



Gerald Lee Hess

SEP 22, 1954 - AUG 4, 2024



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Gary L. Hess was born September 22, 1954, in Terre Haute, Indiana, to Russell and Dorothy (nee Dennison) Hess and went to be with his Lord and parents on August 4, 2024. He was raised in Paris, Illinois graduating from Paris High School in 1972 after which he attended and graduated from Millikin University in 1976. In his youth, Gary was a member of Boy Scouts of America, inducted into the Order of the Arrow, and went on to be a Cubmaster as an adult. He worked many years in the trucking industry, holding jobs ranging from recruiting to safety and attaining the title of Vice President of Safety. He eventually opened his own recruiting company before moving south to Victoria Palms Resort in Donna, Texas, to spend more time with his parents. Gary married Karen Clark in 2014, and they enjoyed ten wonderful and special years together. While living there, he quickly became known around the park for lending a hand, greeting with a smile at the guard shack, helping with yard maintenance, and watching over resident homes. Within a short time, he and his wife, Karen, opened VP Home Sales, helping retirees find their winter homes in the valley. He was full of life and pursued a multitude of interests. He worked hard and played hard, too. He enjoyed fishing, golfing, camping, RVing, and traveling to visit family, exploring the country and especially taking quick getaways with Karen to the beach. Gary was known as an accomplished chef, and he loved it immensely. Music was also his passion, whether playing trumpet & guitar early on in life, singing Karaoke at events in the park, or attending jams or concerts. He was a kid at heart and loved playing with his thirteen grandchildren! Gary was an avid supporter of college football, specifically his Alabama team (ROLL TIDE!). Gary was a Man of God. He was very active in the church, often singing in the choir, serving on the board, and delivering sermons for the various churches he attended over the years. He loved people and formed connections with everyone he met. He had an infectious smile and made everyone feel like family the moment they met him. He often hosted



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dinners and events for friends and family. In addition to his beloved wife, Karen, Gary is survived by his sister, Mickey Englade of Donna, TX. His children are Katie Garcia (Miguel), Patty Clifford (Dustin), and JR Hess (Lora). His nephew is Eric Erchull (Ramona). His grandchildren are Aurianna, Trinity, KaiLani, Sebastian, Bryce, Ronin, Ryker, Olivia, Anton, Araceli, Jaina, Jenna, and Jaden.



Tribute Wall

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KB

Kristen King Rn/ Valley Baptist 2Nw posted:

It was my immense pleasure to have been able to care for Mr. Hess. He was such a sweet and grateful man. My sincere condolences to his family. Heaven has received an angel.

August 14 at 9:13 PM

MH

Mark And Sue Hetherington posted:

We met Gary when we decided that Texas was going to be our winter home. He was always smiling and there was never a push to buy now. He was a perfect salesman who became a perfect friend. Gary was always there when I needed help with anything from boosting the golf cart to answering our newby questions on where to go to eat etc in the area. He was one of the good ones.

August 14 at 9:13 PM

DA

David And Jeanie Adkins posted:

Although our friendship was brief, Gary was someone you would of thought of as being an old friend right from the beginning. Our heartfelt condolences to Karen and family. 🙏

August 14 at 3:10 PM

RP

Rod And Dianne (Coach) Patten posted:

Karen and family Our sincere sympathy! We always enjoyed seeing Gary at the Guard Shack after UTRGV basketball games!

August 13 at 10:20 PM



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LY

Linda And David Young posted:

Karen, Mickey and all of Gary's Family, David and I were so saddened to hear the news of Gary's sudden passing. He was such a wonderful person and we always enjoyed our chats whenever we met each other in the park. Gary sold 2 of our homes and we also purchased our current home from him. He was excellent to deal with and always looked after all the details and made sure there were no issues. He was the best you could ever ask for. He always said that he and Karen were going to come visit us someday in Newfoundland. But I guess God had other plans for him. I know it's been a very difficult time for you all and we all feel your grief. Try to focus on all your wonderful memories which I'm sure there are many. In time your memories will help you cope with this very sad loss of losing Gary. Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you all during this difficult time. RIP Gary, you will always be fondly remembered by us.

August 13 at 7:30 PM

DM

Dave Morford posted:

My heart goes out to Karen & family. He was a friend & I was honored that he trusted me to take care of his yard when him & Karen were camping. He will be missed

August 13 at 6:28 PM

DM

Dave Morford posted:

My heart goes out to Karen & family. He was a friend & I was honored that he trusted me to take care of his yard when him & Karen were camping. He will be missed

August 13 at 5:51 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gerald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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