



Gay Slaydon Perkins

October 9, 1942 - October 17, 2025

Gay Slaydon Perkins, 83, of 846 Wards Road, Altavista died Friday, October 17, 2025 at her home surrounded by her family. She was the wife of the late Grover Lee Perkins, Jr.

She was born October 9, 1942 in Winston-Salem, NC, a daughter of the late Harold Thomas Slaydon and Thelma Crouch Slaydon. Gay was best known as the owner of Perky's Restaurant, where she welcomed everyone with kindness and a smile. She loved to crochet, travel, spend time with her family and friends, and relax at the beach.

She is survived by two sons, David H. Toren and his wife, Tammy of Winston-Salem, NC and Greg S. Toren and his wife, Melanie of Altavista; one brother, Thomas M. Slaydon and his wife, Debbie of Fredericksburg; seven grandchildren, Gregory Toren, Evan Toren, Julie Henry (Sean), Skye Toren, David Toren, Carter Webb, Skylar Orr (Jimmy); two great grandchildren, Lincoln Henry and Gemma Orr; and two nephews, Matthew and Jared Slaydon.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her step-son, Steve Perkins; and step-daughter, Virginia Derrick.

A celebration of Gay's life will be held at Perky's from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Sunday,

November 2, 2025.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9956 or the National Center for Healthy Veterans, 980 Wards Road, Altavista, VA 24517 (www.HealthyVeterans.org <<http://www.HealthyVeterans.org>>)

Finch & Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 2. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Perky's Restaurant
802 Wards Rd.
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall

PV

“ *Paul VanKerckhove lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins*



Paul VanKerckhove - October 21, 2025 at 06:48 AM

TR

“ *Greg and family. So sorry for loss of your mother . Love, Trudy*

trudy Reel - October 20, 2025 at 11:46 PM

RC

“ *I remember when Gay was about 12 when the pressure cooker in Grandma Crouch's kitchen exploded and all the Ladies ran screaming out of the kitchen. i was about 4 at the time and Gay came to me and reassured me that everything was going to be OK and my mom was fine. Gay was the only calm person in that kitchen!!*

Ron Crouch - October 20, 2025 at 05:21 PM

CW

“ *I'm going to miss her so much. Cousins have a special bond and ours was special. Greg and David and both your families know our love goes out to all of you. May you find peace in this time of hurt and sadness. Lots of love. Carole, Kayla, Neelya and Lee.*

Carole Webb - October 20, 2025 at 05:03 PM

SB

“ Miss Gay - What a truly beautiful Lady! Loved her smile. Lots of fond memories . . . Greg, keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. Stacey Barbour

Stacey Barbour - October 20, 2025 at 04:18 PM

AM

“ Amy Sellick McFeeley lit a candle in memory of Gay Perkins



Amy Sellick McFeeley - October 20, 2025 at 09:35 AM

LS

“ Dave and Greg, I am sorry to hear of your mom's passing. I still have so many good memories from the times spent visiting over the years. Thinking of you and your families during this difficult time.

Lori Toren Suchy - October 19, 2025 at 07:50 PM

DR

“ Dennis Robertson lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins



Dennis Robertson - October 19, 2025 at 12:54 PM

SM

“ Sending love, thoughts & prayers to Greg, Melanie & families.

Sharon Mayhew - October 19, 2025 at 09:21 AM

TH

“ Rest easy Miss Gay, you will be truly missed.
Peace be with you all during this time of
unfathomable loss.
Love and prayers,
Teresa



Teresa Haynes - October 18, 2025 at 11:57 AM

CT

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with
your Family.
Randall & Carolyn Toney

Carolyn Toney - October 18, 2025 at 10:49 AM

VC

“ R.I.P. Gay. You will be truly missed. Thoughts
and prayers sent to your family. May God see
your family through this difficult time. You are
now reunited with Perky. I have many
memories at Perky's restaurant from the first
opening till present.



Vicky Creasy - October 18, 2025 at 07:23 AM

WJ

“ William James lit a candle in memory of Gay
Perkins



William James - October 18, 2025 at 07:02 AM

CS

“ *Cindy Stewart lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins*



Cindy Stewart - October 18, 2025 at 01:02 AM

DB

“ *Greg, we are so very sorry for the loss of your Mom. She certainly touched many lives over the years at Perky's. Donnie & I send our condolences to you & your family. We hope your memories will carry you through this difficult time.*



Donnie & Terri Bryant - October 18, 2025 at 12:41 AM

KM

Greg and Mel we are so sorry for the loss of your mom, we are sending our love and praying for you all.

Kim and Danny Mays - October 18, 2025 at 07:42 AM

LJ

“ *I remember her at Perkeys restaurant when we came in there when I was in high school she was a nice sweet lady she definitely will be missed RIP my friend we all will see eating other again soon at the gates of heaven*

Lucas Jones - October 18, 2025 at 12:10 AM

MS

“ *Marilyn Shelton lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins*



Marilyn Shelton - October 17, 2025 at 11:46 PM

DC

“ *Doc Buzzy Coleman lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins*



Doc Buzzy Coleman - October 17, 2025 at 11:09 PM

DP

“ *Darlene Puckett lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins*



Darlene Puckett - October 17, 2025 at 10:33 PM

CJ

“ *Loved you so very much.*



Cheryl A James - October 17, 2025 at 10:26 PM

CJ

“ Cheryl Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins



Cheryl Jacobs - October 17, 2025 at 08:42 PM

DF

“ Greg and family ,we are so sorry to hear about Gay. Her smile could light up a room. Keeping you all lifted in prayer.



Danny & Dianne Fifer - October 17, 2025 at 07:57 PM

JC

“ Judy Cox lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins



Judy Cox - October 17, 2025 at 07:49 PM

WS

“ Willie Seamster lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins



Willie seamster - October 17, 2025 at 07:36 PM

JM

“ Jimmy And Anne Marr lit a candle in memory of Gay Slaydon Perkins



Jimmy and Anne marr - October 17, 2025 at 07:23 PM

CW

“ We loved Miss Gay with our whole heart. She was a beautiful friend. Rest easy sweet lady. Now you're with Perky once again. Many thoughts and prayers go out to the family.



christy & chester witt - October 17, 2025 at 06:53 PM

JP

“ Johnny Parker lit a candle in memory of Gay Perkins



Johnny Parker - October 17, 2025 at 06:32 PM

MT

“ Michael Towler lit a candle in memory of Gay Perkins



Michael Towler - October 17, 2025 at 06:31 PM