



## Jerry E. Brooks

October 21, 1953 - July 1, 2015

Jerry E. Brooks, 61, of Tallahassee, Florida passed away July 1, 2015, after a short battle with cancer. Born in Augusta, Georgia on October 21, 1953 to loving parents Marietta Brooks and Pressley Brooks, both of whom preceded him in death. Jerry was also preceded in death by a sister, Gayle Brooks. He was raised in Pensacola and graduated from the University of West Florida with degrees in biology and environmental studies. From early childhood he developed a passion for the great outdoors and dedicated his life to enjoying and protecting Florida's natural resources. Never one to sit still, he was an avid camper, fisherman, runner, biker, kayaker and hunter. All these things he enjoyed most when in the company of his wife and family.

His professional career also reflected his love of Florida's natural ecosystems, specifically the state's lakes, rivers and coastal waters. He began his career with the St. Johns River Water Management District and provided leadership to the development and implementation of a successful project to restore the upper St. Johns River. In 1986, he moved to Tallahassee and committed the next 25 years to protecting and restoring surface waters throughout the state. As Director of the Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, he provided the leadership to develop a comprehensive restoration program that serves as today's framework for identifying degraded or impaired waters. His ability to communicate, reasonably integrate science with public policy and seek compromise, was critical to development of this restoration program that is a

recognized national model. Jerry retired from state government in 2011. His dedication to his professional career was secondary only to his love of family. He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Janie Brooks, sons and daughters in law, Scott, Cassie, Ross and Stephanie, and grandchildren, Emerson, Isola and Gardner. He is also survived by Ouida Young, mother in law, and Martha and Mark King, sister in law and brother in law.

The Brooks family will receive friends on Monday, July 6th, from 5 - 7 pm at Bevis Funeral Home, 2710 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee. Jerry will be cremated, and his family will spread his ashes in some of his favorite places. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home ([www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com), 850-385-2193) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## The family will receive friends

JUL 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

# Tribute Wall

VT

“ To Jerry's Family,

*I have known Jerry for over thirty years, and have admired him all of that time. We worked together on many projects, while I was in state government as a colleague, when I was on the Environmental Regulation Commission working on Everglades Issues, when I represented private clients and when I worked at the Nature Conservancy. All that time, he was the one you could rely on to listen carefully with his full attention, to give any matter his most thoughtful time, and to have the best judgment of anyone in the room.*

*Jerry was a consummate mediator, but in the end, we did the right thing because that is what was what he expected of all of us. But, he made it easy with his quick, sardonic wit and great smile.*

*Jerry's life was a light to all of us, and I will continue to think about him whenever a tough decision is ahead of me. I was very lucky to have known him.*

*My very deepest condolences to you all.*

*Vicki Tschinkel*

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**Vicki Tschinkel** - July 06, 2015 at 03:37 PM

MH

“ I worked with Jerry for many years and always appreciated his honesty, forthrightness, and efforts to do the right thing. He was always able to withstand the pressures that he faced from many directions while pursuing his vision of the correct course of action. I was so happy for him and your family when he announced his retirement so that he could enjoy the fruits of all his labors with you. I am very sorry for your loss and hope the memories and responses shared with you in this forum will provide comfort and support and how so many people respected Jerry for what he did.

*Marshall Hyatt*

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**Marshall Hyatt** - July 06, 2015 at 01:14 PM

MM

“ Jerry and I became very good friends over the many years I worked with him while I was at EPA Atlanta. All who knew him were in awe of his deep understanding of Florida environmental regulations, his ability to find solutions to very complex problems, and his ability to work with a variety of persons with many interests. We kept in touch after he retired, as recently as June 15, mostly about trout fishing and other nature topics.

*He left a large footprint on this planet, and the environment of Florida will be forever improved. I will miss him greatly.*

*My condolences to his family whose love and support carried him through this difficult part of life.*

*Mike McGhee*

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**Mike McGhee** - July 05, 2015 at 11:02 AM

KL

“ To the family of Jerry E. Brooks,  
I am sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in knowing that  
"Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; He saves those who are  
crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18) With sympathy,

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**kelsey lee** - July 04, 2015 at 09:28 AM