



Mr. Gary E. McCormick

July 15, 1946 - December 10, 2018

Gary Edward McCormick -- husband, father, grandfather brother, uncle, devoted friend, street rodder, veteran, business man, accomplished traveler, St. Louis gooey butter cake enthusiast, and overall force of nature -- died on December 10, 2018 at the age of 72.

Gary McCormick's life was like none other. As a young boy, Gary discovered his love for cars and speed through go-carting. He was a roller-skating champion in the state of Illinois and was such a talented trumpet player, that he sat first chair in an adult orchestra as a young boy.

After being asked not to return to high school (by the school itself), Gary enlisted in the United States Army and served in South Korea. After returning to the States, Gary's service continued on funeral detail. He played TAPS for 247 military funerals during the height of the Vietnam War. Gary was extremely proud of this portion of his service and had beautiful tales to tell from this time in his life.

Gary married Antonia Dupage and they had a son Quinn in 1968. After their divorce, Gary went to work for CDL, a company which moved coal mining shovels. This job took him to Black Mesa, Arizona where he met Paula Flammang, a young school teacher working in Kayenta, Arizona, a community in Navajo Nation, after crashing a "teachers only" party.

In 1978, Gary married Paula and they moved to Oak Creek, Colorado. In the fall of 1979, Gary and Paula moved to East Peoria, Illinois where he started working for his father Bill McCormick at Lumberyard Suppliers. Gary bought the business from his father in the early 80s. He took great pride in providing for his employees and their families.

Gary was a dedicated advocate for the city of East Peoria. He and Paula were heavily involved in starting the Festival of Lights (Gary was Santa for the first three parades,) he was a founding member of the "opportunity zone" which brought business to the city and served on the board for the construction of East Side center.

In 1990, Gary welcomed his daughter Katie into the world. He was a fantastic father who learned how to play Barbies, knew all the lyrics to the songs in "The Little Mermaid" at age 52, shared her love of Harry Potter and always served as her biggest fan.

In 1992, Gary's granddaughter Samantha was born. They shared a love of food, rock n' roll and not finding themselves in traditional academics. Samantha and Gary also share an infectious laugh. Gary welcomed two Great-Granddaughters, Ailla and Adilynn in 2015 and 2016.

Gary was passionate about all of the young people in his life and took great pride in their accomplishments. He enthusiastically welcomed all of Katie's friends, treated his friends' children as his own and leaves behind a beautiful legacy of love, down to the last niece and nephew.

Gary retired from Lumberyard Suppliers around the year 2000 to focus on his love for building cars and farming. Gary created beautiful, award-winning cars and enjoyed many tractor rides but what was most important about the time he spent pursuing these passions were the strong bonds he formed. His farming and street-rodding communities embraced him and were like second families to him, his wife and his daughter.

A few days before his death, Gary drove to Taylorville, Illinois in order to deliver aid to a family in need following the recent tornado. Gary constantly had other people's needs on his heart and always followed through on his impulses to help others.

Gary departed this world surrounded by good friends and good food, the most appropriate departure his family can think of.

Gary loved fiercely and will be fiercely missed by those he loved. But mostly, his loved ones are grateful they got the chance to accompany him on his 72-year-long car ride home.

Visitation will be Thursday from 4-7 PM at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 444 E. Washington St., East Peoria. Service will be at 10 AM on Friday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery in Metamora. Pastor John Bates and Pastor Richard Hanson will officiate. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Midwest Affiliate or Children's Miracle Network.

Cemetery

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Cemetery**

Metamora, IL,

Events

DEC 13 Visitation 04:00PM - 07:00PM

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services
444 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, IL, US,
61611

DEC 14 Service 10:00AM

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61611

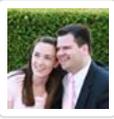
Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - December 14, 2018 at 04:03 PM



“ We're so sorry for your loss. Please know we're here for you whenever you need our help.

Love,
The Baileys

Louise Bailey - December 15, 2018 at 04:17 PM



“ I think I have too many to count, but one of my recent was coming home recently and being able to sit and chat with the entire McCormick family. Gary still called me poopy, a nickname so lovingly gained in my early teens. I loved that he still called me this, because even throughout all these years I was still the young man that he treated like a son while I grew up with his daughter. Gary was a great man and the Peoria area is better because of his legacy. I'll miss G-baby.

Ian - December 13, 2018 at 01:15 PM



“ Love, Squeak, Teri, and Donnie purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Gary E. McCormick.



Love, Squeak, Teri, and Donnie - December 13, 2018 at 10:53 AM



“ Thank you for all the life lessons, love and laughs you shared with me while I navigated through growing up. You had a big belly, and an even bigger heart and being wrapped up in a Gary hug and a pat on the back was the most comfort I had known as a little girl. Thank you for letting me in your family, and loving me like your own. Most importantly thank you for showing me how to love even if you have a hard heart-for showing me it's okay to have a soft spot. I am hopeful that because of you and the footsteps you left, I'll have a chance to create a solid foundation and find love like you and Paula share. You were my first calm safe haven and you welcomed me with open arms, open hearts and always the best food. Thank you for letting me in your home and giving me a place I always felt I belonged. You left an army of well trained soldiers, and I have always and will always be honored to be a member of your troop. Rest easy big guy. You will be missed by us all.
-Also, thanks for showing me all those wicked cars and Napoleon Dynamite!

Jenna Woolard - December 13, 2018 at 02:30 AM



“ Gary had such a great sense of humor. We have a lot of wonderful memories of Kate and Ian growing up together and 'hanging out' at the McCormick's! Gary was a truly special person and he will be missed!
Much love to you, Paula and to Kate... He was a very special guy!

John and Deb Hart

John and Debra Hart - December 12, 2018 at 10:57 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary E. McCormick.



December 12, 2018 at 03:47 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary E. McCormick.





“ 29 files added to the album LifeTributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - December 12, 2018 at 02:00 PM



“ Kate - my heart goes out to you my dear and prayers and sympathy are being sent your way! Your dad will live in your heart forever! Big Hugs sent your way!
- Connie Huntley

Connie Huntley - December 12, 2018 at 09:28 AM



“ We met Gary in Lake Havasu and were immediately taken by his friendly nature and warmth. He was a true gentleman and we always looked forward to seeing him and catching up. He was one of the good ones and the world is a sadder place without him in it. Our sincere condolences to the family and his travelling companions.
Guy & Judy Shields / Duncan B.C.

Guy Shields - December 11, 2018 at 11:09 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary E. McCormick.



December 11, 2018 at 09:40 PM



“ John and Roberta Stimac purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Gary E. McCormick.



John and Roberta Stimac - December 11, 2018 at 08:26 PM



“ Dan and Sandy Kemp purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of Mr. Gary E. McCormick.



Dan and Sandy Kemp - December 11, 2018 at 01:48 PM



“ Holly Hickman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Gary E. McCormick.



Holly Hickman - December 11, 2018 at 12:21 PM