



Gary Lee Casteel

August 28, 1964 - August 11, 2019

Gary Lee Casteel, age 54, died at West Hills Health and Rehab, on August 11, 2019 following a long and valiant battle with a degenerative neurological disease known as Multiple Systems Atrophy or MSA. Beloved as a husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and cousin, Gary was a Knoxville native, the son of Nancy and Paul Casteel. A graduate of Farragut High School, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at the University of Tennessee and a Master's degree in Education from Carson Newman University, where he met his wife, Karen Caldwell of Gaffney, SC. He taught in Knox County public schools and worked for the Knox County Library as long as his health allowed. He was a faithful, active, and lifelong member of Central Baptist Bearden, where he served on the audio team and supported the music and veteran's ministries.

Gary's mind remained sharp throughout his illness; he was an avid reader and followed current events closely. He loved politics and worked as a manager and advisor for several local and state political campaigns, including that of former US Senator Bob Corker. A lifelong fan of John Wayne, he enjoyed watching movies and reading about "Duke."

Gary is survived by his beloved wife, Karen, and the apple of his eye, their young son, Ethan Lee Casteel; his parents, Nancy and Paul Casteel; his sister, Paula Angermeier (Tom) of Greenville, SC, along with his in-laws, Jolene and Jack Caldwell of Gaffney, SC, and several dear cousins, nephews, and nieces. The family wishes to extend their thanks to his caregivers and his many friends who visited, regularly bringing him books and milkshakes.

A service will be held to commemorate his life on Thursday, August 15 at 6:30 pm at Central Baptist Bearden, with Dr. Larry Fields, Rev. Mark Moreland, and Rev. Mike Chesney officiating. The family will receive friends from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. We will meet at Edgewood Cemetery at 9:45 am on Friday, August 16 for a 10:00am Graveside service. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the Casteel Benevolence Account, C/O Central Baptist Bearden, 6300 Deane Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37919.

Cemetery

Edgewood Cemetery
229 Gallaher View Rd.
Knoxville, TN,

Events

AUG 15 **Receiving of Friends** 04:30PM - 06:30PM
Central Baptist Bearden
Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

AUG 15 **Funeral Service** 06:30PM
Central Baptist Bearden
Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

AUG 16 **Graveside Service** 10:00AM
Edgewood Cemetery
229 Gallaher View Rd., Knoxville, TN, US

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Rose Mortuary - August 15, 2019 at 10:46 AM



“ Bob and I will always remember talking politics with Gary and how fun it was to chat. He will be greatly missed. ~ Bob and Julya Johnson



Julya - August 15, 2019 at 03:51 PM



“ 84 files added to the album LifeTributes



Rose Mortuary - August 15, 2019 at 10:27 AM



“ We are so very sorry for your loss. You are in our prayers and may God bless you.

John & Diane Sharp

John & Diane Sharp - August 15, 2019 at 07:33 AM



“ Karen, I have thought of you so much and sent up prayers for your Peace. Lots of people love you, and we will always be here for you. May God hold you closely.

Georgann Hickman - August 15, 2019 at 12:09 AM



“ The first time I met Gary, I was struck by how much he LOVED talking politics! Whenever I knew I was going to see him, I had to bone up on the latest news so I would be able to ATTEMPT to carry on a decent conversation with him! I will miss that so much...

Nancy Werdel - August 14, 2019 at 09:55 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Gary's family and friends. I worked with Gary for a short while at KCPL and he was always a very nice and polite man. I'm sure he will be missed by many.
Rose Najjar

rose najjar - August 14, 2019 at 11:03 AM



“ Gary Casteel was a better friend to me than I was to him. We lost contact for many years until he reached out to let me know of his declining health. We visited several times, but never enough. I miss him already, but know that his suffering is over and that he is with our Lord Jesus Christ. My heart goes out to Karen, Ethan and his parents and sister for all the suffering they endured. Gary encouraged us all by his faith and perseverance. He may be gone from this world but he will never be forgotten!

Parker Stair - August 13, 2019 at 06:21 PM



“ Marquis Dotson, III lit a candle in memory of Gary Lee Casteel



Marquis Dotson, III - August 13, 2019 at 03:01 PM



“ Oh Karen, what can I say that hasn't been said? Walter and I are praying for you and Ethan. I know Gary is whole and happy in the arms of the angels. God be with you.

Tami Adams - August 13, 2019 at 09:56 AM



“ Starr Allison lit a candle in memory of Gary Lee Casteel



Starr Allison - August 13, 2019 at 09:33 AM



“ Karen and Family I'm so sorry to hear of Gary's passing may God bless u all

Starr Allison - August 13, 2019 at 09:32 AM



“ When I met Gary, I could see how much he loved life and my wonderful friend, Karen. After Ethan was born, it was so obvious in pictures that he was head over heels. I may have mostly followed your life together through Facebook since you guys lived so far away, but I watched your life through pictures and posts. Karen, he had to feel your love through your battle to keep him home as long as possible and include him in so many special events. God's plan is always greater than our understanding, but let His grace get you and Ethan through this. You are both so loved. You have all of our prayers. I love you!

Krishna Harvey - August 13, 2019 at 08:34 AM



“ Karen, I am so sorry to hear this. Thinking and praying for you and your son. May God give you peace and understanding. Diane

Diane - August 13, 2019 at 07:00 AM



“ I remember 12 years ago when a bunch of us John Wayne fans joined up to the Official John Wayne Forum started by the Wayne family. Almost right away the Wayne's put me in charge of the forum and I got to meet all the other members that joined up and a bunch of us became really close friends. Over the years I got to know Gary personally by sending back-and-forth messages and eventually talking to him on the phone. I remember when they had their 1st child and decided to name it Ethan after John Wayne's youngest sons. Especially since Ethan Wayne was my boss when it came to the John Wayne forum. I was shocked when he told me he had been diagnosed with MSA and then this last year to find out that his wife had come down with cancer. The good part is that she beat her cancer but Gary was still fading quickly. I was sad when Karen let me know that Gary had passed the other day but at least for him John Wayne and the gang will be able to meet him at the perly gates and he'll finally get to meet his hero. My deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends and especially to little Ethan.

LEST WE FORGET!
Michael & Emily Waack



Michael Waack - August 12, 2019 at 10:23 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Gary Lee Casteel.



August 12, 2019 at 09:59 PM