



Gerald James Paddio

April 21, 1965 - April 4, 2026

Rayne, LA - Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Mass at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Rayne, Louisiana, for Gerald James Paddio, 60, who passed away in a single-car accident on April 4, 2026. Father Rev. Edward J. Chiffriller, SSJ, of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, will serve as Celebrant and conduct the funeral services. The family requests that visitation be observed in Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. A Rosary will be prayed on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church.

Gerald James Paddio was born on April 21, 1965, to Gale Paddio and the late Gerald Mayfield. A proud native of Rayne, he grew up in a close-knit community where he quickly became known not only for his athletic talent but for his charisma, determination, and heart.

Gerald was a hometown hero and widely regarded as a legend in Rayne. He attended Rayne High School in 1984, where his exceptional basketball ability first began to capture attention. He continued his athletic journey at Kilgore Junior College, where he later earned the distinguished honor of being inducted into the Kilgore College Athletic Hall of Fame. He then transferred to Seminole College, where he earned First Team All-American honors in 1986, gaining national collegiate recognition.

Following this success, Gerald made a life-changing decision to continue his education and basketball career at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. During his time there, he played a pivotal role in leading the team to a Final Four appearance in 1987. That same year, the City of Rayne acknowledged this tremendous achievement by honoring him with a Key to the City and proclaiming August 23rd as "Gerald Paddio Day," a testament to the pride and admiration his hometown held for him.

In 1988, Gerald was drafted by the Boston Celtics and went on to become the only Rayne native to have a successful career in the NBA, an achievement that brought immense pride to his hometown. During his six-year NBA career, he also played for the Cleveland Cavaliers, Seattle SuperSonics, Indiana Pacers, New York Knicks, and Washington Bullets, further solidifying his presence at the highest level of the game.

After his time in the NBA, Gerald continued his professional career overseas for more than a decade, dominating internationally in countries such as Italy, Japan, Argentina, Lebanon, Mexico, France, and Spain. His global career left a lasting impact and earned him respect from fans and teammates around the world.

After many successful years in basketball, Gerald chose to return home to Rayne, where he embraced a quieter life surrounded by those who loved and knew him best. His presence remained impactful, and he continued to inspire others through his story, his humility, and his enduring connection to his roots.

Gerald was preceded in death by his father, Gerald Mayfield; his paternal grandparents, Susie Mae Mayfield and Peter Mayfield; and his maternal grandparents, Rose Mae Philips and Vincent Paddio.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving mother, Gale Paddio of Rayne, LA; his sisters, Tabetha Paddio of Houston, TX, Kristi Paddio Hunter of Rayne, LA, and Valene Charles Kolapo (Adedamola) of Richmond, TX; his brothers, Tarmell Paddio of Rayne, LA, and Vallen Charles (Erica) of Youngsville, LA; along with a host of extended family members and dear friends who will forever hold him in their hearts.

Pallbearers will be Marcus Carmouche, Clayton Granger, Jude Granger Jr., Michael Grant, Quincy Smith, and John Wilridge Jr.

The Paddio family would like to extend our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to Nichole Menard for being what we truly believe was Gerald's guardian angel, praying with him in his final moments of life. Her compassion, presence, and selfless act of kindness brought comfort in a moment of unimaginable sorrow and will forever remain a blessing to our family. We will never forget the peace she provided simply by not allowing him to be alone.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Gerald's Towing for their kindness, patience, and understanding during such a difficult time. Additionally, we are deeply grateful to everyone who called, sent messages, offered kind words, and lifted our family in prayer. Your love, support, and encouragement have meant more to us than words can express and will always be remembered.

Gerald will be remembered for his remarkable athletic legacy, his love for his hometown, and the pride he brought to all who knew him. His life stands as a testament to perseverance, excellence, and the power of never forgetting where you come from.

Friends may view the obituary and guestbook online at www.gossenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc. of Rayne, (337) 334-3141.

Gossen Funeral Home, Inc.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
600 W. Jefferson Davis St
Rayne, LA 70578

Rosary

APR 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
600 W. Jefferson Davis St
Rayne, LA 70578

Tribute Wall

WL

“ Gerald was a Celtics draft pick, and as a fan, I thought it was great, since he was so fun to watch play for UNLV. I am terribly sorry to learn only now he lived here, where I moved 15 years ago. I wish I knew, so I could have told him how much joy he brought to me 40 years ago.

William Large - April 20 at 09:26 PM

WL

I forgot to add: that dude could shoot the dang basketball!

William Large - April 20 at 09:32 PM



“ A Tribute to Gerald Paddio

It is with heavy hearts that we honor the life of Gerald, a man whose kindness, mentorship, and sharp wit left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him. He was more than just a relative; he was a guide and a champion for those he loved.

Gerald believed deeply in the potential of others. To his family, he was a pillar of support, always ready to lend an ear or offer the encouragement needed to take the next big step. He was a pivotal mentor who didn't just give advice—he took action—opening doors and helping to secure that first career milestone that set the foundation for years of success to come.

Some of the fondest memories of Gerald center around the kitchen table during a game of bid whist. He was a master of the game, a patient teacher, and a formidable partner. Through every "rise and fly," he taught the value of strategy, the importance of reading the room, and the joy of healthy competition. More than just a game, those sessions were where lessons on life and family were shared, always with Gerald's signature warmth and steady presence.

His legacy lives on in the careers he helped launch, the lessons he imparted, and the spirit of the games he played. Gerald will be deeply missed, but his influence will continue to guide us for a lifetime.

Love,
Charles Wainwright



Charles Wainwright - April 13 at 12:29 AM

CH

“ *Christina lit a candle in memory of Gerald James Paddio*



Christina - April 11 at 01:37 PM

DM

“ *Denise Morrison lit a candle in memory of Gerald James Paddio*



Denise Morrison - April 11 at 11:14 AM

RW

“ *Rose Helen Woods lit a candle in memory of Gerald James Paddio*



Rose Helen Woods - April 10 at 10:08 PM

VE

“ *Condolences to Kristi and Family. God Bless you All. Veronica B.*

veronica - April 10 at 08:42 AM

PM

“ *Paula Mayfield lit a candle in memory of Gerald James Paddio*



Paula Mayfield - April 10 at 12:15 AM

PM

My dearest cousin, my heart is truly broken. I can hardly find the words, and I still can't believe this is real. I always treasured our summer trip to Rayne, La, and those memories will stay with me forever.

I will forever hold on to our childhood days, walking in that hot sun with our (favorite ice cold cool cup) to Moma Nola's house (111 Stadium Drive), me, you, Peter Joe, Linda, Brenda, Jackie, and Warren. We laughed, we played, and we dreamed about our future, never knowing how precious those moments would become.

Peanut, I know we will meet again someday, laughing together about the good old days.

Goodbye for now, my dearest cousin (Peanut). Sending you all my love and the biggest hugs.

" Love doesn't end. It simply changes shape and finds a home in our hearts, where it stays forever." This is a short poem, cousin.

Hugs, Paula Faye Mayfield, your cousin

Paula Mayfield - April 10 at 12:57 AM

LE

We love Gerald !!!!!!! He was a true UNLV Rebel !!!!!!!

LEE - April 10 at 02:08 AM

BF

“ *May he rest in peace...*



Brenda B. Francis - April 09 at 10:38 PM

RR

“ *Sending our heartfelt condolences and prayers for our friend Gerald and family. We remember seeing you in Boston while stationed in Massachusetts. Reminiscing on our school days and fun times. God bless you and may the perpetual light shine upon you.*

Reginald and Leanna Rubin

Reginald and Leanna Rubin - April 09 at 05:10 PM

JG

“ *My condolences to the family, bnl you will be miss continue to watch over us with love Juanita.*



juanita grangef - April 08 at 07:08 PM



“ *Sending Prayers for the family Terry and Jessica Credeur*



Jessica Kibodeaux Credeur - April 08 at 04:55 PM

PW

“ Our hearts ache with yours during this time of profound loss. May the memories of his life and legacy brings comfort, and may you find solace in the love and support that surrounds you. Sending our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy.

Paula Broussard-Wilcox & Family

Paula Wilcox - April 08 at 10:52 AM

BJ

Condolences to Tabitha and 🙏 family sorry for your loss 🙏

Bettie Jackson - April 08 at 05:37 PM

DC

“ Daphne Comeaux lit a candle in memory of Gerald James Paddio



Daphne Comeaux - April 08 at 08:10 AM

PA

“ Paula sent a virtual gift in memory of Gerald James Paddio



Paula - April 08 at 12:23 AM

RH

REST EZ MY FRIEND AND BROTHER MY PRAYERS ARE WITH THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS LUVU2 FAMILY AMEN AMEN 🙏

Rev. SHANNON HARMON - April 08 at 04:43 AM

GB

“ GERHART B. lit a candle in memory of
Gerald James Paddio



GERHART B. - April 07 at 11:07 PM

SH

“ SHELIA lit a candle in memory of Gerald
James Paddio



SHELIA - April 07 at 11:04 PM

BJ

“ Bettie Johnson lit a candle in memory of
Gerald James Paddio



Bettie Johnson - April 07 at 10:24 PM

DW

“ I would frist like to send my condolences to the family. Gerald and I shared a lot of fun times together Gerald would come with me on my football recruiting trips we would have so much fun but above all he was my friend and a very kind person. Gerald thanks for the memories because at the end of the day when we leave this world all we have with other people is memories. Until me meet again my friend get your rest.

Dwayne Williams - April 07 at 10:23 PM

BJ

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family*
Bettie Johnson

Bettie Johnson - April 07 at 10:23 PM

MJ

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Tabbie and the entire family. Grieve as you shall and know that God isn't far away. Y'all are in my prayers*



Michelle Johnson

Michelle Johnson - April 07 at 09:57 PM

PA

“ *Paula lit a candle in memory of Gerald James Paddio*



Paula - April 07 at 09:49 PM

FM

“ *My Deepest condolences to the familia God bless your all*

Francisco Molina - April 07 at 09:32 PM

LJ

“ *Deepest condolences to the family, classmate forever, from the Cook's.*

Leroy h cook jr - April 07 at 09:10 PM

EM

“ Heart felt Condolences to family 🙏...

Emanuel Miller - April 07 at 09:03 PM

VW

“ My Deepest Condolences to the Family, Gail I am praying for you may god bless you all.

Vivian Woods - April 07 at 08:22 PM

AF

To the family you have my deepest condolences

Alice Fuselier - April 07 at 09:29 PM

JB

“ Rest in God's peace sir. Sending prayers of condolence to your family 🙏🙏🙏

Jeanette Breaux - April 07 at 07:23 PM

RH

“ Watched him play basketball from rayne high to the pros. Always smiling and and filled with kindness. Praying for you mom as well as the family. God bless and God dpeed

Ros Haure - April 07 at 07:17 PM

KD

“ You will truly be miss sending love and prayers to the family 🙏🙏
🙏

Kristy Dugas - April 07 at 06:15 PM

RC

Very sorry for your loss. 🙏

Robert Clay - April 07 at 06:29 PM

GH

I never had the opportunity to meet Gerald but he was my childhood hero as a player at UNLV. It was one of my greatest thrills to watch him play and he inspired me in my own athletic endeavors. I love watching old videos of his days as a Rebel and he will always be my favorite. My sincerest condolences to his family and may God be with you all during this difficult time. Please take comfort in knowing his legacy will live on in the lives of so many including my own.

Greg Heiny - April 07 at 07:13 PM