



Gary Dale Gatlin

May 25, 1943 - May 5, 2023

Gary Dale Gatlin, 79, of Pawleys Island, South Carolina passed away on Friday, May 5, 2023, due to pulmonary fibrosis. Gary was born on Tuesday, May 25, 1943, in Flint, Michigan. During his childhood he lived in Flint, Michigan; Tucson, AZ; and Grand Blanc, Michigan. He graduated from Grand Blanc High School in 1961 where he played on championship teams in football and baseball. After high school he attended Flint Junior College where he earned an associate degree in applied science while completing the tool and die apprenticeship program at the General Motors V-8 Engine Plant.

In his over three-and-a-half-decade career with UAW-GM, Gary proudly served as a UAW committeeman, health and safety representative and was instrumental in helping to ensure that workers enjoyed a safe workplace and in launching the UAW-GM Health and Safety Culture Change initiative at the engine plant. He also served on the UAW negotiation team for many local contracts, and it is reported that some language he crafted still lives in the local agreement. Gary was awarded the UAW Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award.

It was at Flint Junior College that he met the love of his life, Donna Sue Knowles first at a college dance and later at a local ice cream shop in Donna's neighborhood—the Custard Cottage. This sweetness lasted the rest of their married life as they celebrated their 60th anniversary on February 23, 2023!

Gary was a talented craftsman making custom-made golf clubs for family and friends, toys and furniture for kids and grandkids, and many other creations made by hand with love. He was a quick-witted observer of life, especially of things that were out of sync with the way they should be. The “way they should be” always included fidelity, personal responsibility, loyalty, fairness, and hard work. Gary trusted in Jesus and was courageous in approaching the end of this life and entry into the next. It was clear to all that he dearly loved his wife and best friend Donna, his three daughters and the family they helped God create for all of them to enjoy together.

Gary is survived by his wife Donna, his daughters Dana (Tom) Byrum, Angela (Jeff) Iceberg, and Kristen Gatlin; grandkids Brittani (Graham) Whitley, Corrine (Nick) Flanagan, Erica (Eric) Ek, Kayleigh Reeg, Jacob Iceberg (Elise Mitchell), Kennedy (Nick) Griffeth, Madison (Ben) Carroll, Morgan Reeg, and Carlos (Courtney) Marinho; and great grandkids Scottie Flanagan, Christian Whitley, Marshall Flanagan, Britta Ek, Maya Mitchell Iceberg, Raelyn Griffeth, Moises Marinho, and Rachelle Marinho.

Also surviving, a brother Dallas (Nola) Gatlin, and sisters Cindy (Michael) Pullara, and Janene Sholes, and many nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Darwin and Betty Gatlin, Donna’s parents Dale and Marie Knowles, brother Ronald (Judy) Gatlin, sister Sheron (Stan) Coats, brother Dennis, and brother Darrell. Cremation has taken place. A private family celebration of Gary’s life was held at the family home and concluded at one of his favorite outdoor spots, The Heritage Marina.

Donna and the family want to thank the many neighbors and friends who shared meals and showed kindness in so many ways. Those wishing to

express condolences and celebrate Gary's life are encouraged make a memorial contribution in his name to Carriage Town Ministries, 605 Garland St., Flint. Michigan, 48403, carriagetown.org, a Christian homeless shelter in his home town.

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Gary graduated from Grand Blanc high school with my husband Bill Swift. We also attended Flint Junior College at the same time Garry And Donna attended. We could see that God had brought the right person to Gary when he met Donna. My husband Bill passed away in February 2022 and we were blessed with almost 60 years of marriage. My deepest sympathy to Donna and her daughters and the rest of the family. I know she is as thankful as I am that we had so many years with the one that God meant for us to be with. May God comfort you in your grief and loss and help you rejoice in Gary's passing into his heavenly home.
Barb Swift

Barb Swift - May 10, 2023 at 03:31 PM

JD

“ Donna and family.....My heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. Gary was a Classmate of mine from Grand Blanc and a Facebook Friend. It was wonderful catching up at our Reunions. What beautiful memories you all have of this wonderful, Christian Man you shared your life with. A beautiful Legacy. Thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. Judie Jamrog Dresen

Judie Jamrog Dresen - May 10, 2023 at 12:57 AM

KG

“ 1 file added to the album slideshow



Kristen Gatlin - May 09, 2023 at 09:29 PM

JL

Donna we so sad to hear about Gary. He was such a wonderful Friends man. Loved his sense of humor, and his kindness. Jwe enjoyed the time when we were younger. When we went to Hawaii and Fl. With our families. And Donna it was such a Blessing that we stopped and spent some time with you and Gary. We had a great time and have so many good memories. We are so Lucky to have such wonderful friends as you and Gary.

Joe and Jeannie Ludwig - May 09, 2023 at 11:11 PM

RP

Donna, I was so saddened to hear about Garys passing. He was a wonderful partner, friend, father, and Grandpa. This was a blessing to have all those pictures put to meaningful music. You take care now and keep thinking of those great memories of Gary.

Ron Poindexter - May 10, 2023 at 03:51 PM

SM

Donna and family it was a pleasure knowing Gary - always had a joke or two up his sleeve . This slideshow gives an overall view of the love amongst your family . Memories are beautiful treasures . May God bless you all .

Sheri Morrison - May 20, 2023 at 08:06 AM

BF

“ *To Donna, Dana, Angie and Kristen. Bob and I too are sad by the passing of Gary. Our trips with the four of us together have come to end but will cherish the memories. We had so many nice times together and was so fortunate to have seen him a few months ago. We have sent a contibution in his memory to St. Jude’s children’s hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all*

Bob and Alberta Fogle - May 09, 2023 at 06:53 PM