



Gwyn Anthony Raker

July 19, 1949 - August 5, 2025

Gwyn Anthony Raker of Roswell, Georgia passed away in the peaceful comfort of his home surrounded by his family on August 5, 2025. He was born July 19, 1949 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina to the late Iris and Horace Raker.

Gwyn graduated from Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem where he was honored with the Wittiest Superlative his senior year, and made numerous lifetime friendships. He enjoyed attending Reynolds reunions for many years. He continued his studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He loved his years at UNC, where he drew cartoons for the Daily Tar Heel and never missed a home basketball game. Gwyn was a die-hard Carolina basketball fan and remembered any stat, any player and any game going all the way back to the 60's. He passed his love for the Tar Heels on to his children.

He married his beloved, Marianne Nifong, after graduation in 1972. They began their life together in Winston-Salem, but soon moved to the metro Atlanta area where they built a beautiful and full life. They would have celebrated their 53rd anniversary on August 13th.

In addition to being a devoted husband he was a very proud Dad to his children Caroline and Bryan. He cherished his close relationship with them

long after they left his home. He took on his favorite role to date – Gwyndaddy! – when his precious granddaughter Edie Grace Raker was born in August 2024.

He always believed in preparing for career moves and seizing opportunities. In 1981 he was convinced by Bernie Marcus and Arthur Blank to take a chance with The Home Depot and that it would change his life. This was true and then some. He spent nearly 19 years at HD and created the loveable mascot, Homer D. Poe, along with the font for the pricing and signage still seen in the stores today. He left a lasting legacy at the company that won't soon be forgotten.

Gwyn enjoyed a long retirement filled with world travel, golf, sports cars and live music. Over the years, he was commissioned to create countless original pieces of art including pets, architectural drawings and landscapes.

He spent as much time as he could at his mountain home outside of Boone, North Carolina. He loved driving his 1997 Jeep Wrangler around the High Country enjoying all the area had to offer. More than anything he cherished his time with his family and friends that he considered family. Everyone loved Gwyn.

Gwyn will be sorely missed by all who were lucky enough to know him. He will be remembered for his quick wit, his kind heart and his incredible artistic talent. He was known for his storytelling and impressive memory. Gwyn was a wonderful listener who gave great advice. People were drawn to his magnetic spirit his entire life. Above all, his legacy will be his sweet love and devotion to his people. His life was wonderful because he was wonderful. His life was full of love because he was full of love.

Gwyn is survived by his wife Marianne, his children Caroline Caravella

(Jason) of Roswell, GA and Bryan (Leeanne), his granddaughter Edie Raker of Marietta, GA, his brother, Don Raker (Ann), his sister-in-law Susan Williamson (Rick), along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and three grand-dogs who adored him.

A visitation will be held at Northside Chapel on Friday August 15th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. His "Celebration of a Life Well Lived" will be at Northbrook United Methodist Church on Saturday August 16th at 2:00 p.m. A reception will follow the service in the Simmons Fellowship Hall. In Gwyn's memory we encourage wearing the color blue or whatever makes you happy.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the compassionate caregivers who provided comfort and support in his final days.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Northbrook United Methodist Church (<https://www.northbrookumc.com/>), Roswell, Georgia. He was a faithful member serving many roles for over 42 years.

Cemetery Details

Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory

12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 15. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA 30075
(770) 645-1414
info@northsidechapel.com

Funeral Service

AUG 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

Northbrook United Methodist Church
11225 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Tribute Wall

TK

“ Tony K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwyn Anthony Raker.

Tony K. - September 01, 2025 at 05:19 PM

DS

“ I will always treasure Gwyn's gentle presence during our Disciple Bible classes so long ago. Will donate to Northbrook in his memory.

Danise Stewart - August 18, 2025 at 04:24 PM

SA

“ Scott A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwyn Anthony Raker.

Scott A. - August 16, 2025 at 01:17 PM

LH

“ Love Marty and Liza Holmes purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.



Love Marty and Liza Holmes - August 13, 2025 at 07:20 PM

LH

“ Love Marty and Liza Holmes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwyn Anthony Raker.

Love Marty and Liza Holmes - August 13, 2025 at 07:20 PM

CM

“ Cathy & Jim Martin purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.



Cathy & Jim Martin - August 13, 2025 at 04:43 PM

CM

“ Cathy & Jim Martin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwyn Anthony Raker.

Cathy & Jim Martin - August 13, 2025 at 04:43 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.



August 13, 2025 at 03:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gwyn Anthony Raker.

August 13, 2025 at 03:23 PM

CC

“ Caroline C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwyn Anthony Raker.

Caroline C. - August 12, 2025 at 02:49 PM

CC

“ Caroline C. purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.



Caroline C. - August 12, 2025 at 02:49 PM

EF

“ Mr. Raker (as he will always be known to me) was an amazing, inspiring man. Some of my best memories are from the Carolina-themed basement on King Road. He was always generous and welcoming to all the many kids who loved hanging out over there. My heartfelt condolences to the Raker/Caravella family - I know how special your bond was and will always be.

ERIN LYNN FLEMING - August 12, 2025 at 11:19 AM

TT

“ The Home Depot D29K Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.



The Home Depot D29K Team - August 12, 2025 at 08:06 AM

AS

“ Amy, Erin, Lindsey and Sherry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwyn Anthony Raker.

Amy, Erin, Lindsey and Sherry - August 11, 2025 at 05:05 PM

AS

“ Amy, Erin, Lindsey and Sherry purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.



Amy, Erin, Lindsey and Sherry - August 11, 2025 at 05:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.



August 11, 2025 at 06:37 AM

HH

“ Marianne, We are so sorry to hear of Gwyn's passing. Please know you are in our prayers and love as you and the family navigate grieving. May sweet memories, laughter, and honored stories comfort you all now and as time passes. Sincerely, Helen, Phil, and Eric Hodges

Helen Hodges - August 10, 2025 at 10:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.



August 10, 2025 at 09:21 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.* ”



August 09, 2025 at 06:43 PM

DA

“ I have many great memories of Gwyn and the times we spent alone and with others. I knew Gwyn for about 39 years. Shortly after meeting him, we became fast friends. We came from different backgrounds, but we shared many things in common. We both loved and followed the Tar Heel basketball team along with Coach Dean Smith (I think he resembles “Homer”). We both were big fans of Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. We followed the GA Bulldogs football team and many other things.

Most men, no matter how old, still have a part deep within their minds that’s about 18 years old, and when we would get together, those 18-year-olds would come to the surface; sometimes that was a little risky, but it always led to a heck of a good time. It didn’t matter if we were at 1 of the 4 Final Four tournaments that we attended together including the 1993 tournament in New Orleans where NC defeated the Michigan Fab Five or playing golf or going to golf tournaments, we had a blast! We went on ski trips, rented house boats and motorhomes. We went on several deep-sea fishing trips to Key West, rented houses and did family trips to Key West. I could write a book on my excursions with Gwyn.

I love Gwyn like a brother and am extremely thankful for the memories and I will miss him so much. If I could speak with Gwyn today, I would tell him that I love him and to stay young in his mind, and “I will see you soon, my friend, love you brother”.

Beverly and I offer deepest sympathy to Marianne, Caroline and Bryan and know that the wonderful memories you have will put smiles on your faces as well.

David Aderhold

David Aderhold - August 09, 2025 at 06:18 PM

GD

“ Greg and Lisa Davis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwyn Anthony Raker.

Greg and Lisa Davis - August 08, 2025 at 05:49 PM

GD

“ Greg and Lisa Davis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.



Greg and Lisa Davis - August 08, 2025 at 05:49 PM

PJ

“ Condolences and Prayers to the family. May God Comfort You in this difficult time.
Paul Raker Jr.

Paul Raker Jr - August 08, 2025 at 05:16 PM

TF

“ Sending our condolences to the Raker family. May your cherished family memories always be a comfort to you.
God bless. Terry & Tom Fleming

Terry Fleming - August 08, 2025 at 02:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gwyn Anthony Raker.*



August 08, 2025 at 11:46 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Gwyn was special. In the 42 years I knew him I never saw him without a smile, I never heard him say anything bad about anybody and he always shared his love for his family. I considered him a friend and he will be a friend I continually remember.*

Richard Speer - August 08, 2025 at 10:36 AM