



Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin

April 22, 1944 - July 20, 2024

Born in Griffin, Georgia, on April 22, 1944, Jerry Griffin was the son of the late Ralph A. and Mary Francis Griffin of Griffin, Georgia. Jerry first met his wife, Janie Benton Griffin, as a counselor at Rock Eagle, where they later married in 1968. Together, they raised two children, Amy and Andy, and loved two grandchildren, Jack and Luke.

Jerry spent his entire career working with and supporting local government officials. After two years at West Georgia University, he transferred to the University of Georgia, where he earned a BBA in Risk Management and an MPA, concentrating on local government. While at the University of Georgia, he worked at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, training in various capacities with government officials. After graduation, he spent a brief stint with the City of Oak Ridge in Tennessee before returning to Georgia, where he joined the Georgia Municipal Association and rose to the positions of Assistant Director and Chief Lobbyist. After thirteen years at the GMA, Jerry moved to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, where he worked with an organization that set the country's standard for community development grants. Governor Joe Frank Harris then selected Griffin to pioneer the setup of the Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA), which became the first state-funded environmental assistance program for local governments in Georgia. After three years leading GEFA, Griffin was hired as the Executive Director for the Association of County Commissioners of

Georgia (ACCG). His first task was to develop a training program widely duplicated across the country. From 1984 to 2009, he worked for the counties of Georgia, spending 25 years equipping county officials and effectuating change through policymaking.

Griffin's greatest pride was the staff he was able to assemble at ACCG. Whether lobbying the Legislature or Congress, the staff enjoyed and continues to enjoy respect throughout state government. Several other highlights of his staff's efforts include the creation of Worker's Compensation Insurance and Property and Casualty Insurance pools, where underwriting savings are returned to the county members.

Jerry served on numerous committees and boards. Several included the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee, Georgia's Board of Directors for the 4-H Foundation, Economic Development Authority, the Metro Chamber of Commerce Quality Growth Committee, MARTA, and the University of Georgia's Advisory Council, where he conducted several training sessions with the Beijing government. Jerry was gifted in cultivating relationships and spent his life mentoring and giving back to other individuals.

Jerry had many interests beyond volunteering, including traveling, gardening, and BBQ. He was a 'Certified Memphis in May' BBQ contest judge, serving at many contests, including the World Championship in Memphis. In partnership with his wife, Janie, he organized a sanctioned contest with Arts Clayton at the Clayton County International Park to raise funds for the arts.

After Jerry retired, he and Janie discovered the excitement of seeing the world. They visited numerous must-see sites and enjoyed cruises, including a two-week tour of India and Katmandu.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Janie Benton Griffin; their two children, Amy

Griffin and Andrew Dow Griffin of Atlanta, Georgia; one daughter-in-law, Courtney Hanna Griffin; and two grandchildren, John and Luke Ellis.

Visitation will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Morrow First United Methodist Church, 5985 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, Georgia, 30236. A service will follow at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Interment will follow at the Griffin Family Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Georgia 4-H Foundation. Donations can be made at www.georgia4hfoundation.org or by calling 706-542-8804.

Cemetery Details

Griffin Family Cemetery

166 Andrews Rd
Griffin, GA 30223

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 24. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Morrow First United Methodist Church
5985 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, GA 30260
<http://mfumc.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 24. 12:30 PM (ET)

Morrow First United Methodist Church
5985 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, GA 30260
<http://mfumc.com>

Tribute Wall

MP

“ There were few who could match Jerry at the Capitol in the rare combination of positivity and professionalism. As a freshman legislator, I inherited the referendum mandate to create a Board of Commissioners for Catoosa county, changing from sole commissioner. Jerry helped me get the job done and there was a seamless transition to the new form of government. Although I haven't seen Jerry in years, I know he knew how much I appreciated him. McP

McCracken Poston - July 25, 2024 at 09:09 AM

TG

“ I first met Jerry in 1970 when I was working for the City of Forest Park and he was with the Georgia Municipal Association. Our paths crossed again at the Department of Community Affairs. After his going away party at DCA when he was picked by Governor Harris to lead the Environmental Facilities Authority, we were walking back to the parking lot and I said (as a joke) "when you come into your kingdom, remember me". I didn't think any more about it but two weeks later I got a phone call from Jerry. He said "I can handle the politics here just fine, but these (expletive deleted) numbers are about to drive me crazy. I need you here now". The three years we spent together were getting GEFA off the ground were some of my most rewarding (and educational) times in state government.

Janie and family please accept my sincerest condolences. Jerry was truly one of a kind.

Tim Grogg

Tim Grogg - July 24, 2024 at 10:35 AM

PM

“ *Patty Hynes, Reagan & Kellan McGinnis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin.*

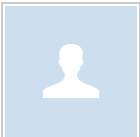
Patty Hynes, Reagan & Kellan McGinnis - July 23, 2024 at 03:32 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin.*



July 23, 2024 at 03:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin.*



July 23, 2024 at 02:53 PM



“ *From the Hofele family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin.*

From the Hofele family - July 23, 2024 at 02:02 PM

FF

“ From the Hofele family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin.



From the Hofele family - July 23, 2024 at 02:02 PM

ST

“ Solventum Account Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin.

Solventum Account Team - July 23, 2024 at 09:28 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin.



July 23, 2024 at 09:28 AM

AH

“ I am so sad to learn of Jerry's passing. I met Jerry 45 years ago when I first began working in the Secretary of State Elections Division. At that time, Frances Duncan was the Director of Elections. Jerry came to our office, often, to meet with Frances about municipal election laws. I was just a “youngin” as Jerry would call me, at that time. We always knew he was headed in to see us, as we would hear him long before we saw him. His voice carried through the Capital hallways, and he was always laughing about something. Such a great guy!

Ann Hicks - July 23, 2024 at 12:40 AM

CM

“ Jerry has mentored and provided leadership for so many. He gave me my first job after graduating from the MPA program at UGA. I tell people that watching Jerry’s Barbeque equipment the night before a Saturday football game in Athens was how I got my foot in the door at ACCG. Jerry then pushed me into lobbying which had never crosses my mind to do. Jerry loved public policy and politics. I loved to hear his stories of bills that he had worked on and the behind the scenes conversations that lead to their passage. Jerry was a master communicator and made everyone around him feel like part of his family. He loved to cook for others and was skilled in hospitality. I will miss his text messages during the session about policy issues of interest to him. Jerry leaves a lasting legacy on my life and many others who will continue to carry the torch for county government.

Clint Mueller - July 22, 2024 at 07:32 PM

PD

“ Pete and Caty Demers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin.

Pete and Caty Demers - July 22, 2024 at 05:10 PM

PD

“ Pete and Caty Demers purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Mr. Jerry Ralph Griffin.



Pete and Caty Demers - July 22, 2024 at 05:10 PM

JP

“ So many great memories! Jim and Jane Parker, President of ACCG. 1998-1999.

Jim Parker - July 22, 2024 at 05:10 PM

ON

Jerry was a very good person and leader. As President of ACCG I enjoy being with Jerry.

O.D. Netter, Jr ACCG President 2006-2007

A friend to all

O.D. Netter - July 22, 2024 at 07:05 PM

PN

“ We are so sad to learn of Jerry’s passing. He and Janie are permanent fixtures in my mind as I knew them both from my childhood days at Morrow Methodist and as an adult there with children of my own. Their willingness to ‘take us in’ as part of their circle made us feel truly special and we always welcomed time spent with them and the conversations we had. Jerry was a giver and I know our lives are truly richer for having known him. Prayers for you all in the days to come. I am so sorry we will not be there for the service but please know you are in our thoughts

Patty Nicolella - July 22, 2024 at 04:45 PM

AM

“ I am pleased to be one of the ACCG staff that Jerry has such a good time assembling. There is no one that I learned more from and I am grateful that I was one of "Jerry's kids"

Ann Marchetti Mintz - July 22, 2024 at 03:55 PM

LS

“ Knew Jerry from high school and then many good times at UGA football games. . Such a nice person

Larry Sosebee - July 22, 2024 at 12:47 PM

BH

Jerry and Janie were our very best friends, we had so much fun together when Ben was president of ACCG in 2001-2002, we attended their 50th wedding anniversary, we stayed in touch with each other Jerry called Ben about 3 month ago what a conversation, Janie Ben and I love you very much, with deepest sympathy. Ben and Gustine.

Ben and Gustine Hayward - July 22, 2024 at 08:15 PM