



Gaylon Hugh Chafin

January 11, 1939 - November 30, 2025

Gaylon Hugh Chafin, age 86, of Arab, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Sunday evening, November 30, 2025, at Marshall Medical Center North. Born on January 11, 1939, in Marshall County, AL, Gaylon was the son of Willie Hugh Chafin and Wilda Louise Thompson Chafin. He was a faithful lifetime member of Union Chapel Global Methodist Church. His professional career was dedicated as a cataloguer for Redstone Arsenal/Army Missile Command, retiring in 1993.

Gaylon attended Union Grove School through the ninth grade before transferring to Arab High School. It was during his sophomore year there that he met his future wife, Carolyn Laura McKelvy. The couple graduated as part of the Arab High School Class of 1957 and married in 1959, sharing over sixty-six wonderful years together.

Known for his outgoing nature, Gaylon was a true people person who never met a stranger. He believed that "a stranger is just a friend you've never met before." During Gaylon's younger years he enjoyed oil painting and bass fishing.

Gaylon is survived by his loving wife, Carolyn McKelvey Chafin; his brother, Don Chafin (Gwen); his nephew, Jared Chafin; great niece, Elizabeth Nicole Chafin; and the McKelvey nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Hugh and Wilda Chafin, and his sister, Doris Chafin Jones.

Services for Gaylon will be at Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. Visitation will be from 12:00 noon until the funeral begins

at 2:00 pm. Pastor David Norton will officiate. Honored to serve as pallbearers are Doug McKelvy, Tom White, Ken Jay, Mark McKelvy, Jared Chafin, George Stone, Hunter McKelvy, Dawson Cantrell and Tom "T-Bone" Ellenburg. Honorary pallbearers are Jim Stocks, O'Neal Kelley and Edgar Ballew. Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel entrusted with arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Arab Memorial Cemetery

565 South Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 3. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel
1340 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-4100

Funeral Service

DEC 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel
1340 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-4100

Tribute Wall

CT

“ Many years back, Gaylon & Carolyn rented a house from my grandfather Harden. They were great renters. They demonstrated their Christianity through actions of love, compassion to my elderly grandparents. Carolyn and family, I am so sorry for your loss. It will be a wonderful reunion, for all, to see Gaylon again in Heaven. He's traveled the path, we all have to travel, and our reward is being with Jesus in our Heavenly Home. Again, so sorry for your loss.

Carolyn Thrower (granddaughter of JP & Florence Harden)

carolyn thrower - December 03, 2025 at 10:41 AM

LM

“ Gaylon will be missed. He was a great Bible study partner. I enjoyed his humor and wit. He's now in heaven with his wings singing with the angels. I'm sure he'll get to meet my wife there and then he'll know how much I loved her.

Lou Michetti - December 03, 2025 at 08:57 AM

MF

“ Condolences to Gaylon's family. Good friends..



Meridith Falls - December 02, 2025 at 12:17 PM

PJ

“ Polly Jex lit a candle in memory of Gaylon Hugh Chafin



Polly Jex - December 02, 2025 at 10:46 AM

PJ

Gaylon is one of the best distant relatives that I know. Even though, I didn't see him that much, he will still be missed. I know my parents, Bufford and Grace Light loves him also. He will surely have many friends and relatives to see again and to meet on the other side of this veil. It can bring us joy and peace for his happiness if one accepts this knowledge of truth. Of course, this is a time of mourning and grief for those left behind, even Jesus cried for Lazarus and he knows each of our hearts and our pain. He has told us to not let our hearts be troubled for where he is we shall be also. God is a God of Miracles and he loves us as his sons and daughters.

Polly Jex - December 02, 2025 at 10:57 AM

JO

“ I'm sorry to hear Gaylon passed. He was a very good person. He will be missed.



jane vaughn Oddo - December 02, 2025 at 07:33 AM

SC

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. Gaylon was a joy to be around. From James and Peggy Weaver's kids Lynn Myra Belinda Jimmy Susie and Sharon

Susan Copeland - December 01, 2025 at 11:52 PM

RB

“ *Roberta Bodine lit a candle in memory of Gaylon Hugh Chafin*



Roberta Bodine - December 01, 2025 at 07:33 PM

EP

“ *Estelle Phillips lit a candle in memory of Gaylon Hugh Chafin*



Estelle Phillips - December 01, 2025 at 04:28 PM