



Jerry W. Gates

August 1, 1934 - March 18, 2013

Jerry W. Gates, local real estate developer, quietly passed away March 18, 2013 at Indiana University Health Hospice House in Bloomington, Indiana. Born August 1, 1934 in Keokee, Virginia and raised in Pennington Gap, Virginia, Jerry was the son of W. Scott and Carrie (Myers) Gates. After graduating from Noblesville High School in 1952, he served in the United States Army from 1957-1959. He attended Indiana University on a baseball scholarship and also played football for the Hoosiers, graduating in 1961. While earning his BA in Physical Education, he and a friend, Bob Reinhart, began what was to be the first of many business ventures, Bounce About-purchasing and renting jumping time on trampolines. Upon graduation, Jerry had tryouts with the St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Reds, before becoming a residential realtor and insurance salesman with Ben Terrill Real Estate. Upon Ben's death, he purchased the firm and split the two into Gates Inc. Realtors and Developers Inc. and Gates Insurance Inc.

In the 1970's, he developed the residential neighborhood, Stier Park, but began to migrate away from residential real estate into

commercial real estate development, beginning with Seminary Square (the downtown Kroger store) in 1975. In the early years, he also developed 10th and the Bypass Shopping Center with Don Mitchell and the Bloomington Industrial Park with Dave Hinkle. Over the years, along with his son Whitney, and at various times his stepson Christopher, he developed Curry Industrial Park, Franklin Business Park, Danville Shopping Center, and the accomplishment of which he was most proud, Whitehall Crossing Shopping Center.

As excited as he was about the thrill of the deal, Jerry was equally as passionate about his love of Indiana University, especially the IU sports. He was a generous and avid supporter of Hoosier football, basketball, and baseball, often traveling around the country to support the Cream & Crimson. Along with his second wife, Susan, he endowed the Jerry and Susan Gates Baseball Scholarship. He had served as president of the I-Men's Association, was a longtime member of the Varsity Club and the IU Alumni Association, and was a ZG Clevenger Award winner in 1996.

Jerry was a longtime member of First Christian Church in Bloomington and had for the past few several years had been attending Sherwood Oaks Christian Church.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife,

Roberta Ellen (Carney) Gates, Whitney's mother. He is survived by his wife Susan Kay (Erne) Gates of Bloomington; son Whitney (and Cheryl) Gates of Bloomington and their children Jonathan, Jacob, and Molly; stepson Christopher (and Elizabeth) Smith of Bloomington and their children Lucy and Maxwell; stepson Robert (and Cheryl) McCullumsmith of Birmingham, Alabama and their children Alexander, Eleanor, Dagny, Samuel and Calvin ; sister Elizabeth Higginbotham of Noblesville; brother Dennis (and Donna) Gates of Muncie, Indiana, and several nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held at Allen Funeral Home, 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN on Friday from 7 PM to 9PM. Funeral services will be held at on Saturday at 1 PM at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, 2700 E. Rogers Road in Bloomington.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, that donations be made in Jerry's name to the IU Foundation to benefit the IU Baseball Scholarship Fund. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

JE

“ *Dear Gates family,*

I am so saddened to hear of your loss. I know that Jacob really loved his grandfather. I send my deepest sympathy and condolences.

*Yours truly,
Jennie Brophy*

Jennifer Brophy - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

BR

“ *My condolences to the Gates family. I truly admired Jerry's passion for family, sports and business. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Bruce Ullery - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

LI

“ My condolences to Whitney and his family, Chris and his family and all Jerry's family and friends. May God be with you.

Lisa

Revelation 21:3-5

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

Lisa Keough - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

DI

“ Whitney, so sorry about your father. I am so honored to have met him at Redbud Hills. My husband and I enjoyed getting to know him and eating with him there. Our prayers go out to you and your family.

Diana Taylor - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

WI

“ We have known Jerry for many years. Members of the Elks, and Bloomington Country Club. A favorite memory of mine is on my 50th. birthday.

A group of members came to our table to sing happy birthday and Jerry was right up front just like he always was.

We will miss him at Wee Willie's. We always welcomed his friendship.

Bill & Brenda Lutgens

William Lutgens - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

LA

“ For years after my wonderful cousin Roberta died, Jerry (& then with Sue) remained in touch, visiting me & Mike in Florida & my parents in Indiana. Jerry truly loved people; I am honored to be among the many that were touched by his caring & big personality. May his family & friends feel the comfort of God's compassion.

Lana Bracewell - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

MI

“ Hi Whitney and Chris,

I'm so sorry to hear about your Dad. I always loved talking to him, no matter how much of a hard time he gave me over being a little to the left of Eisenhower. The fact was, it was always in fun, because his heart was so big. I hope your sadness quickly turns into fond memories. Take care.

Mike Gavin - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

JT

“ Whitney, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. I always admired him in all of our business dealings. I always told Jerry that no one in their right mind would try to steal home plate with Jerry standing there. Take care and keep cheering for the Hoosiers!
Joe Tarpey

Joe Tarpey - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

BI

“ Whitney and family,

So sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. He was a great guy and always treated me with kindness and respect. I loved chatting with him at IU football and baseball games. I always bought extra peanuts for football games, so I could share with Gater.

God's peace to your family.

Bill Pfrommer - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

JO

“ Condolences to Whitney and family. I will deeply miss my friendship with Jerry. I loved Jerry's zest for life. His positive outlook was contagious. I hope in Heaven, he will forgive my son for not playing baseball for Indiana. I will forever include Jerry in my thoughts and prayers.

Joe Forney - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

PD

“ To Jerry's family, Sue, Whitney , Dennis and Aunt Biz.. you are all in my thoughts and prayers for the loss of Jerry. Over the many years I have known him , he was always a pleasure to be around.Bless you all, cherrish the many wonderful memories..

Pam Davis Kammann

Pam Davis Kammann - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

KE

“ Jerry Gates was, what they used to call "a stand up guy" He really was. I had hit a rough patch about 25 years ago and Jerry threw some work my way and more than once gave me a Jerry Gates pep talk. Eventually, I came out of my funk and although we sort of lost touch over time I never forgot his kindness. He had a great heart. I did run into him a few years back in the parking lot at Seminary square and we shook hands and I got to tell him thanks. Sure glad for that! Kevin L Bazur

kevin bazur - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

BS

“ Dear Family,

We were so sorry to learn of Jerry's passing. We have many memories of him, and the things he accomplished in the City of Bloomington. His legacy will truly live on.

God bless you in this time of sorrow and take strength in the knowledge that this is not truly the end, but of only the time he spent on this imperfect earth.

We will continue to be reminded of Jerry every time we pass a project that he developed.

Sincerely, Bruce and Shannon Storm

Bruce and Shannon Storm - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

DI

“ OUR LIVES WERE SHARED FOR ONLY FOUR SHORT YEARS , POSSIBLY THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE.I ASSURE YOU THE REMAINING HOOSIERS WILL CONTINUE THE DREAM OF EACH OF US COMPLETE THE NEW KAUFMAN STADIUM.REST WELL OLE SLUGGER.

DICK PERSINGER - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

BB

“ We were sad to read about Jerry's passing. Our sympathy goes out to all of his family.

Bonnie & Bob Gammon - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

MC

“ We will all miss Jerry and the friendship we had with him over the many years when we followed the IU football and basketball teams around the country. He was as passionate about his IU teams as he was about his business ventures and his family. A true entrepreneur in every sense of the word, Jerry ventured into many areas where others would "fear" to go. He loved the excitement of the "deal" however large or small. Jerry always had a smile and a big heart -- and never met a stranger. He loved to engage in conversation with everybody he met. He was "one of a kind" -- God rest his soul and give peace to the family.

Marge & I Charlie Beasley - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

VH

“ I knew Jerry through friends from Pennington Gap High School and IU and they spoke so highly of him.
My deepest sympathy
Vesta Lou

Vesta Lou Hubbard - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

CA

“ Jerry was a great man and bigger than life. It's hard to think of this world without him and I only knew him as a Landlord. I can't imagine the loss his family must be going through. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Carla Cole - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM