



## Gregory Russell

December 27, 1961 - April 13, 2021

Gregory Russell, 59, of Memphis, passed away on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. He was born on December 27, 1961. Greg had two dreams. One, to be a National Park Ranger and two, to be a writer. He accomplished both. He worked for ten years as a seasonal park ranger with duty at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Rocky Mountain National Park, The Grand Tetons, Glacier National Park, Denali National Park, Alaska and most recently Yellowstone National Park where he was scheduled to work this coming summer. He retired in 2018 after over twenty years as Managing Editor of the University of Memphis Alumni Magazine. He returned to his first love as a ranger with the National Park Service. Greg was an avid runner and ran in many marathons including the Boston Marathon. He is survived by his father, M.G. "Russ" Russell, a sister, Alicia Russell, an aunt, Donna Russell Pettit (Gary), an uncle, Danny Russell (Tonie), a special first cousin, Betty Brotherton (Jimmy) and many more cousins. He was preceded in death by his mother, Janette Clemons Russell in 2016.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Thursday, April 15 from 12:00 pm until the time of the graveside service at 1:00 pm at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Avenue in Memphis.

# Events

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**APR** **Visitation** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

**15**

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Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery  
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

**APR** **Graveside Service** 01:00PM

**15**

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Memorial Park Cemetery  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

# Comments

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“ I just saw where Greg passed and could not believe it. Such a nice guy, always upbeat and encouraging. I worked with him for several years at the Helena World newspaper and we reconnected through Facebook over the years. I send my prayers to his family.

**Marla Riddell** - October 13, 2021 at 11:20 AM

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“ What a shame to have lost Greg. I will miss my summertime work buddy at Yellowstone. He was ever-cheerful, unfailingly energetic, always reliable and committed to serve the public--the poster boy for Park Rangers! You will be missed, my friend.  
Julie Hannaford

**Julie Hannaford** - April 19, 2021 at 11:08 PM

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“ One of Bill Dwyer's Memphis rangers, and a fine one at that. I first met Greg when we took a graduate class together in the Parks and Recreation program. Later, he would come to the big university parking lot and help us teach role-playing scenarios to the rangers in training. I'll remember those times fondly. Alicia, if you read this, I'm sorry about Greg. I hope you are doing okay.

Steve James

**Steve James** - April 15, 2021 at 10:43 PM

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“ Jean Webster lit a candle in memory of Gregory Russell



**Jean Webster** - April 15, 2021 at 09:51 PM

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“ Jean Webster lit a candle in memory of Gregory Russell



**Jean Webster** - April 15, 2021 at 09:47 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of being coached by Greg for a year at the U of Memphis. There was a bunch of us Canadians down there at the time: he always had our backs and was always encouraging. Despite the southern drawl I'd like to think my teammates and I saw him as an honorary Canadian. Despite only being in Memphis for a short time we tried to keep in touch from time to time, even after all these years. I was very saddened to hear of his sudden passing. Greg made people better and we sure lost one of the good ones.

**Steve A** - April 15, 2021 at 03:37 PM

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“ Gracie Webster lit a candle in memory of Gregory Russell



**Gracie Webster** - April 15, 2021 at 03:10 PM