



## Gary E. Pierce

February 6, 1943 - June 1, 2025

Gary E. Pierce, 82, passed away after a short battle with cancer, on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was born in Springfield on February 6, 1943, to Willard and Ruby (Thomas) Pierce. When Gary was very young, his father passed away and he was then raised by his mother and stepfather, Arlo “Poppy” Griffin. He married Barbara Means in Peoria on October 31, 1970. They celebrated nearly 55 years of marriage; she survives.

Also surviving is his son, Douglas (Liv) Pierce of Taipei, Taiwan, along with his lifelong best friend and chosen brother, Dustin Durr, who was considered family in every way but name; his siblings, Linda (Loren) Larsen and Robert Pierce, both of Springfield; his niece, Lori; and 2 nephews, Lane and Brian. He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather; and his sister, Janice.

Gary was an all-star basketball player at Feitshans High School in Springfield, then served in the Illinois Air National Guard from 1964 to 1970. He worked at Hyster in Peoria, then went on to work as a machinist at Komatsu, retiring after 30 years of service. He was a proud member of the Boilermakers Local 158.

He was an avid reader of mystery and history books, with a personal collection of over 1,500 novels and historical documentaries. He and Barb shared a love of travel, journeying across the globe and returning often to Asia—visiting Thailand, Hong Kong, Cambodia, China, and Bali, Indonesia, and

spending cherished time with their son in Taipei.

Visitation will be from 5-6 pm on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria, with a Funeral Service at 6:00 p.m. A Graveside Service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 6, 2025, at Oak Hill Cemetery in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to The National WWII Museum in New Orleans or the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum. Online condolences may be left at [www.GaryDeitersFH.com](http://www.GaryDeitersFH.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

4688 Old Rte 36  
Springfield, IL 62707

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 5. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

JUN 5. 6:00 PM (CT)

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

## Graveside Service

JUN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Oak Hill Cemetery  
4688 Old Rte 36  
Springfield, IL 62707



# Tribute Wall



“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - June 05, 2025 at 12:32 PM



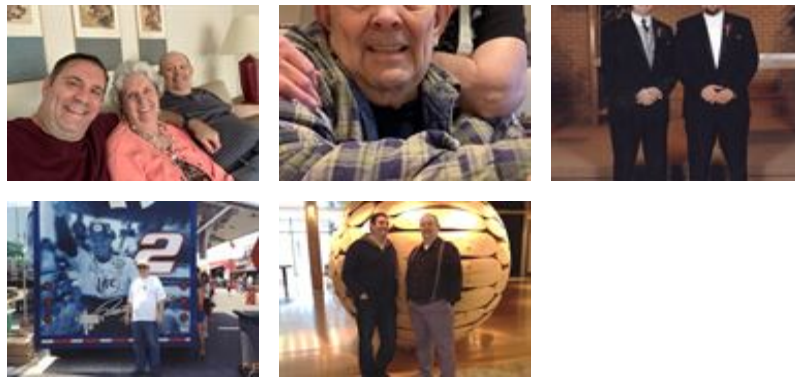
“ *Shih En (Will) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary E. Pierce.*



**Shih En (Will)** - June 05, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ 30 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - June 04, 2025 at 02:58 PM

BM

“ *Bob Lacock & Cori Mayhall purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary E. Pierce.*



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**Bob Lacock & Cori Mayhall** - June 04, 2025 at 01:16 PM

BH

“ *Barbara & Dougie, thinking of you both and sending love from Taiwan. Gary was an absolute joy to be around, a really fun presence with an infectious smile. I often think of the great times we all had over here in Taiwan. He will be missed. Ben*

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**Ben Hall** - June 03, 2025 at 08:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary E. Pierce.*



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June 03, 2025 at 07:59 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary E. Pierce.*

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June 03, 2025 at 07:59 PM