



## Mr. Andrew "Andy" S. Gainer

June 11, 1941 - March 19, 2019

Andrew "Andy" S. Gainer, 77, of Centralia, passed away Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at his home.

He was born June 11, 1941 in Olney, son of Stanley Gainer and Glenna June (Tucker) Gainer. He married Sarah "Sally" Hollister on August 18, 1963 in Lawrenceville and she survives in Centralia.

In addition to his wife of 55 years, Sarah "Sally" Gainer of Centralia, he is also survived by two children: Margaret Barnett and husband Dawayne of Edwardsville and Dr. Michael Gainer and wife Susan of Urbandale, IA; seven grandchildren: Michael Barnett and wife Christa of Edwardsville, Andrew Barnett and fiancé Natalie Crumbaugh of Chicago, IL, Jordan Barnett and wife Autumn of Kansas City, Megan Gainer of Omaha, NE, AJ Gainer of Urbandale, IA, Zach Gainer of Urbandale, IA, and Luke Gainer of Urbandale, IA; great grandchild: MJ Barnett of Edwardsville; a brother: Robert Gainer of Baker City, OR; a sister: Kay Gainer and husband Allen Harding of New York City, NY.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Andy grew up in Bridgeport and came to Centralia in 1969. He received his Associate Degree from Vincennes University, Bachelor Degree at Illinois State University, and Master Degree in Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He was as a Teacher and Coach at Centralia High School for 26 years. He was the First Sponsor of Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Centralia High School and he continued to be a sponsor from 1972 – 1995. Andy was a member,

former Elder, Deacon, and Trustee at Calumet Street Christian Church in Centralia. He was also on the Oil Belt Service Camp Board, a board member of the FCA Branch Rickey Chapter in St. Louis, Missouri, and a board member of State of Illinois.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 3:00 PM at the Calumet Street Christian Church, 2240 East Calumet Street Centralia, Illinois 62801 with John Willis officiating. Visitation will be held Saturday afternoon from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the church. Memorial Donations may be made to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Oil Belt Christian Service Camp, and Calumet Street Christian Church Benevolent Fund and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Gainer Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **23**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM.

Calumet Street Christian Church in Centralia

## Celebration of Life

MAR **23**. 3:00 PM.

Calumet Street Christian Church in Centralia

# Tribute Wall

BM

“ So sorry for the loss of Andy. Husband, father, teacher, coach. He was many things.  
To me, he was my cousin's husband. Always her strength and partner. We'll all miss him.

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**Bruce McGaughey** - April 04, 2019 at 09:50 AM

LC

“ Dear Mrs. Gainer, Mike, and Maggie~

*Coach Gainer was a great man and role model for us. He meant a lot to us (and still does even though we left town in 1985 and 1989 and have not lived in Centralia since)....And we know that we represent hundreds and thousands of graduates from CHS who feel the same way, because after the funeral when we were eating dinner at Jerry's restaurant in Wamac, the hostess, (Karen class of '88) came up to our table and said, "You're Libby and Nathan" (and she smiled); "I bet you're in town for Andy Gainer's funeral, aren't you?" (and she saddened that she was tied up working). We've also seen the Facebook posts of others around our age who wanted to go to the funeral.*

*Coming over to your home packed with students for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meetings had an impact on us- we think that being a Christian and being an athlete might be two of the most powerful and life-changing things anyone can chose to be. We remember those days fondly. We are so sorry about Coach Gainer's unexpected death, and so sorry he is gone from you and all of us. We wish you peace.*

*With all of our sympathies,  
Libby, Nate, Lily*

*Libby Montgomery Collins '87 (wife of Nathan Collins '87)*

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**Libby Montgomery Collins** - March 31, 2019 at 08:33 AM

CS

“ To Sally and Family.... I am so very sorry that Andy has left all of you, but he is now at peace and out of pain. He was a good man and had a good life.. May God Bless All of you with strength and to remember the Wonderful Memories you All had... He will be missed.... Hugs to you All....



*Cheryl Gaetti Simmons*

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**Cheryl Simmons** - March 23, 2019 at 05:21 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Andrew "Andy" S. Gainer.



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March 22, 2019 at 10:54 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Andrew "Andy" S. Gainer.



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March 22, 2019 at 10:46 AM

CB

“ *Mr. Gainer was my driver's ed instructor.  
He said I drove better in reverse, than forward.  
hmm....  
He would pass out the learning permits to the students.  
My number began with "BOO..."  
Mr. Gainer called me "Boo" from then on.  
He always had a smile for everyone.  
I am fortunate to have known him.  
Thank you . . . . .*

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**Charlene Bowie** - March 22, 2019 at 09:16 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Andrew "Andy" S. Gainer.*



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March 22, 2019 at 07:51 AM

GS

“ *Coach Gainer was my driver's ed instructor along with a couple other guys and we had fun time learning to drive. He was always making jokes and threatened to put my crazy mistakes on the morning announcements! Good times! So sorry for the Gainer family's loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Georgia Scott** - March 21, 2019 at 02:22 PM

SG

“ *A great person, coach and mentor, thank-you..... Stephen Gallatin*



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**Stephen Gallatin** - March 21, 2019 at 10:50 AM

  
Christie  
Cistola

“ *...an honor to have known you!*

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**Christie Cistola** - March 21, 2019 at 10:16 AM

TF

“ *You all our in my thoughts & prayers. I am so very sorry for your loss. Mr. Gainer was always smiling and was there to help when you needed it in school. I am a 89' graduate of CHS. RIP Coach Gainer.*

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**Tammie Easley Frank** - March 21, 2019 at 10:13 AM

CN

“ *Andy was very influential concerning my Christian walk. He modeled Christ-like behavior through his leadership in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. I was very sad to hear of his passing. He will surely be missed, but Christ has now welcomed him into his Kingdom.*

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**Craig Niermann** - March 21, 2019 at 08:02 AM

JF

“ You all our in my thoughts & prayers. so very sorry for your loss. Mr. Gainer & his family are good people. I am a 84' graduate of CHS and FCA 82'. God Bless.



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**Janet Finley-Huffman** - March 20, 2019 at 11:28 PM

CD

“ I loved Mr and Mrs Gainer. I went to church with them and had them in high school. He was a great role model. I'm sure his family will miss him so. Sally your all in my prayers.  
Cyndi Maddox Dawkins.

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**Cynthia Dawkins** - March 20, 2019 at 07:04 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mr. Andrew "Andy" S. Gainer.



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March 20, 2019 at 05:36 PM