



Gary L. Rider

October 25, 1946 - June 4, 2019

Gary L. Rider, age 72, passed away Tuesday, June 4, 2019. He was born October 25, 1946 in Delaware, OH to Robert and Gladys "Ruth" (Paver) Rider. Gary was part of the Richwood Tigers graduating Class of 1964. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served as an air traffic controller on the USS Kennedy during the Vietnam War. He dedicated 4 years in the service and received an honorable discharge. Soon after, Gary moved to North Muskegon, MI and that became home for him. He worked for Intricate Grinding and Machine Specialist for about 20 years. He was a member of the West Michigan Coast Riders. Gary enjoyed slot car racing and staying active, but one of his main loves was bike riding. He was the Vice President of The Friends of the Berry Junction Bike Trail. He once made his way from Muskegon, MI to Richwood, OH solely on a bicycle. He biked over 700 miles on that trip alone. Gary will be greatly missed by many. He is survived by his three sisters, Teresa Hone, Terry Hardin, and Pat (Mike) Hamilton, 3 nieces and 3 nephews, and dear friend Sue Hewitt. He was preceded in death by his parents. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, June 8, 2019 at The Fred Meijer Berry Junction Bike Trail with Pastor Bob Pohlar officiating. Parking will be available at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1206 Whitehall Rd, North Muskegon. Visitation with the family will be one-hour prior starting at 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Gary Rider's honor may be directed to the Berry Junction Bike Trail, PO Box 5021, North Muskegon, MI 49445 www.berryjunctiontrail.com. You may visit the family's online guest book at www.sytsemafh.com. Arrangements entrusted to The Sytsema Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 737 E. Apple Ave, Muskegon, MI 49442.

Events

JUN **Parking** 10:00AM

8
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
1206 Whitehall Rd., North Muskegon, MI, US, 49445

JUN **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

8
Fred Meijer Berry Junction Bike Trail
MI, US

JUN **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

8
Fred Meijer Berry Junction Bike Trail
MI, US

Comments



“ I have so many good memories of being with all of you. Climbing the dunes, playing softball, going to Washington DC. Gary was a great guy and he will be missed. My sympathy and prayers are with you.

Pat Daymude and family - June 07 at 11:31 PM



“ Thank you Pat. Appreciate your thoughts and sympathy.

Pat Hamilton - June 10 at 09:53 PM



“ Dear Teresa, Pat and Terry, Mike and I are indeed sorry for your loss. Mike and Gary graduated together and had not seen each other til Pat and Mikes party for their anniversary last year. Sending our kindest thoughts and prayers to you all. Mike and Beckie Congrove

Beckie Congrove - June 07 at 07:05 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Prayers for all the family. Memories last forever.

Vonnie and Fon Wasserbeck - June 07 at 04:32 PM



“ To all the family--Love and prayers are with you at this time of loss. Cherish the memories.
Sincerely, Pat Krebehenne

Pat Krebehenne - June 07 at 03:17 PM



“ In 1971 when I was 15 years old I called a contact phone number for Muskegon that was listed in a Car Model magazine HO slot car racing article - it was Gary. I never would have guessed then that my chance phone call would be the start of a life-long friendship. A few years later we started going on bike rides and socializing with our girl friends.

After I moved to Indiana we maintained a long distance friendship for 35+ years. We would get together on the many occasions when my wife and I were back in town or he would come and visit us in Dyer. Over the years we went to the Chicago Auto Show, Great America, Road America, and shared a love of motorsports. Once in

about 1985 he road from our home in Dyer, IN back to Muskegon in one day - 171 miles.

In 1994 Gary rekindled my interest in biking. I've got a photo of us with our bikes on that very day to remember it by. We did many rides together over the next 10 years including a few memorable rides on the North Country Trial and one idyllic August Sunday morning ride north of Michigan City along the Lake Michigan shoreline. It was a beautiful, crisp day with people out walking and rollerblading on glass-smooth asphalt. In 1998 we did the DALMAC ride together from Lansing to Mackinaw City. I was riding the same bike that I had when we started riding in the early '70s - a Fuji S10-S 10-speed. It was a little dated and clunky by that time. Gary said to a friend, "You can't believe what this guy can do with that bike." That offhand comment I consider to be one of the best compliments I ever received.

Gary was a rock in my life and you won't find a better friend. His passing has left a big hole that will be hard to patch. I'm going to miss him a lot . . .

Jim Wangerin

Jim Wangerin - June 07 at 10:45 AM



“ That was Beautiful Jim ... Thank You for Sharing it

SUNNY REALE OKEEFE - June 08 at 06:57 PM



“ I Am So Sorry for Your Loss it Breaks My Heart that He was taken so Young ... I Do consider 70's Young ... especially for Someone so Active ... May Your Memories be A Blessing

SUNNY REALE OKEEFE - June 08 at 07:01 PM



“ Thank you so much Jim. It was wonderful to meet so many friends of Gary's up there in Michigan. So happy we could hear the memories of the times you shared with him. They have now become part of our memories of the brother we are so proud of.

Terry Hardin - June 11 at 06:30 PM



“ To Gary's family,
While he was a biker and when he could no longer bike he was always there for my family of bikers. He was the time keeper and the support for so many of thier rides. He will forever be a part of our family memories and with so many pictures.
Donna and Ken Scott

Donna Scott - June 07 at 09:11 AM



“ Thank you both so much! And we will be forever grateful to Ken for his assistance for two days + at the house!

Terry Hardin - June 11 at 06:35 PM



“ To Tessa, Terry, and Pat....I was so sad to hear about Gary. Even though we didn't see each other much...we are family. You all will be in my thoughts with prayers and love. Cousin, Nancy Welch Baker

Cousin, Nancy Welch Baker - June 07 at 06:37 AM



“ Terry, so sorry to hear of Gary's passing- My sincere condolences to you and your family- He will e misses-

Richard Gill - June 06 at 10:26 PM



“ Thank you, Dick. I wish he could have gotten to some of the class reunions! I know he would have loved talking to everyone. Hope all's well with you and your family.

Terry Hardin - June 11 at 06:41 PM



“ Gary used to be my running buddy. He once killed me in a 5k and went and ran the Boston Marathon with me in 1987. I remember a memorable bike ride where one weekend we rode 125 miles on our bikes to visit my grandfather in Honor and turned around and rode back the next day. He was kind to all and one instance a homeless cat showed up in my yard. I convinced Gary he needed a cat. So I loaded him up with cat litter and food and he carried the cat home whom he later named Skipper. I will miss you, my friend.

laurel dawson - June 06 at 12:56 PM



“ And if I knew he ran the Boston marathon I had forgotten it! 32 years ago! Was so wonderful to meet you! Thank you for those memories and lifting our spirits at the memorial service.

Terry Hardin - June 11 at 06:43 PM



“ Terry, we are so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. ..And so close to our 55th High School reunion (June 8). Those of us attending will certainly remember him together. We wish you our sincere condolences.
--Dean & Carla Lindsay

Dean & Carla Lindsay - June 06 at 09:54 AM



“ Thank you both. Thankful you are keeping those class reunions & the class Page active, too.

Terry Hardin - June 11 at 06:51 PM



“ Teri...so very sorry to learn of the passing of your brother....please accept our sincere condolences. Marcia (Witt) Nickel

Marcia Nickel - June 06 at 08:55 AM



“ Thank you, Marcia. The memorial service was really nice. We met so many of Gary's friends.

Terry Hardin - June 11 at 06:53 PM



“ I'll remember Gary for his gentle manner, kindness and his bike. I love your family.

DOLORES VESTRICH - June 06 at 07:31 AM



“ Thank you, Dolores. Happy you got to meet him. Love you, too & miss you.

Terry Hardin - June 11 at 06:55 PM