



Gary R. Garretson

April 21, 1952 - November 4, 2020

Gary Garretson peacefully passed away in his sleep Wednesday, November 4, 2020 in Morris, Illinois. Gary was born on April 21, 1952 in Streator, Illinois to Robert and Mary (Kever) Garretson. His family had roots in farming, mining and manufacturing, Gary was blessed with parents who encouraged his love of learning and reading which enabled him to excel academically. They were also excellent role models whose teachings were deep in Gary's character.

Gary met his wife Kim when they were students at Illinois State University. They were engaged a month after their first date and were married in 1975. Kim likes to say she chased Gary, but he let her catch him. After college, he attended Washington University Law School. Gary was a talented litigator with a passion for the law and a love for the courtroom. Gary spent 10 years in the LaSalle County State's Attorney's office, eight of them as First Assistant to Gary Peterlin. The two men developed a strong friendship, and in many ways this relationship was at least partially responsible for his alignment with the Republican party. In 2002, Gary ran as a Republican for Grundy County State's Attorney. Unfortunately, he lost, but he was always very proud of his effort.

In 1988, Gary left LaSalle County and started work in private practice in Morris. Most of his work still enabled him to litigate in the courtroom. He loved being challenged to find case law to support his client's cases. Sometimes this led to establishing new precedent. Poor health forced Gary to end his law career in 2011, and he was devastated.

Fortunately Gary had his loving and growing family to fill that gap. Gary and Kim were blessed with four wonderful children, Suzie (Dan) Pretekin, Maureen (Kris) Johansen, John (Susan) Garretson and Dan Garretson. Additionally they have four awesome grandchildren that loved their "Bumpa", Brighton Garretson, Vivian and Everett Pretekin, and Declan Johansen. Gary's brother Kevin Garretson was also an important person in Gary's life. They were always close, but became more so when Gary and Kim moved into his house in 2011. Together Kevin and Kim teamed up to make sure Gary had the best life possible.

In his final years, Gary and Kim would reflect on their life together and what they did right and wrong. They decided they had no regrets and would not change anything, except they

maybe should have bought stock in Microsoft! At the end of the day when you can say you have been happily married to the love of your life for 45 years, raised four bright, honest, moral children who are productive members of society and who not only still love their parents but actually like to spend time with them, then you have had a great life.

Aqua cremation rites have been accorded. The family will celebrate Gary's life in April near his birthday. More details will follow as the date becomes nears.

An online guest book has been made for the Garretson Family, where you may sign the guest book, share memories and photographs. You can access this by visiting the website at <http://www.ucdaviscallahan.com>. Arrangements have been entrusted with U. C. Davis-Callahan Funeral Home located at 301 West Washington St. Morris Illinois.

Comments



“ Sending heartfelt condolences to you & your family, Kim. May the Lord, our God, heal your broken hearts & give you His Peace! RIP, Gary!



Rodney & Artina Baudino - November 20, 2020 at 12:56 PM



“ Kim, I just learned of Gary's passing. I am so sorry to hear the news. I always knew how much you loved each other and how proud you were of him and your family. My sympathies to you and your children. Penny Rund

Penny Rund - November 17, 2020 at 12:29 PM



“ Very Sorry to hear of Gary's passing .He was a kind ,intelligent man. May God give his family comfort and strength. Ken Willis .Morris

Kenneth Willis - November 15, 2020 at 12:43 AM



“ Sending my deepest sympathies to the Garretson family. Gary was an incredibly smart, kind person. Such a talented lawyer who I always enjoyed working with. My son, Jim Durkee, was in practice with Gary at the end of Gary's career & taught Jim so much. Forever grateful for his influence. He was a fine man and will be missed by all who knew him.

Debbie Hauschild - November 11, 2020 at 09:15 AM



“ Gary was a wonderful and supportive cousin. He helped me so much going through my parents, his aunt and uncle, health issues. He is a great human being who will be greatly missed. Thanks for all you did for me. May God bless you and your beautiful family. Sending love, hugs, and prayers.

Lee Ann Garretson Raikes

Lee Ann Raikes - November 10, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ Not only was Gary a fine member of our family, but represented me when I was in need for a couple matters that brought truth and wholeness to my life that may have not blessed my life had it not been for him! I eternally grateful and proud to be a Garretson!



gerald garretson - November 10, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ I have very fond memories of my cousin. I will never forget 4/13/84 it was the day my husband & I were married at the Ottawa court house. Gary happened to be in the office that day and was the first relative to congratulate us on our marriage. That always meant so much to me!

Beth Wonders - November 10, 2020 at 10:44 AM



“ I am saddened by the passing of Gary who I considered a friend. It was always great to visit with him. My condolences to the family.

Ken Benson - November 10, 2020 at 05:13 AM



“ I worked as a legal secretary for Gary in Morris. He loved being part of his kids sports. And he was a good boss. RIP Gary. Mike Valdez

Laura “Mike” Valdez - November 09, 2020 at 07:46 PM



“ I had fond memories of Gary growing up nearby his home and attending St Stephen's. We shared special times when his dad would take us to basketball practice (to & from the Streater Armory). We really enjoyed those times as his dad would tell us some good stories!

I was really saddened to read about Gary's passing. He was truly one of the nicest, well-rounded individuals I knew growing up and it showed with all the successes in his life. Though Gary is no longer with us, his legacy still lives on with his wonderful family.

Lou Sudoma

Lou Sudoma - November 08, 2020 at 08:19 PM



“ Sara Olson lit a candle in memory of Gary R. Garretson



Sara Olson - November 08, 2020 at 11:36 AM