



Gary W. Wilkins

March 20, 1954 - January 24, 2020

Gary W. Wilkins age 65, of Traverse City passed away peacefully on January 24th, 2020 at the Grand Traverse Pavilions with his family beside him. Gary was born in Traverse City, Michigan on March 20, 1954. He will be deeply missed by his family. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, of 46 years, a son Michael (Lisa) Wilkins, a daughter Ann Wilkins, and three amazing Grandchildren Kelsey and Travis Sheffer and Tyler Wilkins. He is also survived by his parents Arthur "Art" and Doris (Fewins) Wilkins, his brother Terry (Sue) Wilkins, and Denise "Dee" Kramer who was like a sister. Also surviving are his Father-in-Law Fred Marsh Jr. (friend Alice Gates), Brother-in-Law Fred (Sandy) Marsh, Sisters-in-Law Ruth White and Jan (Randy) Huffman. Surviving nieces and nephews are Amanda (Gary's Godchild), Sarah and Justin (Cassie) Wilkins, Fred Marsh, David (Jess) Marsh, Alicia (Mark) Adams, Emilee, Matthew and Annika White, two great nieces Sydney Adams and Avery Marsh, three great nephews Brantley Marsh, and Hudson and Calvin Adams, and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, two special aunts and uncles, cousins, and his mother in law. Gary attended Sunday school with his grandparents Theodore and Charlotte Wilkins and loved eating black licorice that his grandpa gave him! Gary also loved helping on the farm with his Grandma Millie and Grandpa Levi who also taught him how to play euchre! Gary enjoyed his family and was always busy either camping with his children and grandchildren or tinkering in his garage. He was an avid NASCAR fan either watching races on television or going to

races with his children and family. Gary never missed a race on Sunday but always recorded it just in case church went into overtime!

Growing up in school he loved playing baseball and swimming in the Long Lake area. At the age of 18 Gary joined the Long Lake Fire Department. He became a Captain, and later took the position of Assistant Chief, retiring after 30 years. Gary was employed with Buds Resort, Ken's Pickup Service, Max's Service, and was a mechanic with TCAPS for 30 years, retiring in 2010. Gary loved hunting, bowling, snowmobiling and playing euchre. One could always find Gary and Terry playing cribbage or partners playing euchre! Gary loved coaching any kind of ball for Ann and Mike during their younger years.

Gary joined the Community of Christ church in 2011. He attended each week and was the first one to shovel the sidewalk or put the first pot of coffee on! Gary will always be known as the quiet observer but the first one to lend a hand. Family, friends, and extended family will deeply miss Gary. No more racing wheelchair, no more illness, he is now in Heaven, Gary has won his RACE!

We would like to thank the Elm family at Grand Traverse Pavilions and Hospice of Michigan for the continuous loving, exceptional care, and support given to Gary and Sharon throughout their journey together.

Visitation will be held at Grawn United Methodist Church Thursday January 30th from 11am-1pm and 5pm-8pm. A Celebration of Life officiated by Michael Mead will be at 11am on Friday January 31st with a luncheon to follow.

Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association of Traverse City, Hospice of Michigan, Long Lake Fire Department, Grand Traverse Pavilions, or one's choice. Kalkaska Funeral Home & Cremation Services is serving our family.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Grawn United Methodist Church
1260 S West Silver Lake Rd
Traverse City, MI 49685

Visitation

JAN 30. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grawn United Methodist Church
1260 S West Silver Lake Rd
Traverse City, MI 49685

Final Visitation

JAN 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Grawn United Methodist Church
1260 S West Silver Lake Rd
Traverse City, MI 49685

Celebration of Life

JAN 31. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grawn United Methodist Church
1260 S West Silver Lake Rd
Traverse City, MI 49685

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary W. Wilkins.*



January 30, 2020 at 03:22 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary W. Wilkins.*



January 30, 2020 at 09:28 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary W. Wilkins.*



January 29, 2020 at 10:53 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary W. Wilkins.*



January 28, 2020 at 04:13 AM

PH

“ *Patty Holczman lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Wilkins*



Patty Holczman - January 27, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary W. Wilkins.*



January 27, 2020 at 04:24 PM

CP

“ *Growing up, we made lots of trips up to TC to see everyone. I remember after arriving at Grandma's next door, we would rush over to see Gary and Terry, if grandma didn't have us rushing off to a church event first. I always enjoyed playing at their house while the grown ups did whatever they did. As time went by and we all grew up, we all had our own lives and we drifted apart, but I have always always loved each and every one in our family. My prayers to Aunt Doris and Uncle Art, Terry, Sharon, Michael and Ann at this difficult time.*

Charlene Piner

Charlene Piner - January 27, 2020 at 12:21 PM

MR

“ *Sending Love to the Family as we grieve the loss of Gary. He's my Cousin and lived next door to Grandma and Grandpa Wilkins where I would see him helping his dad with chores on the farm. My thoughts are with you all.*

Myrna Rindt

Myrna Rindt - January 27, 2020 at 10:40 AM

PS

“ *So sorry for your loss, Sharon. Love and prayers.*

Pam Sherman - January 26, 2020 at 10:10 PM

JB

“ *So sorry for the loss. Gary was a wonderful person and a great co-worker. He always had time to answer bus maintenance questions, no matter how stupid. And he never talked down to female drivers.*

Juanita Beckwith

Juanita Beckwith - January 26, 2020 at 05:28 PM

HS

“ *Enjoyed growing up with Gary we had lots of fun when was growing up especially in grade school will be deeply missed*

Harry schopieray - January 26, 2020 at 04:56 PM