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### Gary'isms

*"Like a guinea on a cutworm."*

*"That dog won't hunt."*

*"Fish or cut bait."*

*"When the balloon goes up."*

*"Keep it on your radar."*



### Gary Jones: The End of an Era

Gary Jones was born on Nov. 19, 1947, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and has been on the move ever since.

"Gary stood at eight months old," said Gary's mother Dolly Hensen. "He never crawled and went straight to walking. He moves fast, always has."

Gary and his brother were raised to love fishing and hunting. His mother calls them "outdoors boys" and said that Gary played little league baseball and basketball. "He was all-state in basketball in high school; he was little, but mighty."

Gary earned degrees from the University of Arkansas and Tulane University and began his career with the Arkansas Department of Health. In 1977, Gary joined the federal government. He worked for the U.S. Public Health Service until 1983; that's when he went to work for FEMA.

Gary's wife of 32 years, Mary Jones, said FEMA was Gary's calling. "FEMA has been Gary's life. He has given 110 percent to helping others in times of tragedy."

"I tell you my son is a giving son. He has always been there to help people," said Hensen. "He has a big heart and has put his heart and soul into FEMA."

"Oh, I am so proud of my Dad for his work at FEMA. I know he has worked his tail off through the years with the hurricanes, fires and other natural disasters," said Gary's daughter, Shea Hutchison.

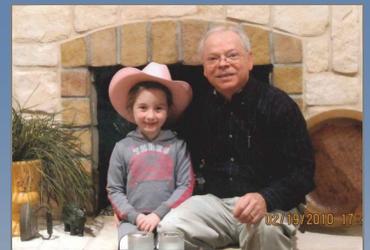
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### Gary & His Granddaughter, Tessa

*"Tessa adores her Paw Paw! She loves getting to spend time with him. It's a sweet thing! She loves her Mimi and Paw Paw dearly!"*

*- Shea Hutchinson, Tessa's mom*





# On the Loop

## Gary Jones Edition



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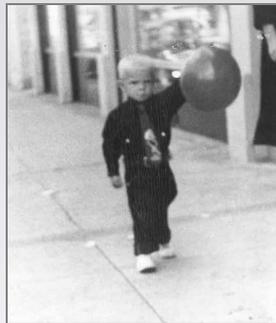
“I truly admire his work ethic. It is pretty much non-stop. I can’t believe his Blackberry still has any buttons on it to push!”

But now, the time has come for a change. That change is Gary’s retirement at the end of the year. His family says they are all ready for fun in the future.

“The first thing is for him and Mary to learn to live together. With him working for FEMA and her working for American Airlines, they have to learn to live together,” said Hensen. “I always say that when a man is blessed in his job, he has a good woman behind him.”

“Hopefully, we can spend more time discovering new hobbies, traveling, spending more time with family and friends and getting more involved in our church,” said Mary Jones.

“Oh, I can’t wait! I’m so very excited for Dad and Mary to be able to travel wherever their hearts desire,” said Hutchinson. “Oh gosh, and I almost forgot... the good ol’ deer camp! I am sure my Dad might make a few trips out there from time to time!”



### A Message from Gary Jones

Region 6 Staff,

After 46 years of civil service, I am marking another milestone in my career - my retirement from FEMA. While the occasion is bittersweet, I know that I will depart with satisfaction regarding all that we have accomplished together during my time here.

I am pleased to have been involved early in my FEMA career in helping to develop the successful Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program and Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). I am also pleased to have initiated the development of the Community Hazards Emergency Response-Capability Assurance Process (CHER-CAP), a Region 6 comprehensive HAZMAT Emergency Response Capability Assessment Program that proved to be very successful in supporting the first responder communities in support of what is now called the “Whole Community” approach.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Region 6 Deputy Administrator for the past 17 years. I am also honored to have served as Acting Regional Director/ Administrator for nearly four years during my 17 year term.

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# On the Loop

## Gary Jones Edition

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From a leadership standpoint, I am proud of playing a part in building strong partnerships and relationships with our five states in Region 6. From the time I was appointed Deputy Regional Director some 17 years ago, I created the “WE” campaign to help inspire collaboration with our state customers. The “WE” campaign has also benefitted our federal partners and our regional staff, along with all our stakeholders.

I am most honored to have been a part of hiring and promoting many of the Region 6 employees here today to include hundreds of our outstanding Disaster Assistance Employees (DAEs). We have an outstanding, dedicated staff here at Region 6, along with the Region 6 staff of the Louisiana Recovery Office (LRO).

Looking back it is hard to believe, but during my time with FEMA, I have been in a leadership role in responding to more than 300 disasters including such major events as Hurricane Andrew, Hurricane Georges, the Oklahoma City bombing, Tropical Storm Allison, the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy and, of course, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I know that many of you who have been around for many years remember responding to those historic disasters.

The response to Katrina and Rita marked one of the most challenging periods of my career. While it was one of the most stressful situations I have personally ever been involved in, we at FEMA Region 6 survived and are now flourishing. We emerged from the aftermath of those storms a stronger agency;

we have more staffing, experience and are much better prepared should another catastrophic event of that nature ever occur.

I have so many fond memories in working for FEMA to include the high honor and privilege to brief the President and Vice President of the United States, along with other high-ranking federal officials and members of Congress.

I am also very pleased to see that some of the initiatives that I started years ago are still being used and are productive which include the Jonespak, which is used in disaster outreach; the Region 6 Annual Partnership Workshops with our state partners; the “On the Loop” electronic newsletter; and the Annual Fish Fry and Chili Cook-offs.

Additionally, I am very happy to have played a role in working with FEMA Headquarters to obtain the funding approval for our much-needed new Region 6 Building, even though it has been pushed back a year. I hope to be back to celebrate with all of you the ground breaking of that new building.

I have been blessed in my 46 year state and federal career. All of the positions I have held during those 46 years have helped to serve our American people in some way.

I know that the trust I developed with the Division Directors here at FEMA Region 6 and the trust we all have developed with each other will continue long after I am gone. That is the key to our success as a team; without trust, you have nothing.

I would like to close with a few basic

things that “WE” should always remember:

**The road to success is always under construction.**

**Few travel the road without a puncture or two.**

**You can develop eye strain looking for trouble.**

**Success comes to those who made it happen, not to those who let it happen.**

**Ideas won’t work unless you try them.**

**Swallowing your pride seldom leads to indigestion.**

**People don’t fail, they give up.**

**And most importantly, we are dependent on the past but responsible for the future!**

As professionals in Emergency Management, we have come a long way, but yet we must always look ahead.

I thank God everyday for the opportunities He has provided me in my professional career. I could not ask for more and I look forward to the next chapter in my life as I leave FEMA. My priority now will be my wife Mary and entire family and friends.

God bless each and every one of you. I will miss you all, but am comforted by the knowledge that we will certainly cross paths in the future.

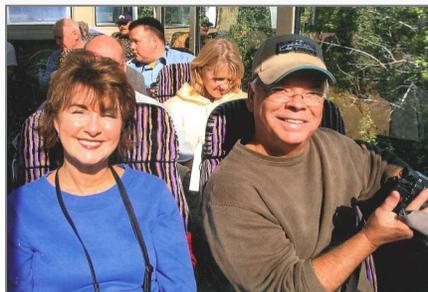
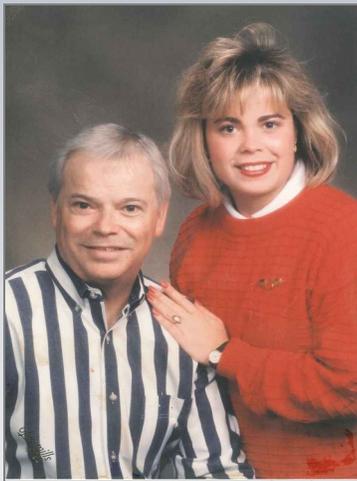
Sincerely,  
Gary Jones  
FEMA Region 6  
Deputy Administrator



# On the Loop

*Gary Jones Edition*

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