



George Rupert Gause, Jr.

May 14, 2024

McALLEN-- George Rupert Gause, Jr, 77, passed away on May 14, 2024, following a brief illness.

George was born in Glen Cove, NY to George Rupert Gause, and Elizabeth Moisson Dantzler Gause. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Martha Victoria Barefoot White.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Virginia Haynie Gause of McAllen; his nieces Martha Elizabeth Barefoot Sylvestre (David) of Phillips, ME; and Sarah Catherine Barefoot Thompson (Dave) of Benson, NC.

George served as Special Collections and Archives Librarian at UTPA (presently UTRGV) for 38 years. George and Virginia were soulmates for almost 52 years, having met at Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, TN. In Fall 1973 George was employed by Pan American University at Brownsville, building book collections with a strong emphasis on Mexican American Studies. In 1977 he transferred to Pan American University at Edinburg (later UTPA and UTRGV) until he retired in 2011.

George believed in providing genealogical sources in the university library years before they were commonly accepted as suitable curriculum materials. He was one of the founders of Las Porciones Genealogical Society in Edinburg. He served on Hidalgo County Historical Commission for many years. He also served on the Texas Committee of the National Register for Historical Places, enjoying travel throughout the state to historical landmarks. In the 1980s he and Virginia volunteered many Sundays cataloging books

owned by McAllen International Museum (now IMAS) for their staff research library. He was also a founder of the McAllen Folk Art Society with the museum in the early 1990s and coordinated with other folk art groups in San Antonio and Austin. In 1991 and 1992 he served as guest curator at Children's Museum Houston, helping a team recreate a Oaxacan village while another team created a parallel Chinese village. He was a member of the McAllen Centennial Celebration Committee in 2004 and a founder of PalmFest Folklife Festival. He was active in Hidalgo County Historical Society and museum groups from Edinburg to Harlingen to Brownsville. He enjoyed making travel arrangements for bus tours throughout South Texas and Mexico. Once he arranged a tour to Oaxaca where the participants traveled by train from Reynosa all the way to Oaxaca.

George and Virginia traveled throughout Mexico with a fervent passion for adventure and learning how real Mexicans lived by visiting their homes. George enjoyed visiting artisans in their homes and watching them work for hours while Virginia photographed or videoed them. Thanks to close friends they got to know Mexico City, Monterrey, Oaxaca, Chiapas and other Mexican states fairly well.

About 2009 George shifted his attention to studying Chinese and Taiwanese Tea Culture. In 2019 he and Virginia were privileged to tour four provinces in Southwest China where their group visited tea farms and tea markets. For a while he did presentations in schools and libraries. In 2022 he and Virginia toured Spain, Portugal, and Morocco with two buses of Asians, mostly from the Houston area. In 2023 he and Virginia took a Viking river cruise along the Danube.

George was a Life member of Texas Library Association and an active member of the American Library Association. He took great pleasure in attending book fairs in Guadalajara and Monterrey to buy books in Spanish for the university library. He enjoyed working with individual university students to help them formalize their term paper topics. He truly liked networking and connecting people with the information they needed.

George was passionate about gardening, as well as gourmet eating. He often asked for the chef to come to his table after dining. He was fastidious about thanking people for whatever they did to enhance the quality of his life. He had a zest for history, art, music, and well set dining tables with cloth napkins! He enjoyed eating by candlelight.

George's remains will be interred in his family's plot at Mount Hope Cemetery, in Florence, SC. A local celebration of George's life will be held in the fall at a time and place to be determined later.

Tribute Wall

AR

“ *Querida Virginia:
Con especial sentir, recibe un abrazo con todo mi respecto y cariño.
Entrañables y alegres momentos son mis recuerdos de ustedes.
George hizo mucho por las bibliotecas, pero lo que logró con las
personas al rededor de su vida es inconmesurable.
Con todo mi afecto,
Armando Ruiz-Reyna, Monterrey-México*

Armando Ruiz-Reyna - January 30, 2025 at 06:24 PM

NL

“ *Our deepest condolences to Virginia.*



Norma & Arturo Longoria - August 17, 2024 at 07:39 PM

MH

“ *Hello Virginia
This is Maria Hurtado formerly Maria Herrera. Please accept my
deepest sympathy on d loss of your beloved George. I dearly
remember you and George from the 1980s when I arranged a book
buying trip to Monterrey. I am honored and privileged to have known
both of you. You two were an inspiration on my life. George will be
deeply missed.*

Maria Hurtado - August 17, 2024 at 06:19 AM

BH

“ Virginia, I'm so sorry for your loss. George was such a pleasure on our THC trips around the state. He will be missed.

Brett A. Houk - August 13, 2024 at 09:24 AM

PR

“ Virginia:

My deepest sympathy on George's passing. I'm grateful for his friendship and support as a classmate at Peabody and as we began our careers in the archival profession. I enjoyed our correspondence concerning distant relatives we shared (the Bacots).

Phil Runkel

Phil Runkel - June 22, 2024 at 11:21 AM

TK

“ Remembering George from our early days in Brownsville at TSC. He was always eager to help on whatever library project one might have. It was always a pleasure to encounter him. Condolences to Virginia. Tony Knopp

Tony Knopp - May 30, 2024 at 04:48 PM

IK

“ Dear Veronica,

We are so sorry for your loss.

We missed the time George and you came to visit us in Houston. You two have been our dear friends for many years. We enjoy having you and George's company drinking tea together. We always love to hear about your traveling adventure and we appreciate your love of all aspects of the Asian tea culture.

You two are always putting our family in your heart, giving our girls lunar New Year zodiac stuff animals every year. We were always so happy and feeling warm when we received your package.

George fostered genuine relationships with people he met. We are fortunate to be one of his friends in his life. We will always remember him and miss him.

Our deepest condolences to you and family.

Guang and Irene

Irene Kuo - May 28, 2024 at 09:30 PM

MC

“ I will miss George energy. I have been taking care of his family for several years and he was always very pleasant and came together with lovely Virginia.
I want to give my deepest and sincere condolences to Virginia Gause his wife and partner for over 50 years.
Life sometimes is unpredictable but Faith is always predictable.
Rest in Peace my dearest George. I'm sure that your great spirit will be around from time to time.
I will be caring for your lovely wife until she meets you one day.
Love always.....Dr Coimbra.

Maria Coimbra - May 20, 2024 at 01:08 PM



“ Dear Virginia, I'm so so sorry to hear about George's passing. I was thinking just the other day that I haven't heard from you two in a while. Every time I passed by the Hotel Des Arts I thought of the funky room that you and George stayed in, and the delicious dumplings we had at the Ukrainian place down the street. Memories of you attending Clarion's events are surfacing now, and so many wonderful email exchanges...Take care of yourself and write to me.
With much love and blessings, Clara

Clara Hsu - May 20, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ We moved to the RGV from Boston almost two years ago. We attended MXLAN about two weeks after our arrival, and ended up seated at dinner next to George and Virginia. What a wonderful evening we spent, sharing stories of travel, love of tea, homeschooling and education, and the history of this magical place we now call home. What a pleasure it was to meet them both. Rest in peace, George. We know you will be remembered with fondness and gratitude. ❤️ Our hearts and prayers are with you, Virginia. -
The Vassos

Karen Vasso - May 19, 2024 at 02:02 PM

JS

“ A great human being. He will be much missed by us and hundreds of other Mexican friends of Virginia and him.

Juan Francisco Urrusti and Ana Piño S. - May 19, 2024 at 02:50 AM

Jl

“ Deepest sympathy to our dearly friend
George Gause.
I am lucky to meet you, I will cherish this brief
moment forever.
" I like your hat"



Jin - May 19, 2024 at 01:02 AM

CH

“ Virginia, Victor and I are so sorry to see that George passed away. He was such a nice person and gentleman. It seems like yesterday that I would see George at the library at UTPA. He always had a smile and I truly enjoyed listening to George because he was so witty. I am glad we saw him at your “favorite “ restaurant (according to George) in McAllen quite a few months ago. May he rest in eternal peace . Condolences to you and your family. Victor (COBA) and Canie (Nursing Department) Huerta.

Carolina Huerta - May 18, 2024 at 09:13 PM



“ My husband Don and I shared some memorable times in Mexico with George and Virginia, meticulously and imaginatively arranged by George. His knowledge of Mexico was boundless. He certainly lived life to the full, wherever he was. Sincere condolences to Virginia.

Berry Fritz - May 18, 2024 at 11:10 AM

JM

“ En memoria de un ser de luz y de mucha alegría. Conocedor del mundo, desde lo más complejo a lo más simple. We will see you again George! Hugs to his magical life partner, Virginia, may his path be illuminated with bright light like his spirit! ☀️

Jezz M - May 17, 2024 at 09:17 PM

DN

“ There were two Winter Texan couples from Minnesota who had the privilege to have met George and Virginia 10 or more years ago. I will speak for The Nelsons and The Kiners, we were so pleased to have George guiding us to special events at UTRGV, McAllen, and across the Valley. George opened many adventures to us! Such a kind, caring, intelligent man! Dorothy & Albert Nelson and Dot and Tom (died on 4-16-24) Kiner

Dorothy A. Lund Nelson - May 17, 2024 at 08:30 PM

CB

“ One of the joys of the Texas Historical Commission annual conferences was seeing and visiting with George and Virginia. George carried a bulging briefcase and he would, with a smile, ask, “Have I given you one of my business cards?” And then he would reach into the briefcase and bring out a Rio Grande Valley grapefruit. Just the best! He had such a curiosity for life and always a smiling face and positive outlook on everything. What an incredible loss to the world. Love and comfort to Virginia. We share your sorrow and your many wonderful memories of George.
Cynthia Beeman

Cynthia J Beeman - May 17, 2024 at 07:30 PM

GS

“ George and Virginia were always so helpful and a wonderful resource for me, the McAllen Creative Arts Incubator and so many events in McAllen. He will be greatly missed and I pray that the Lord gives Virginia the strength she will need to continue her extraordinary life. Praying for George and Virginia and all their loved ones

Greg Schuller - May 17, 2024 at 07:02 PM

JD

“ I fondly remember George when I worked at Pan Am /UTPA. I especially remember when he made a Caesar salad for a staff luncheon I’ve never had one before that and I can’t stop eating them now and think of him every time and thank him for his sharing that experience

Jeannie Dixon - May 17, 2024 at 04:43 PM

BT

“ I first met or heard about George Gause through my husband George Truan shortly after his arrival in Brownsville as librarian for Pan American college or university at their branch here. Little did I know that the “Lechusa” an iron welded sculpture made by my husband and purchased by GG would forge such a great & wonderful friendship between us.
In the almost 32 years since my husband died, I have seen GG & Virginia many many times. My sisterhood of friends and I have shared many meals, art shows, “Around the World in McAllen,” tea tasting parties, garden tours, visited plant nurseries, emails with addresses on where to buy caladium bulbs & of course countless hours looking at textiles of Mexico. I will miss my friend forever and treasure the memories & knowledge I gained from him. Oh and how I will miss his annual message on my birthday. Virginia, I love you as much as I loved GG and I know you’ll feel a huge void forever. Know I am near. ❤️❤️

Bitty Truan - May 17, 2024 at 04:33 PM

ES

Virginia, I was sad to hear of George’s passing. You two were such warm friends of my parents, Tom and Ann Washington. There were so many points of connection with the love of history and travel, love of books and story telling. Both of you enriched their lives, and George will be missed. May God bless you.

Esther Washington Schnase - May 18, 2024 at 02:07 PM

AJ

“ George was a truly unique individual and friend whose life and knowledge will be greatly missed by me and many on both sides of el Rio Grande. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Virginia and his family members. May he rest in peace.

*Hasta Luego, Amigo
Amancio and Cissy Chapa*

Amancio J Chapa Jr - May 17, 2024 at 04:21 PM

DL

“ Our deepest condolences to Virginia and the family. He was true champion for literacy and life long learning.

Dr. Ida Acuna-Garza & So. Tx. Literacy - May 17, 2024 at 04:19 PM

VG

Thank you, Ida. George tried to anticipate people's information needs.

Virginia Haynie Gause - October 05, 2024 at 11:22 PM

RI

“ I could never dream to have better Neighbors than George and Virginia. Sweet memories of our incredible friend George will never leave me. Blessings to Dear Virginia.

R T (Trev) Sparks III - May 17, 2024 at 04:02 PM

VG

Trev, I always thought George and I would be able to visit you and Donna Jo in your new home. We both treasured your visits to our house. And to join in as spectators in your Saturday music jams at your hose! What an era!

Virginia Haynie Gause - August 30, 2024 at 08:33 AM

BJ

“ *Such a lovely and generous man. George took me under his wing when I was a scared grad student doing research at UTPA special collections. I crashed with him and Virginia several times on research trips. We stayed in touch over the decades and he always texted me on my birthday. Gone but not forgotten.*

Benjamin Johnson - May 17, 2024 at 03:37 PM

VH

Thank you, Ben, for being the among the first to reach out. I treasure those days when you came to UTPA and we got to see the world through a young scholar's eyes without even leaving El Pato in Edinburg! George had amazing energy and enthusiasm. The students he came in contact with have flourished in so many ways. And yes, we will all miss George's birthday remembrances!

vhgause@gmail.com - August 17, 2024 at 12:18 PM