



## Raymond Melvin Gateley

August 21, 1926 - April 23, 2018

R. Melvin Gateley, 91, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours April 23, 2018 at Ratliff Care Center in Cape Girardeau, MO where he received loving care and resided for almost two years. He was born August 21, 1926 in Oran, MO to the late Henry Milton Gateley and Katie Ursery Gateley. He and Ella Louise Sanders were married in Cape Girardeau on June 7, 1951; she survives. He was raised on a farm in Oran, MO with ten other siblings with whom he shared many fond memories. After graduating from Oran High School, he was drafted into the Army Air Corps, eventually serving in the Pacific during World War II. On completion of his military service he enrolled in SEMO (then Southeast Missouri State Teachers College) where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Education. He went on to receive both Master's and Specialist Degrees in Education.

Melvin's teaching profession spanned thirty seven years with the last twenty one as Principal of Louis J. Shultz Middle School in Cape Girardeau, MO. His final year was the culmination of his career when he also served as President of the Missouri State Teacher's Association.

Melvin was very active in and dedicated to the community of Cape Girardeau, MO serving in many facets and on many committees, not the least of which were Vision 2000, Parks and Recreation Board, the United Way, and his eight year term on the Cape Girardeau City Council. Melvin spent countless hours

on the beautification of Cape Girardeau, planting tens of thousands of roses and jonquils.

After his profession of Faith in the Saving Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ on September 3, 1939; Melvin spent his entire life worshipping, working for and witnessing to Christ's Love, Grace, and Almighty Power. Melvin, himself an ordained minister and deacon volunteered tirelessly in the Baptist Church and for the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission. Through his work and vision on the Historical Commission, he was the coordinator for the reconstruction project of the Old Bethel Church in Jackson, MO known as the the first (non Catholic) church planted west of the Mississippi River.

Melvin was preceded in death by both parents, and nine siblings. Survivors include his wife, Ella Gateley of Cape Girardeau; a son Stephen (Melinda) Gateley of Nashville, TN; a daughter Renauta (John) McNabb of Cape Girardeau; three grandchildren Stuart Gateley, Andrew Gateley, Molly McNabb; as well as one sister Ruth Hency with her husband Bill.

Visitation will be from 4:00pm to 8:00pm on Friday April 27th at Lynwood Baptist Church in Cape Girardeau, MO. Funeral service will be at 11:00am on Saturday April 28th at Lynwood Baptist Church, with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating. Visitation will be also be one hour prior to the funeral service.

Burial will follow with full military rites at Cape County Memorial Park.

In Lieu of flowers or gifts, Melvin Gateley's family would be pleased if Memorial gifts would be made to either the "Missouri State Teachers Foundation" through <http://www.mostf.org/gateleyfund/> or as a designated gift to "The Old Bethel Church Fund" through Lynwood Baptist Church.

Online condolences may be made at [fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).



# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**APR 27.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Lynwood Baptist Church  
2935 Lynwood Hills Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Service

**APR 28.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Lynwood Baptist Church  
2935 Lynwood Hills Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

DK

“ *Ella, Ren, Stephen and family  
I am sending my condolences and love to you. You will be in my prayers. Melvin lived a life to be emulated. As a teacher, principal, church worker serving in so many ways for so many years. May your memories bless your lives.*

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**Donna Davis Komorech** - April 27, 2018 at 05:40 PM

JS

“ Mrs. Gately and family, I want to express my condolences to you on the loss of your husband, father, and grandfather.

*Melvin is a great man because he applied Christ's truth to his life that those who would be the greatest should be willing to be the least, that those who would be lord of all must be servant of all. Melvin was truly a servant in every area of his life and it allowed him to accomplish much and influence many people for Christ.*

*My fondest memories of Melvin were when he would ask for 6-20 Teen Challenge students, usually on a Saturday morning, and would take them to plant bulbs or rose bushes. He modeled for our men a practical Christianity that made a definite impact on their lives. Even though he was much older than they were, he displayed an energy that encouraged them to give their best effort. Many were surprised when they found out he was not getting paid to do this!*

*I was so thankful when Melvin agreed to be on the board of Teen Challenge. I knew that I could always depend on him to do whatever was needed to help move the ministry forward. His love for the students and concern for their future was clearly evident.*

*Thank you for sharing Melvin with us at Teen Challenge and with Cape Girardeau. He was truly a great man!*

*Jack Smart*

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**Jack Smart** - April 27, 2018 at 10:51 AM

YR

“ Mr. Gately was a good principal. He always had a kind word to say to you even if you were having a bad day. RIH Principal Gateley.

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**Yvonne Ross** - April 25, 2018 at 03:52 PM



“ *What a calm and loving man he was! One of the greatest memories I have of Mr. Melvin is passing out fliers for his mayoral race. I believe it was late 90's or early 2000's? He had much energy and had me walking all over Cape knocking on doors. I believe he is a testament to a hard work ethic, the loving of others, and putting Christ first in all he did. You will be missed here on earth Mr. Melvin but I look forward to meeting with you again in eternity!*

*- Kyle Meadows*

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**Kyle Meadows** - April 25, 2018 at 03:33 PM

“ *I will always remember the kindness, gentleness and generosity of Melvin and his wife Ella. I treasured our conversations his true love of his fellow man and community. God be with Ella and the rest of the family in their earthly journey of grief. Melvin gave us so much beauty that as we travel throughout our city, we will smile. Thank you, Lori Launhardt*

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**Lori Launhardt** - April 25, 2018 at 11:33 AM

“ *I was very sorry to hear of Mr. Gateley's passing. He was well spoken of by his*

*daughter. God's blessings on the entire family.*

*Love,*

*Sheila Williams*

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**Sheila Williams** - April 25, 2018 at 10:15 AM

SS

“ *Melvin was a great Cape Girardeau citizen and a man of his word who was respected by everyone he came into contact with in his daily endeavors. My wife and I were fortunate to have met Melvin shortly after we moved to Cape Girardeau in 1987. He encouraged us to serve on Vision 2000 and Vision 2020 committees and other community activities over the years. He will always be fondly remembered and we send our sincerest sympathies and condolences to you.*

*Stanley & Jane Stough*

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**Stanley & Jane Stough** - April 25, 2018 at 07:41 AM