



Gary Bruce Pinkston

December 14, 1947 - November 8, 2022

Gary Bruce Pinkston passed away peacefully on November 8, 2022 at Atrium Wake Forest Baptist Hospital surrounded by his loving family following an eight day fight to overcome a cerebral hemorrhage.

Born on December 14, 1947 to Bruce Franklin Pinkston, Jr. and Edna Messick Pinkston in Salisbury, NC, he graduated from West Rowan High School in 1966 and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1970. He served in the United States Army at Fort Reilly, Kansas as an intelligence officer from 1970 to 1972.

In 1972, he began his fifty-year career at Desco, Inc., headquartered in Salisbury, NC. Like most employees at Desco, he began his work in the warehouse and worked his way up through counter sales, inside sales, and outside sales. He also played a vital role in opening and ensuring the success of two new Desco branches. The first branch was opened in Albemarle, NC, where he served as the branch manager for over ten years. The second location was opened in Mooresville, NC, where he served as the branch manager for at least twenty years. Due to his unwavering commitment to the success of Desco and its employees, Gary was elected to the Board of Directors. His voice and continued commitment led to continual growth and success of the company, which is still evident today. In 2003, he was elected as the company President and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Throughout his entire career, he worked tirelessly for the benefit of employees and shareholders. He always considered the people of Desco part of his

family, having meaningful relationships with employees, customers, vendors, and shareholders. He never asked anything of his employees that he was not willing or able to do himself. Gary never retired and insisted on doing his part as long as he lived.

He loved spending time with his grandchildren and friends. He was an avid golfer and gardener. He enjoyed reading and, especially, finding recipes. He was happiest while cooking for family or friends. As a collector of classic cars, he enjoyed going to car shows nearby. He was a dedicated Tar Heel fan and rarely missed a game. Generous, caring, compassionate, thoughtful, Gary cherished his family and friends, finding the best in people and opportunities to help others.

He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and served as an usher.

Gary is survived by his wife of thirty-nine years, Betty Wise Pinkston; daughter, Ashley Pinkston Marcum; daughter-in-law, Sabrina Gicola Pinkston; grandchildren, Cecile and Gabby Marcum, Sal and Ellie Pinkston; sisters, Judy Summit and Gail McDaniel; nephew, Jason McDaniel and nieces, Lynn Summit, Sonya Rosa and Karen McDaniel.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Vernon Christopher Pinkston; and son-in-law Charles William (Bill) Marcum.

Arrangements: A funeral service will be held Monday, November 14, 2022, at 3:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, Salisbury, NC.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church Benevolent Fund at 200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, NC 28144 or The Arbor Church at 5545 Woodleaf Road, Salisbury, NC 28147.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Pinkston family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Gary was always a very nice man to me and to my whole family. In the business world sometimes it can turn you cold and impatient. Gary always provided his time and materials to keep Tarheel in business as long as my Dad could keep it going. My Dad was one that liked to hide his head in the sand on embarrassing topics. I always had to make those calls when the money was way over due and even over the credit limit but Gary never said a harsh or unkind word to me, ever. Gary never made my Dad feel undignified or any less of a friend because of money. He will be missed by many. Tina

Tina - March 20, 2023 at 11:21 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Bruce Pinkston.



March 20, 2023 at 11:07 AM



“ TOM ALLEN lit a candle in memory of Gary Pinkston



TOM ALLEN - November 16, 2022 at 08:58 AM

DH

“ I am very sorry to hear of Gary’s death. He was as nice a person as you would ever meet. We played many rounds of golf together and I always enjoyed his company and his Bloody Mary’s (they would take your mind off of a bad shot) lol.
Gary will be missed by his many many friends!

Dean Harwood - November 14, 2022 at 11:17 AM

DR

“ Donna Rawls lit a candle in memory of Gary Pinkston



Donna Rawls - November 14, 2022 at 09:35 AM

DT

“ Betty, I am so sorry to know you have lost your Beloved Gary.. I am keeping you and your family in my Prayers. With Heartfelt Sympathy, Delores Thomas-Teague

Delores Thomas-Teague - November 12, 2022 at 03:31 PM

LE

“ Lots of fun and laughter was shared with Gary throughout our childhood and youth age. MYF, 4H, plays and band are a few activities that I remember. Betty, I am so sorry for your lose. Our love goes out to you and your family. .

Linda L Ervin - November 12, 2022 at 03:08 PM

DM

“ Dear Family, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this sorrowful time. What I remember most are memories at the Family reunions as young children playing in the fields. I guess we grew apart as we grew older but my love still stands even now. I'm sorry I can't be there but I am unable to walk but I say this, May God wrap his loving arms around you and keep you close. Love from the depths of my heart.
Dianne Cranfield Massey



Dianne Cranfield Massey - November 12, 2022 at 10:15 AM

LM

“ Betty ,Judy,Gail, and family's. So sorry for your loss.My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time of sorrow. May God wrap his arms around each one of you,



Linda Messick - November 11, 2022 at 01:57 PM

SL

Betty I will be praying for you and all the family. So upset to just find out your loss of your husband! God is with you and I will always send up prayers 🙏

Shane Love - November 12, 2022 at 12:07 PM