



Gary L. Mills

MAR 29, 1937 - OCT 17, 2009



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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Forsyth – Gary Lee Mills, 72, of Forsyth, died October 17, 2009 after a courageous 7 year battle with Multiple Myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells in the bone marrow.

Gary's funeral service will be at 11:00 am Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church with Pastor Bill Abbott and Pastor Brock Abbott officiating. The visitation will be from 5-7 pm Monday, October 19, 2009 at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home. Interment will be at Graceland Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made either to the Cancer Care Specialist Charitable Fund c/o Dr. Benjamin Esparaz, 2800 N Monroe, Decatur, Illinois 62526 or Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 2155 N Oakland Avenue, Decatur, Illinois 62526. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.

Gary grew up on a Dairy Farm in Neillsville, Wisconsin, the oldest of four children born to Lee and Henrietta Mills.

Gary accepted an unexpected, last minute opportunity to attend college and after four years at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, graduated with a degree in Agricultural Economics. That experience completely changed the direction of Gary's life.

Gary completed the ROTC Program at the University of Wisconsin and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army upon his graduation. He married Kaye Stanzel of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on June 27, 1959, and they were stationed in Wildflecken, Germany for four years. During that tour their two children were born. After serving his country, Gary joined Cargill, Inc in Minneapolis, Minnesota. During his working career Gary held numerous management positions in Cargill, Inc. and with several National Grain Trade Associations. Gary retired from Cargill, Inc. as an Assistant Vice President after 32 years. Gary finished his working years as a Vice



Obituary

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President with Bartlett Grain in Kansas City, Missouri.

Gary enjoyed golf and cards, especially bridge. While living in Forsyth, he and Kaye joined the Commodore Duplicate Bridge Group in Decatur. After years spent moving for various work assignments, Gary was happy to settle down close to his son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. Gary and Kaye attended numerous Maroa/Forsyth Trojan sporting events and school musical productions.

Two of the great joys Gary had in the past five years were attending Princeton Football games to watch his oldest grandson play and taking his second grandson to Canada on remote fly-in fishing trips. For the past 12 years Gary and Kaye have spent two weeks each summer on the Outer Banks of North Carolina and this summer he and Kaye took the whole family on a cruise to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Gary lived a life of service to others. He served as President of several Lutheran Congregations around the country and held other volunteer positions in the Lutheran Church. Since moving to Forsyth, he has delivered Meals on Wheels and served as an usher at Pilgrim Lutheran Church.

Gary was committed to battling Multiple Myeloma both personally and on behalf of others. Gary was an active member of the Tucson, Arizona, Multiple Myeloma Support Group and generously supported the International Myeloma Foundation. Gary and Kaye learned more about the disease by attending informational and educational seminars in San Diego, Los Angeles and Phoenix.

He will be sadly missed by his wife: Kaye, one son: Greg (Lesa) Mills of Forsyth, one daughter: Sarah (Martin) McEvoy of Newmarket, NH, one brother: Allen (Helen) Mills of Fitchburg, WI, two sisters: LaVonne (Merlin) Gerber of Madison, WI, Sally (Richard) Miller of Verona, WI, three grandchildren: Andrew Thomas Mills, Zachary David Mills and Hannah Elizabeth Mills.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lee and Henrietta Mills.

The Mills family is grateful to Dr. Benjamin Esparaz for his compassionate care and concern during Gary's battle with Multiple Myeloma. They also wish to thank the nurses and staff at Decatur Memorial Hospital, 5100 Unit, for their patience, compassion and kindness.



Tribute Wall

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EM

Emi Morales posted:

Hola Greg / Sarah, this is Emi Morales Writting. Do you remember me???? I lived with your family in 1973 at 2610 Blackoak lane Wayzata Minnesota I have been trying to get in touch with you. Trough a cousins who works for Carguill in Minneapolis i found this bad and sad notice about Gary. Sorry. My email is emigdiomoralessnavarro@gmail.com and mobile phone is 57 300 808 2816. please send me an email or WS. I would like to heard about you .Sincere Regards.

June 9 at 5:50 AM

RE

Ralph & Ellen D'errico posted:

Really sorry to hear of Gary's passing. We first met Gary at a Patient & Family Seminal in Los Angeles shortly after I was diagnosed with myeloma and Gary always presented an upbeat and positive outlook for which we'll always remember. He will always remain in our prayers and we will miss him sincerely.

October 23 at 5:35 PM

RA

Rich And Larrie Antheis posted:

Gary, We love and miss you already and we send our warmest regards to Kaye, Sarah and Marty. I know they did everything possible to love and bring the greatest comfort to you these past days.You finished the race and you did it oh so well. Your character, dignity, devotion to God and family were there until the very end. Your absence leaves a big hole in the support group. Sometimes we never really fill it. However, I do know that between God and You, you slipped away from us at the perfect time. Condolences to Kaye and your children and grandchildren. Love to all.Rich and Larrie Ann

October 21 at 11:52 AM

RM

Rev. Michael A. Morehouse posted:

The Lord be with you.As we know Gary is at home in the Lord Jesus Christ, we also understand that our tears are not for him, but for our loss. I will miss his smile, his concern for the Church, and his love for people.Yours in Christ,Pastor Michael A. Morehouse

October 20 at 8:09 AM



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RE

Rachel, Eric, And Beatrix Ellerman posted:

Hello, Kaye and family-We are so sad to hear of Gary's passing and wish so much we could be there to celebrate his life with you. Please know you are in our thoughts. We will miss uncle Gary and wish you peace.Love, Rachel, Eric, and Beatrix

October 19 at 6:30 PM

BS

Brian Silvey posted:

Kaye, Greg, Lesa, Sarah-I am so sorry to hear the news about Gary. He truly was one of the "nice guys".So many fond memories of our times together. My condolences and regards,Brian

October 19 at 6:26 PM

KN

Kim Nelson posted:

I didn't have the honor of knowing Gary for very long, but the very first time I met him I knew he was a man of character and a man I could always trust to be honest with me. I admired that, and for those reasons I will never forget him and will always strive to be more like him.

October 19 at 2:30 PM

LD

Liz And Reno Dahl posted:

we will miss you, you are one of the good guys...our love to mills family.

October 19 at 1:55 PM

GF

Gordy And Donna Farmer posted:

To Kaye and family:We are so saddened to know about the passing of Gary. We were hoping for a miracle.We will always remember him as a dear friend,wonderful neighbor,and great toffee candy maker. He will be missed. Our Love and Prayers go out to all of you.

October 19 at 12:31 PM



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Tracey & Stuart Adams posted:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kaye, Sarah, Greg and the entire family. We are truly sorry for the loss of Gary. Wish we could be there, but please know we are thinking of you during this difficult time.

October 19 at 5:12 AM



Marci & Dan Stanzel posted:

A man we were honored to know. A man with the courage of his convictions, wise, compassionate, caring and always gracious. Both of us will miss him forever. We are grateful for his presence and will carry his memory in our hearts always.

October 18 at 1:39 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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