



Gary Allen Sandell

January 13, 2026

Gary Allen Sandell, age 84, of Fairhope, Alabama, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on May 26, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois, to Emil and Idella Sandell, Gary lived a life defined by devotion—to his family, his community, and the values he held dear. His strength, steady presence, and unwavering love shaped the lives of all who knew him.

Gary shared 62 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Sammie Till Sandell, building a life centered on faith, family, and commitment.

Together, they raised four children: Michael Allen Sandell (Heather), Deborah Sandell Rutherford (Bryan), Kimberly Sandell Robinson, and Karen Sandell Howard (Robert).

He was a proud and loving grandfather to Corey, Kayla (Justin), David (Brittnee), Kimberly, Blake (Brooke), Daniel, Bryanna, Brady, Caden, and Parker, and a cherished great-grandfather to Kinsley, Adalyn, Rylee, Zachary, Brenton, Blakeley, and Hays. Gary was an uncle to Rhonda Sandell Harris (Justin), Wendi Sandell and Michelle Wodjenski Schexnayder (Matthew) and numerous nieces and nephews. Nothing brought Gary greater joy than time spent with his growing family.

A man of vision and service, Gary was an EMS pioneer who founded Fairhope Ambulance Service in 1971, leaving a lasting mark on the community he loved. Through his leadership and dedication, he helped ensure care and compassion for countless families in their times of need. As

services expanded throughout the Eastern Shore, the organization was renamed LifeStar, a division of Fairhope Ambulance Service.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Emil and Idella Sandell, and his brother, Emil A. Sandell. He is survived by his brother, Jimmy Sandell, and sister-in-law, Barbara Sandell.

A devoted Christian, Gary loved the Lord and his family deeply. His life was a testament to faith, love, commitment, and service. His legacy lives on through his family, his work, and the many lives touched by his generosity and care. He will be dearly missed and forever remembered.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **24**. 1:30 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Foley
221 North Alston Street
Foley, AL 36535

Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Allen Sandell.



January 24 at 09:02 AM



“ Steve White planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Allen Sandell.

Steve White - January 23 at 03:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Allen Sandell.



January 23 at 03:27 PM



“ Tony and Linda Wade and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Allen Sandell.

Tony and Linda Wade and family - January 23 at 03:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Allen Sandell.*



January 23 at 03:21 PM



“ *Anonymous purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gary Allen Sandell.*



Anonymous - January 19 at 12:49 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Allen Sandell.*



January 15 at 10:18 PM



“ *karen johnson purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Gary Allen Sandell.*



karen johnson - January 15 at 09:03 PM