



# **Gary M. Grear**

FEB 11, 1947 - SEP 12, 2025



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**MEMORIAL PARK**  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



## **Gary M. Grear**

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**G**ary Milton Grear, age 78, of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away on September 11, 2025. He is survived by his devoted wife, JoAnn Grear; his son, Matthew Grear, and daughter-in-law, Mariangeles Grear; his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Blythe, and son-in-law, Jeremy Blythe; and his beloved grandchildren, Titus, Maddie Grace, Noelle, and Joseph Blythe.

Born in Memphis to Milton and Ann Grear, Gary graduated from Messick High School in 1965 and from Memphis State University in 1969. He remained a proud alumni of Messick High School. He was a proud Sigma Chi, serving as Epsilon Kappa chapter president in 1968 and later as president of the Memphis Sigma Chi Housing Group, where he played a major role in building the current fraternity house, dedicated in 2004. In 2005, he received Sigma Chi's highest honor, the "Significant Sig" Award, joining the ranks of Brad Pitt, John Wayne, David Letterman, and AutoZone founder J.R. "Pitt" Hyde III.

Gary built a distinguished career in investment banking and equity markets. He began in fixed income and municipal securities at Carty & Bolton, Inc., before joining Morgan Keegan & Co. in 1979. Rising through the firm, he served as Senior Vice President and Director of Fixed Income Marketing and, in 1990, was appointed to a six-member committee overseeing the Fixed Income Markets Group, serving alongside the firm's president and four close colleagues. He remained with Morgan Keegan until 1994, later founding Legacy Securities Corp. (1995–1999) and ultimately remained a chairman and executive at FTN Financial Securities (1999–2007) and FTN Equity Capital Markets (2009–2010).

A lifelong athlete, Gary devoted much of his life to the growth of sports in Memphis publishing Sports in Memphis in the 70s. He was especially focused on tennis in Memphis. Beginning in the 1970s, he held leadership roles with the Memphis Tennis Association, USTA National Indoor Championships, and chairman of local tournaments. He was a member of the Colonial Racquet Club, Chickasaw Country Club, Racquet Club of Memphis and Missouri Athletic Club. His generosity provided equipment, clothing, and opportunities for countless youth in athletic



## Obituary

**Gary M. Gear**

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programs through local schools, teams and the University of Memphis tennis program. His vision culminated in the creation of the Leftwich Tennis Center, dedicated in 2023. Known as the “father of the idea for Leftwich,” Gary personally helped with the launch and the fundraising. Today, the 36-court facility stands among the premier tennis venues in the Southeast. In recognition of his impact to the community, he was inducted into the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in 2025 joining his father Milton Gear.

Gary will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, whose leadership and generosity left a lasting mark on his family, fraternity, profession, and community.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the University of Memphis, the Epsilon Kappa chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38119 (901) 767-8930. “Where Memphis comes to remember, since 1924.”



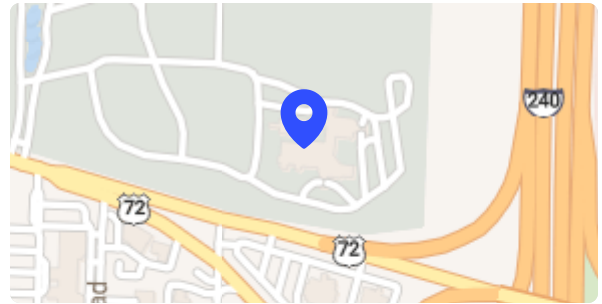
# Events

**Gary M. Gear**

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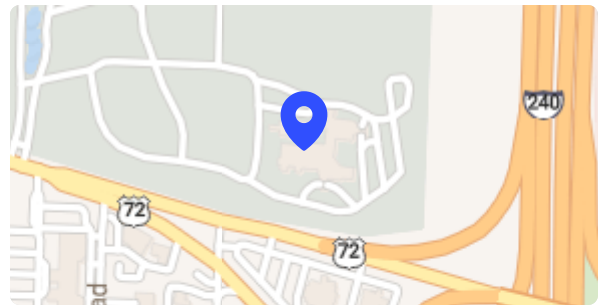
## Visitation

- Thursday**, September 18, 2025
- 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CT
- Memorial Park Fireside Chapel**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119



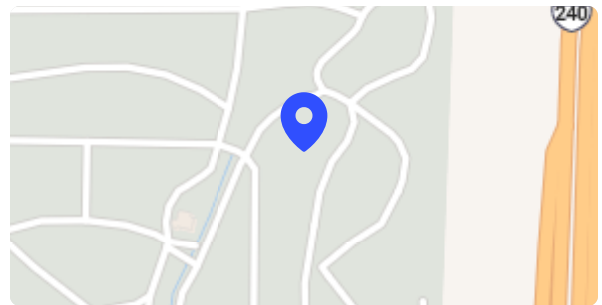
## Funeral Service

- Thursday**, September 18, 2025
- 2:30 PM CT
- Memorial Park Fireside Chapel**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119



## Cemetery Details

- Memorial Park Cemetery**  
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119
- (901) 445-8475**





# Tribute Wall

**Gary M. Gear**

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**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gary.



September 17 at 1:07 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Gary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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