everything I wish I could say in person love, deep respect, and the reminder that you are not alone.*

*To you, to Spencer, to Marshall, to Ashley, to Philip, and to all who loved Gaines my sincerest sympathies are with you. May his laugh, his stories, and his love of life bring you comfort and light in the days ahead.*

*With all my heart, always,  
Rand*

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**Rand Hans** - April 18 at 12:58 AM

RH

“ *Rand Hans purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Gaines Spencer Beard.*



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**Rand Hans** - April 18 at 12:41 AM

RH

“ *Rand Hans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gaines Spencer Beard.*

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**Rand Hans** - April 18 at 12:41 AM

KD

“ *Katherine D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gaines Spencer Beard.*

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**Katherine D.** - April 17 at 07:15 PM

WA

“ *Wylly A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gaines Spencer Beard.*

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**Wylly A.** - April 17 at 02:38 PM

EJ

“ *My condolences to the famly of a very fine man. He is at rest, now. "Life, if well lived, is long enough." — Seneca*

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**EDITH JULIAN** - April 17 at 01:23 PM

JW

“Gaines will be remembered for his kindness and gentleness. His cheerfulness and warm humor are a pleasure to recall. John and Vicki Walker.

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**John Ingram Walker** - April 17 at 12:55 PM

SK

“Sharon Kugelmass planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gaines Spencer Beard.

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**Sharon Kugelmass** - April 16 at 05:50 PM

JR

“Jean R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gaines Spencer Beard.

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**Jean R.** - April 16 at 04:20 PM

JP

“Dear Nancy and family,  
While Melissa and I had only known Gaines for a short time, he had that endearing “gentlemanly” quality and persona that made you feel like you knew him forever and immediately “loved” him for it. Whenever you were with him, he made you feel special. His wit and charm will truly be missed. “HBC” will never be the same without his heart and soul, though I am sure on many a quiet night, we’ll still be able to hear his hearty laugh.  
With heartfelt condolences and all our love,  
Joseph and Melissa

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**Joseph Podbielak** - April 16 at 04:12 PM

SK

*Dear Nancy,*

*My condolences on the loss of a good and kind man with a big heart and grand imagination, who made us laugh, both children and grown-ups alike.*

*May his memory be a blessing.*

*My love to you, Phillip, Ashley all your family,*

*Sharon*

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**Sharon Kugelmass** - April 16 at 05:44 PM

NF

*Dear Nancy,*

*You and Gaines were the first to welcome us to HBC, and from the start we have treasured you both as friends and neighbors. We knew anywhere Gaines was we would hear some great stories, share some loud laughs, and surely have a good time. He was truly one of a kind and will be so very missed. HBC certainly has a little less character, but we are so thankful for the memories we have shared. Love to you and both your families on your tremendous loss.*

*Nancy & Joe*

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**Nancy Fritze** - April 16 at 06:48 PM

HN

*So sorry to learn of Gaines passing.  
He was quiet a character.  
May he rest in peace.*

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**Hank Newman** - April 17 at 02:48 PM

VL

*Gaines was a significant part of the Trilogy neighborhood Adventures in Writing Club. In typical Southern Gentleman fashion, when he published his book, he gave us "a chunk" of credit for assisting in the polishing of his stories. Truth be told, he "tickled us pink" with his yarns and we eagerly waited for his progressive installments. His remarkable ability to embrace you with his laughter will be sorely missed. Grateful to have known him, Vicky Annette Larkin*

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**V A L** - April 20 at 08:11 AM