



## Cara LaVerne Gillis

January 26, 1942 - December 29, 2015

Cara LaVerne Gillis, 73, of Cary, NC passed away December 29, 2015 at her home surrounded by her family. She was born January 26, 1942 to Herbert and Ava (Cashwell) Nunnery in Cumberland County, NC.

LaVerne served as a school teacher in Cumberland County for 33 years. In addition to her passion for education, she personally enjoyed singing, playing, and conducting music in both schools and in church. LaVerne influenced the lives of many young people and inspired numerous teaching careers.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Gary Gillis of Cary, NC, her son David Gillis (Petra) of Stedman, NC, and daughter Dawn Gillis Brown (Jeff) of Cary, NC. Also surviving are; brothers Arnold Nunnery (Mary), Ronald "Doc" Nunnery, sister Mary Joan Pridgen (Jack), grandchildren Brad and Brandon Gillis, and nieces and nephews Arnie Nunnery, Mary Ava Nunnery, Skye Lankford, and Blaine Nunnery.

A private committal service will be held at Wake Memorial Park, Cary, NC. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, January 2, 2016 at 3PM at Village Baptist Church, 906 S. McPherson Church Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28303, The Reverend Nick Smith officiating. The family will receive friends following the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family request consideration for memorial donations be made to Village Baptist Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Wake Memorial Park Cemetery

7002 Green Hope School Rd  
Cary, NC 27519  
(919) 465-0888  
<https://www.wakememorialpark.com/>

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

JAN 2. 3:00 PM (ET)

Village Baptist Church  
906 S. McPherson Church Rd  
Fayetteville, NC 28303

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ I first met Mrs. Gillis when I was a seventh grader whose seventh-period teacher (another teacher) kept the entire class after the last bell as punishment, as I was running to try to catch my bus home. I wound up with a writing assignment, very displeased parents, and a firm respect of Mrs. Gillis- but I never ran down a hallway again, no matter the reason!

Later, I would take a course called PEL (Political Economic Legal systems), and Mrs. Gillis was the only teacher. She was a wonderfully intelligent and articulate teacher, who genuinely cared not only about her students, but in making them better people. She absolutely understood the difference between learning and understanding, and I looked forward to her class every day. Junior high school is arguably a tough time in any young person's life, but I still look back very fondly at those years and remember how she challenged her students not just to learn, but also to think, to reason, and to grow. I and so many others were blessed to have known her.

I am sorry to send this so many years later (I have wandered far afield, and sadly Stedman Junior High is no more), but Mrs. Gillis remains a bright and cherished memory for me. My most heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

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**Jarrett Britt** - December 14, 2023 at 06:10 PM

BG

Thank you so much, Jarrett! I am her grandson and miss her every day. Your kind words mean more than you could know. Thank you!

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**Brandon Gillis** - March 14, 2025 at 11:24 PM

BH

“ My thoughts and prayers to the Gillis and Nunnery families during this sad time of loss of a truly wonderful, caring lady. She was always one of my favorite teachers who I grew to consider a friend for many years. She really loved teaching and sharing her love of history and English and I always looked forward to her classes. I am so sorry that I could not attend her service. I will always remember her and cherish my many fond memories of her. Dawn, I am thinking of you and praying that God will be with you and bring you comfort.

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**Beverly Faircloth Hobgood** - January 04, 2016 at 08:15 PM

TM

“ Prayers for those you leave behind, because they will miss you so, but the glory you know now, is more than we can imagine. I am blessed to call your son Dave my friend & co-worker, no finer legacy could you leave behind. He is kind, caring, hard working, and his Christian soul shines bright. Knowing him as I do, I can surely say, what a wonderful person you were, and I hope your beautiful memories can comfort him, and everyone else who's lives you touched. RIP beautiful lady...

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**Tammie Minacapelli** - December 31, 2015 at 07:28 PM