



Gaylon Lee Vickers

March 11, 1955 - March 18, 2017

Gaylon Lee Vickers, 62. Born March 11, 1955, in Cookeville, Tennessee; died March 18, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio. He was a graduate of Stebbins High School, Dayton, and Wright State University, Dayton, where he earned a bachelor's in English and economics. He was editor of the daily school newspaper, The Guardian, in the late 70's.

He worked as an investigative reporter for several Central Ohio newspapers, including the Dispatch and SNL publications. He was the reporter who broke the story about teenage street gangs in Columbus in the 1980's. Recently, he has enjoyed work as an entrepreneur of fine art and antiques.

Preceded in death by mother, Geneva Lee Vickers, he is survived by his father, Verble, Jr., of Cookeville, TN.; his wife, Joanne; his step-children, John Diederich and Jennifer Healy and their respective spouses, Jeanna and Steve; and his beloved grandchildren Frances and John Diederich.

He is also survived by his brothers Garry Vickers and Jaimie Vickers and their spouses Sarah and Brenda; also by several nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and nephew.

He also leaves many cousins on both sides of the family and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you remember Gaylon with a good story and, if you wish, a small contribution to Inniswood Botanical Gardens,

Inniswood Garden Society, 940 S. Hempstead Road Westerville, OH 43081.

He will be buried in an old family cemetery in Cookeville. A Funeral Service will be held at 3:00pm Thursday March 23, 2017 at the RUTHERFORD-

CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High Street Worthington, where friends may call one hour prior to the service.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **23**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-4006
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR **23**. 3:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Gaylon Lee Vickers*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I met Gaylon in 1997 when I started working at ThisWeek. He always had a smile and upbeat attitude and was a kind person. He liked working the police beat. He enjoyed talking about his art and antiques business and occasionally bought his acquisitions in to the office to share.*

In a world where half the things are made to look like something they are not and people are fake, Gaylon was a real person with an unforgettable personality.

erin holl - March 23, 2017 at 04:06 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gaylon Lee Vickers.*



March 23, 2017 at 09:17 AM



“ *Anthony, Kim & Lucia Lordo purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gaylon Lee Vickers.*



Anthony, Kim & Lucia Lordo - March 23, 2017 at 09:14 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gaylon Lee Vickers.



March 23, 2017 at 09:02 AM



“ I met Gaylon 35 years ago when we both lived near the OSU campus, and spent a lot of time with him in the 1980s. We kept in touch after that. Gaylon had the perfect reporter's personality -- he loved people, loved to ask questions and draw people out, loved to talk ideas and world events. At a restaurant, he'd walk right up and start a conversation with a stranger. And he'd open his wallet without a second thought to help out the poor people who dominated Columbus's Short North before it went snooty. What a unique character he was, and I mean that in the most positive sense. Civil War buff, police beat reporter, art aficionado, Richard Thompson fan, lover of long drives. And an ardent Sanders backer, to my surprise, but he always was on the side of FDR's little guy. My condolences to Joanne and the rest of his family -- 62 was way too young, and the end is always too early for a good man. He was a good man.

David Scott - March 23, 2017 at 04:54 AM



“ Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Gaylon Lee Vickers.



March 22, 2017 at 08:08 PM

RA

“ *My sympathy to Joanne and step-children Jennifer and John.*

Rose Ann Kalister

RAK - March 22, 2017 at 06:59 PM

JI

“ *A dear cousin of mine who brought much laughter and fond memories.*

Jimmy - March 21, 2017 at 10:18 PM

DH

“ *Diane Hawkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Gaylon Lee Vickers*



Diane Hawkins - March 21, 2017 at 05:42 PM

TB

“ *Gaylon with Terry and Leslie*



Terry Bacus - March 21, 2017 at 04:53 PM

“ Gaylon once told me that he had always dreamed of being the editor of a small town newspaper. It came as no surprise then, when he was editor of the Rocky Fork Enterprise that he said that he felt very lucky to have achieved his dream. And I think everyone who met him or worked with him would agree, it is a dream for which he was made.

As gifted a writer as I ever knew, Gaylon seemed to come by his craft easily, as easily as he came by his ability to make friends, of which there were so very many. I first met Gaylon working at Suburban News Publications, where he had landed following the end of the Columbus Citizen-Journal, and I had arrived fresh from college. More than a mentor, Gaylon became my fast friend, though I would not recognize how much until years later, after we had both moved on and he reached out to me to get together.

We met that week at a Damon's restaurant and played trivia. It was a Tuesday, and it soon became a tradition that would last more than 25 years – It lasted in fact until just a couple of weeks ago. I have to say that those Tuesday nights were something I always looked forward to.

On those Tuesday's I could easily see how he was such a talented writer, reporter and editor. He befriended people as easily as most of us drive to work each day. He could talk about nearly anything. It was because of his ability to do this that I met a man who bought a boat and sailed it from the Gulf Coast, up the east coast, and then via the Canals, into the Great Lakes. Within an hour or two of meeting him, he had promised Gaylon he would keep him up to date on his adventure, and he did – with periodic pings from the seas.

Gaylon befriended the wait staff, bringing them gifts of brownies many weeks, and always sharing the treasures he had uncovered at auctions and estate sales. He was so easy to talk to that they would bring him their treasures to share as well.

Gaylon also introduced me to my future wife, Leslie, though it took him more than one try to get it to stick. She recalled to me a time before I knew her when she had pneumonia and how he would come by her apartment and bring her soup and make sure she had

what she needed.

And that is Gaylon in a nutshell, a caring, compassionate, person who was always there for others, whether on the job or out for a night relaxing. I am so privileged to have known him, and grateful for the times we spent together. Leslie and I send our deepest condolences to his family, we understand and share your loss, and rejoice knowing that Gaylon made a true and lasting impression on the world that will surely be rewarded.

--Terry and Leslie bacus

Terry Bacus - March 21, 2017 at 03:56 PM

GF

“ *...don't know if I was your favorite foil but you were sure mine. Prayers and condolences to Gaylon's family...*

Gary Floyd - March 21, 2017 at 12:23 PM

RW

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Ron Wukeson - March 21, 2017 at 09:11 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gaylon Lee Vickers.*



March 21, 2017 at 03:34 AM

RW

“ 6 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Ron Wukeson - March 20, 2017 at 04:13 PM