



## George Inman Goodenow IV

April 1, 1967 - October 7, 2020

George I. Goodenow IV (“LG”), age 53, of Dallas, Texas went to be with Jesus on October 7th, 2020 at UTSW Clements University Hospital. He was born on April 1st, 1967 in Dallas, Texas to Shirley Cunningham (deceased, May 1974) and George I. Goodenow III. LG is survived by his father, George Inman Goodenow III, his stepmother, Mary Laughlin Goodenow, his brothers, Earl David Goodenow and Robert Benjamin Harris, his nephews, Atticus and Pierce Goodenow, Bryce and Oliver Harris, his nieces, Amanda and Kayla Harris, as well as many beloved aunts, uncles and cousins.

LG enjoyed attending Duncanville High School and participating in a wide variety of activities before graduating in 1987. While at DHS, LG joined the Special Olympics Team playing many sports including Basketball, Bowling, Track, and Baseball. As a Junior, he was a Panther “Manager” for the football team. As a Senior, LG was a member of the Duffers, a spirit and citizenship group, and was dubbed “Mr. Kool” for his outgoing personality. LG was named Special Olympics Athlete of the Year in 1986 and in 1987 received the “Jason Boles Comeback Player of the Year Award” for a student athlete who overcomes personal adversity to make a significant impact on DHS Athletes. The Award Plaque hangs in the DHS Athletic Trainer Room.

LG was always the best he could be in every endeavor. He had a wonderful and varied vocational career including working in the hospitality industry and being a teaching assistant for the ARC of Dallas Day Programs (Association for Retarded Citizens). LG was known for his happy disposition, bright smile and positive can-do attitude. He was a valued employee who was always on time, hardly ever missed work unless sick, and would take extra shifts on his days off to cover for other staff members. This spirit of service that he brought to his work earned him many awards and honors, including: Employee of the Quarter for the Southwest Region of Target, and Employee of the Month for Target, Courtyard by Marriott and Olive Garden.

LG loved interacting with people of all kinds, engaging in conversations about life – but especially sports! LG was an avid sports fan, and his favorite teams were the Texas

Rangers and the Dallas Cowboys. During this COVID-19 isolation period, he began to enjoy the Food Network and would pore over cookbooks of a variety of cuisines and prepare menus. LG would often tell his Dad what he would like him to cook and how to prepare the recipe!

Church was extremely important to LG and he participated in special needs ministries throughout his life. During his time with Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, LG would lead the congregation in prayer during the Epiphany Sunday School Class' participation in the Sunday service. He was a frequent visitor of First Baptist Garland Amazing Grace Ministry. He would attend Sunday School and Vacation Bible School classes with his friends who had invited him to join in their activities. Currently, LG was a member of the Highland Park United Methodist Belong disAbility Ministry. He participated with the Kingdom Singers (choir), The Feast, The Walk and Spotlight Musical Theater. He was a beloved and active member and will be missed by many.

LG was a champion of the special needs community in the Dallas-Fort Worth area including the ARC of Dallas, Advocate Leaders of Texas, Adaptive Recreation with Richardson Rec Center, Therapeutic Recreation with Dallas Bachman Rec Center and lived for 10 years at AFIL (Association for Independent Living). As an Advocate Leader, LG was often asked to speak to parents of individuals with disabilities to let them know their son or daughter could achieve to the best of their own ability.

LG was an artist including ceramics, photography, painting, dancing and singing. Over the years, his artwork has been featured in the ARC of Dallas's Art & Ability Show, August 2010, and several church exhibitions.

LG had an amazing life full of friends and family – making everyone around him happy. He never met a stranger and possessed a gentle and kind spirit, easily loved by all. He will forever be remembered as a hero, a bright light and the wind beneath his family's wings.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to The Alpha-One Foundation, <http://www.alpha1.org>, Special Olympics Texas, <http://www.sotx.org>, the UTSW Medical Center's Liver Clinic, <http://www.utswmed.org>, or any special needs ministry at a church local to you.

Due to COVID-19, there will not be an in-person service, however, the family is planning a Virtual Celebration of his life in the near future so that all of his family, church family and many friends may participate. LG will be inurned at Restland Cemetery and a Memory Page will be posted on the Restland Funeral Home's website at: <http://www.restlandfuneralhom>



# Comments

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“ Our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to George and Mary. We are saddened to hear of this loss and feel their pain. May Love and Light shine down on you and your family. From Josh & Sheryl.



**Sheryl** - October 29, 2020 at 03:24 PM

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“ I remember him and Sunday school and he's going to be missed Audra Allen

**Audra** - October 25, 2020 at 08:41 PM

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“ My prayers are with the Goodenow family and LG's friends. I met LG in The Epiphany class at PHPC. He was so caring and welcomed everyone to the program. I remember standing with LG as he read a prayer for the Epiphany service, he did such an excellent reading. I also loved his knowledge of sports and he could tell you scores on games you may have missed. I will always have the happiest memories of my time with LG, he blessed all of us.

**Carol DuBose** - October 18, 2020 at 05:00 PM

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“ I remember meeting him in Sunday school at church

**Stephanie Evans** - October 18, 2020 at 11:31 AM

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“ With great love comes grief in equal measure, so I know his parting leaves a huge gap in his parents' lives. I was always in awe of how much love LG could radiate just with his warm, sweet presence, and I feel honored to have been a friend. His lightness, his joy, his open way of sharing love made a deep impression on me which I will remember and cherish always.

**Diana Souza** - October 17, 2020 at 12:38 PM

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“ Diana Souza lit a candle in memory of George Inman Goodenow IV



**Diana Souza** - October 17, 2020 at 12:28 PM

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“ LG was a member of Epiphany with my daughter. I always enjoyed seeing him and talking sports. He made an impact on all who knew him. I was so sorry to learn of his passing. RIP LG.

**Jeff Parsons** - October 16, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ LG was the best friend in the world and Sunday School he's going to be missed

**audraallen27@yahoo.com** - October 17, 2020 at 09:58 PM

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“ LG was beloved by everyone who knew him and he brought so much joy to PHPC, our Epiphany Ministry, and the community. LG always served others and displayed a love for Christ in all things.

LG would occasionally lead the church in prayer, scripture & liturgy during worship services, and serving on the welcome team. LG loved working in our Epiphany garden, participating in service projects, attending our Epiphany dances, and ensuring we knew how his favorite teams were performing! I found this photo of us the other night and will cherish it forever.

He is loved by so many and will be missed greatly! We will be praying for you and that you would be comforted knowing the impact of his life.



**Brian Spann** - October 15, 2020 at 08:49 PM



“ Thank you so much, Brian! Your words of comfort mean so much to our family. I love this picture!! He was truly happy participating with PHPC Epiphany Ministry in all of the many activities the ministry offered.

**Mary Goodenow** - October 17, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ LG nice and friendly person to everyone he met. When I first moved to Afil LG was one of the first people I met. LG always had a sense of humor and was always fun to talk to. I am going to miss Lg a lot. I do not have a lot of friends. but Lg was one of the few that would call me and I am going to miss that. peace to you in heaven.

**Michael A. Lorfing** - October 18, 2020 at 09:06 PM



“ My condolences to the friends and family of LG. He was the kindest and most gracious man. He wasn't afraid of leadership or making other people feel welcome. He will always have a special place in my heart!

**Cindy Pierce** - October 15, 2020 at 07:00 PM

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“ LG always had a smile for you even when he wasn't feeling 100%. He made it almost impossible to stay in a sour mood after you spent some time with him. I can't really think of any time LG could be anything but sweet except if you got in the way of his coffee routine, then watch out! He brought nothing but joy and smiles to everyone who was blessed to be in his presence . I am so going to miss his We Can Do It! attitude and beautiful smile. He definitely is going to be so missed but the memory of how he lived his life is going to remind everyone who knew him to never give up and be thankful for everyday

**Jessie Van Lew** - October 15, 2020 at 03:15 PM

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“ I remember George as such a wonderful young man. Always with some interesting or funny comment. Truly sorry for your loss of this wonderful man.

**Brigitte McClellan** - October 15, 2020 at 12:00 PM

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“ George was one of the people in this world that made everyone feel welcome and good. George was sincere and led his life with happiness and the joy to be kind and helpful. My family and I are sad to hear of his passing . Wishing all the Goodenow family love and peace in knowing that LG genuinely touched our hearts. Well wishes, hugs, and love.

Nick and Patrícia Faifar

**Patricia Faifar** - October 14, 2020 at 09:45 PM

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“ LG, my friend, my hockey buddy, and a ray of light to everyone he met. You have touched so many lives and brought joy to so many. You will be missed, but your memory and legacy will live on in all of us.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family.

Layne Pethick

**Layne Pethick** - October 14, 2020 at 06:39 PM

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“ Dear Goodenow Family-  
I'm on staff at the Belong team at HPUMC, but I met LG many years ago as a volunteer for the Dallas ARC. From the beginning, I knew that he was a very special person. He could light up a room and his personality was magnetic. I loved going to the Texas Advocates conference with him and seeing him in his element - meeting new people and being the life of the party. Over the past months that he became involved in the Belong ministry, he was a blessing to so many of our lives. Your son was such a caring soul and made a deeply positive impact on everyone who surrounded him. His bright smile will be incredibly missed, and I feel so blessed to have known him and called him a friend. I am praying for you in your loss, and rejoicing that LG is in heaven with his maker. Please know you are loved and cared for by our community.

In Christ,  
Cat Page

**Cat Page** - October 14, 2020 at 09:32 AM

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“ LG was a beloved member of the Belong Ministry! I will always remember him coming to the Day classes like Pottery, Sewing, Art and exercise with a big smile on his face! He participated in all the activities and made friends so easily. We love and miss you LG!

**Carla Aubrey** - October 13, 2020 at 06:23 PM

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“ What a pleasure this wonderful sweet man was. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Please accept our deepest condolences for this terrible loss.



**Linda Goff** - October 13, 2020 at 05:50 PM



“ Precious Goodenow family,  
As I've had the sweet privilege to feel part of your family for most of my lifetime, my heart aches with you. Precious LG inspired and influenced lives and your constant and loving attention enhanced his life to blossom in ways most people never get to experience.  
Surrounding you with prayers and love  
Debbie and Randy

**Debbie Smith** - October 14, 2020 at 10:12 AM



“ Dear Goodenow Family.

We feel so blessed to have known LG. He was like a member of our family. He was always smiling and uplifting. He had a heart of gold. He spent the weekend with us and made us laugh and we all had a good time. My son Shane and my daughter Susan considered LG as one of their best friends. My daughter talked to him almost every night. He will be greatly missed and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. We feel really blessed for having him as a friend. He was very special to our family.

Shane, Susan, Rhonda and Bubba.

**rhonda mitchell** - October 14, 2020 at 12:51 PM



“ My heartfelt sympathy to the Goodenow family. May George's memory shine through your lives as a beacon, and may you know no more sorrow for many years.

**Mark** - October 16, 2020 at 08:04 AM