



## Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay

October 16, 1940 - August 21, 2023

Dr. Johnny Dan (Danny) Gay died August 21, 2023, of complications from Covid-19, in Albany, where he had resided since experiencing a stroke in February.

Danny will be buried at Red Oak Cemetery, in Worth County, alongside his parents, in a private, graveside service.

Danny was born October 16, 1940, in Worth County, and with the exception of time away at college, was a life-long resident of rural Worth County, making his home near Doles. He grew up working on the family farm, developing the work ethic he continued throughout his life.

Danny graduated from Sylvester High School in 1958, attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, then the University of Georgia, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1962. He earned his Masters, then a PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Georgia, in 1967.

He began his 28-year career as a Research Plant Pathologist in the Vegetables and Ornamentals Division of the USDA at the Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton, and retired as a Professor of Plant Pathology, with the University of Georgia Extension Service, in 1995. His expertise in plant virology was frequently sought out by farmers and colleagues.

In retirement, Danny spent much of his time maintaining an immaculate yard, checking in on his siblings, and caring for his canine companion, Molly. He never hesitated to offer his thoughts on events of the day, usually concluding with a favorite saying: "I just want things to be right."

His family thanks Wayne Grant for his compassionate service as a caregiver in Danny's final months.

Danny is survived by three siblings: Jeannene Bryan, of Sumner; Lendy Gay and wife Barbara, of Sylvester; and Sandra McDonald, of Albany; their children, and many friends and former colleagues at the University of Georgia in Tifton, and in Athens. He was pre-deceased by his parents, John D. Gay, and Alice (Tison) Gay, and a sister, Melany Delane Gay, who died in 1956.

Arrangements by Banks Funeral Home, Sylvester.

# Tribute Wall

PP

“ I am sorry for the loss of one of the most talented and brilliant persons I ever knew! My experience with him at the university and Snelling hall was one of my best of my life.

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**Philip Potts** - October 16, 2023 at 07:15 AM

DJ

“ Danny and I worked together through the 80's and early 90's with Vegetable Growers in Grady County. Danny was always positive and upbeat and a pleasure to work with. I have many great memories of Danny.

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**Don W. Clark Jr.** - August 30, 2023 at 09:12 AM

SG

“ Danny was one of the first of our Southwest Georgia Extension family welcome John and I back in the summer of 1979. He always made John and me feel a part of the greater Georgia Extension family. He always had a smile for me when I stopped by John's office at the old RDC. As a young mother of three lively children, it was difficult being so far away from family, Danny's charm and kindness was so welcoming. John and I are saddened to hear of his passing.

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**Sharon and John Gibson** - August 28, 2023 at 05:37 PM

SD

“ Dr. Gay spent a ton of time with me when I moved to Harris County in 1979. We did two a Vegetables Disease updates every year. We always had time to work in a visit to Callaway Gardens.

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**Scott Daniell** - August 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM

TR

“ *First met Danny when we were student workers at Snelling Dining Hall UGA. He was a friend to me and many. Great guy!*

tom rogers - August 26, 2023 at 09:33 PM

DA

“ *Did many vegetable production presentations with Dr. Gay. Always admired Danny's intellect and ability to relate to farmers. We laughed a lot at each other and enjoyed our professional relationship.*

David Adams - August 26, 2023 at 08:56 AM

BF

“ *Ben Fraelich lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay*



Ben Fraelich - August 25, 2023 at 10:38 PM

SW

“ *Sandra Watson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay*



Sandra Watson - August 25, 2023 at 09:25 AM

LW

“ Danny and I used to laugh and say the only time we saw each other was at someone’s funeral. I will miss you Danny💕🙏



Loretta Waller - August 24, 2023 at 10:33 AM

JB

“ John Bozeman lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay



John Bozeman - August 23, 2023 at 09:37 PM

JB

RIP CLASS OF 58, WE'RE SLIPPING AWAY

John Bozeman - August 23, 2023 at 09:41 PM

JL

“ Sandra, I am so sorry for your loss. Praying you and your siblings.

Judy Littleton - August 23, 2023 at 07:04 PM

JS

“ Judy&Mack Sutton lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay



Judy&Mack Sutton - August 22, 2023 at 08:32 PM

KH

“ We had not seen Danny in many years, but he always checked in with us, wished us Happy Birthday every year, etc. He was such a great man and we will miss him very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Kelly Haddock - August 22, 2023 at 07:03 PM

BH

“ Dr. Danny was a great man. The State of Georgia is a better place because of him. A great friend of my wife and I. We will never forget his kindness and genius.

Buster Haddock - August 22, 2023 at 06:55 PM

GW

“ Sending sympathy to Danny's family. Hollis and I went to school with Danny. Very nice person.

Garland and Hollis White

Garland W White - August 22, 2023 at 06:34 PM

BM

“ Danny was a member of our Sunday School Class with Glenda Lavender, Barbara Langley, Bud Jones, Bobby Gene Gay and me, Glenda was a year older than the rest of us therefore she was in the class of 57 and the other five of us were in the class of 58 from Sylvester High School. Danny being a plant pathologist, he loved his fruit trees, which he gave me all the fruit i wanted and I also have 2 of his tangerine trees. Dr. Dan will be missed by all that new him.



BYRON C MEDDERS - August 22, 2023 at 05:28 PM

KM

“ Karen McDonald lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay



Karen McDonald - August 22, 2023 at 05:06 PM

Wayne Grant

“ I'm going to miss Mr.Danny❤️.



Wayne Grant - August 22, 2023 at 05:03 PM

BR

“ Uncle Danny was extremely loyal to his family and more than willing to help out when needed. He helped me out on more than one occasion, when he really was not obligated to do so. I have great memories of myself and a couple friends hanging out with him and riding the wave runner at the Lake.

Bryan - August 22, 2023 at 04:44 PM

LC

“ Dr Danny we enjoyed spending time with you building you boat house. And all the time and conversations with you. You will be missed by many as you were a good friend to all you met.

Lyra Coxwell - August 22, 2023 at 03:31 PM

CJ

“ *Carole Burkhart Jones lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay*



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**Carole Burkhart Jones** - August 22, 2023 at 01:03 PM

JC

“ *Joe Carter lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay*



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**Joe Carter** - August 22, 2023 at 12:49 PM



“ *Janice Carter lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay*



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**Janice Carter** - August 22, 2023 at 11:22 AM

EA

“ *Eric Adams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay*



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**Eric Adams** - August 22, 2023 at 11:14 AM

PC

“ My condolences, Lendy, in the loss of your brother. Love and prayers for your family. 💕  
🙏



Patsy Walters Carmichael - August 22, 2023 at 10:55 AM

LG

“ Lendy Gay  
My brother, Dr. Johnny, Dan Gay, “Danny “ Wass, a person who loved his family unconditionally, and we loved Danny unconditionally. We will miss him dearly, but we know he has only changed addresses, his new address; Dr. Johnny Danny Gay / In GODS Hands / Heaven

Lendy Gay - August 22, 2023 at 07:01 AM

SW

“ Sandra Watson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Johnny Dan "Danny" Gay



Sandra Watson - August 21, 2023 at 10:51 PM

PA

“ Danny was a long-time neighbor at Lake Blackshear. We loved him and looked forward to each time he was at his lake house. He was the most fun and the best friend anyone could ever dream of having. We, his close neighbors, are crying and heartbroken over our loss. I am sure Danny is rejoicing in Heaven a Molly to be with her daddy once again. Pat Samford

pat - August 21, 2023 at 06:01 PM

SM

“ *I have lost the best brother anyone could have. He loved his family and was always good to them*

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**sandra mcdonald** - August 21, 2023 at 05:58 PM