



## Diane Olivia Gatewood

November 14, 1941 - May 2, 2020

Mrs. Diane Ward Gatewood passed away Saturday, May 2, 2020, at her home in Columbus, Mississippi. She was born November 14, 1941, in Atlanta, Georgia, to the late Horis A. Ward and Sara Ward. Diane graduated from Murphy high school and then from Baylor University in 1963 with a degree in music education. She and her late husband, Dr. James Verner Gatewood, met in conjunction with their involvement in the Baylor University choral program. Diane and James moved to Columbus, Mississippi in 1968 following James's graduation from the Baylor College of Dentistry. Diane was a dedicated member of First Baptist Church where she enjoyed singing, directing and teaching in numerous music ministry programs. In addition, Diane served in leadership of the annual First Christmas interactive Bethlehem village and with James, as the director of the initial capital funds campaign for the new First Baptist Church Columbus campus. Diane loved Columbus and Lowndes County, serving as a lifetime member in Junior Auxiliary, a devoted docent of the Stephen D. Lee Home Museum and as a member and past president of the Northwood Garden Club. Diane also taught 5th grade at Heritage Academy and most recently worked for Visit Columbus and the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation. She found great joy in telling guests from around the world about the unique history of the town she dearly loved. Diane was a beloved wife, mother and grandmother. She is preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Dr. James Verner Gatewood. She is survived by her son, David Ward Gatewood and his wife, Tina; daughter, Leigh Anne

Gatewood Carmichael and her husband, Steve; brother, Alec Ward and his wife, Patti; brother, Richard Ward and his wife, Daphene; and her treasured grandchildren, Harrison Carmichael, Hadley Carmichael, and Lucas Gatewood. A private interment will be held at Fairview Memorial Gardens in Stockbridge, Georgia. There will be a celebration of Diane's life in Columbus for all to attend as soon as it can be safely scheduled. Notification for this celebration will be by social media and newspaper. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the First Baptist Church 'Because He Lives - Crossing Building Campaign, PO Box 829, Columbus, MS 39703, online at <https://www.columbusfbc.org/> or to the Stephen D. Lee Home & Museum, 316 7th Street North, Columbus, MS, 39701. Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Memorial Gardens

164 Fairview Rd.  
Stockbridge, GA 30281

# Tribute Wall

GJ

“ *The world has lost a uniquely kind, loving, giving and beautiful human being. I cannot imagine how deeply her family and closest friends feel this terrible loss, and my prayers are for them. I was blessed to have known Diane, as my next door neighbor at Driftwood Towers. She was always positive, caring, helpful, and fun. Her heart was full and her faith was strong and she lived her life in service to others and to God. My prayers are for her lovely family, whom she adored, every one of them. She will be sorely missed by so many people.*

*Gayle Janzen*

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**Gayle Janzen** - May 10, 2020 at 09:36 AM

MS

“ *As past President of the Board of Driftwood Towers in Gulf Shores I came to know James and Diane Gatewood who served the Board. Unlike many owners they shared their time and talents to keep the property in good shape and make difficult decisions on management of the facility. When James passed away I told my wife we have lost one of the true Southern gentlemen of our times. James had a peace about him and was always willing to help others. Now that Diane has joined James and they are together again, I am confident they are happy. Diane needs no training to be in heaven as she was an angel on earth. She was kind, compassionate, always hopeful and a true joy to know. Both James and Diane will truly be missed as a fine Christian couple serving as a model for the rest of us. My condolences.*

*Mike Spitzer*

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**Mike Spitzer** - May 06, 2020 at 10:52 AM



“ 135 files added to the album LifeTributes



Scot Ward Funeral Services - May 05, 2020 at 02:56 PM

JW

“ Diane was a role-model and inspiration to us kids back at White Oak Hills Baptist Church where she accompanied the choirs and services on the organ and piano. As I remember, she played effortlessly and lovingly. Although I went to Murphy too, she was a senior when I started and then she graduated with my brother, Tommy Walters. so my memories are from church.  
Diane was pretty inside and out. She was gracious and compassionate. Sending my deepest sympathies to her family, and of course, to her brothers Alec and Richard and their families - Love to you all.



Judy Walters - May 04, 2020 at 08:29 PM

GG

“ Richard and Scot,I am so sorry for the loss of your sister and aunt,I can tell reading about her she was a fine Lady,Your families will be in my prayers, Gary Goddard

gary goddard - May 04, 2020 at 06:14 PM