



Gary H. Rittenhouse

January 14, 1947 - February 8, 2023

Gary H. Rittenhouse was born January 14, 1947 in Omaha, NE. Raised by his mother, Doris (Wicklund) Rittenhouse, Gary grew up in Valley, NE where he attended school, graduating from Valley High School in 1965. Gary then went on to the University of Nebraska at Omaha and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business in 1969. Growing up, Gary played basketball, was active with the Boy Scouts, even achieving his Eagle Scout, was a lifeguard at Ray's Lake, took part in youth group at church, and enjoyed hanging out with friends.

Gary married Suzanne Stenglein on January 31, 1970 at the Baptist Presbyterian Church in Valley, NE, and to this union, two children were born; Jack Aaron and Brooke Jessica. Gary and Suzanne made their home outside of Waterloo, NE.

Gary worked for Guarantee Life Insurance, which later became Jefferson Pilot for 30 years. Gary and Bob Como started the Group Life Insurance Division at Guarantee, and help it succeed. Gary loved his job, but when he wasn't helping at the agency, he could be found helping at the family farm with any and all jobs that needed attention. He was also active in the community as a member of the Waterloo Rural Fire Board, Waterloo School Board, and District 15 School Board.

Gary was a strong, intelligent, faithful, and intimidating man. He stood tall, was full of integrity, and fought hard for his family. He cherished his marriage to Suzanne, loved raising his kids, and his grandchildren; Graci and Garret evoked the most immense love in his life. He enjoyed listening to country

music, especially the song, "Always On My Mind" by Willie Nelson. He savored a nice glass of wine, but could devour an enchilada and margarita at El Bee's in 15 minutes flat!

Gary could build anything, from his and Suzanne's first house, to buildings, decks and more. He loved traveling the world, fishing, sailing and snow skiing, and despite never training for it, spent 5 straight years on B.R.A.N. with his son Jack, biking all day, and all those nights in a tent. Gary loved living on the lake, and was most content when spending time with family and friends. Gary was always there for his family and respected all people. He was always true to everything he did and believed in, and exhibited tremendous strength as he battled his disease, PSP, for the past 10 years. He was thankful for the life he built and the friends by his side.

Gary passed away at his home outside of Waterloo, NE on February 8, 2023, 14 years to the day after his son, Jack passed. Gary was preceded in death by his mother Doris Rittenhouse, son Jack Rittenhouse, daughter Brooke Martinez, grandson Garret Rittenhouse, and sister Carol Dickmeyer. He is survived by his wife Suzanne, daughter-in-law Angie (Chantz) Hanson, granddaughter Graci, brother Bill, and many nieces, nephews, and friends. The family wishes to extend a special "Thank you!" to all of Gary's amazing caregivers.

Funeral service 11 AM Monday with visitation one hour prior to the service at Reichmuth Funeral Home Elkhorn. Interment Prospect Hill Cemetery, Elkhorn. Memorials to the family for later designation.

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

21901 W. Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68022

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **13**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB **13**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Gary H. Rittenhouse*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - February 10, 2023 at 12:16 PM

CB

What a wonderful celebration of Gary's life-who he was, what he did and what motivated his life to be lived the way it was.

May the Words shared during the service bring peace, strength and comfort to all those who heard them today!

*With love,
Claudia Brunick-Spieker, Gary's cousin*

Claudia Brunick-Spieker - February 13, 2023 at 06:04 PM

JU

“ Gary and I attended our school years at Valley. We also grew up attending the the Baptist Presbyterian Church. We were fortunately to also attend Sunday School with many of our classmates Nancy Houser (Booze), Judy Ritner, and Jim Paulson. I remember during adult board meetings you could find us kids running up and down the stairs and around the church. Where where was the discipline in those days? Gary was very generous. My daughter Andra was needing a job one summer during her college years. Gary graciously offered her an apprenticeship at Guarantee Mutual. My deepest condolences to the family and those who loved Him. Especially his sweet Suzanne. Julie (Boberg) Ury

Juliann K.(Boberg) Ury - February 13, 2023 at 09:14 AM

CW

“ And so many wonderful memories... We were all best friends during our school days and those memories will linger forever. Picture of the Class of 65 Alumni Banquet Our last banquet picture with Gary. You are a true gentleman, feisty hard worker and true friend forever.



Colette Wiggins - February 11, 2023 at 09:53 AM

RH

“ It has been many years since I had the opportunity to share time with Gary. We were classmates in Valley from the third grade through freshman years. My parents moved to Lincoln after that final year. I recall Gary as a fun friend and colleague while we spent time in an amazing group of students. My memory does recall the chance to know Gary and like/love him very much. We know God has left a light on for you, Gary. May your eternal peace be full of rest. Thank you - Rollie Hughes

Rowland W. Hughes - February 09, 2023 at 02:03 PM

CR

I'm so sorry I can't be there with you! Gary was a bright spot for me in my early days as his pastor in Valley. I met him as his mother was reaching the end of her life and found him to be so encouraging to me, even in the loss of his own mother. Over those first few years, we had some wonderful visits. He was a strong and vigorous man who loved to be active, especially snow skiing in Colorado. Then he broke his leg badly and that shook him up pretty well. Gary loved doing woodworking at the shop he had helped put together at Jack and Angie's place. He spent many happy hours there. I was also there when Carol passed away, then I watched as Garrett, Jack and Brooke each left this world and the grief mounted for Gary and Suzanne. I watched as Parkinson's turned this once mighty man into a shell of himself, even as his mind stayed clear for quite some time. I don't always know how to answer all the questions of why life can sometimes be so hard for particular families, except I know that God loves us and is always there with us even in the darkest hours in this broken world. And I know that we have the blessed hope that we find in John 14, that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us and has now come to take Gary there to be with Him. And I know the promise is that there will be no sickness, no death, no tears and no sorrow.

May God bless you all as you grieve this one more loss. May the peace of Jesus Christ sweep over you and help you recall the good memories of the past and look forward to the blessing of being reunited in heaven some day. God bless you all!

Carl Ratcliff - February 10, 2023 at 09:51 PM

LR

So many GREAT memories. Never will Gary be forgotten. Times at the lake, travel, golf or just sitting together always made me happy. I was very lucky to know and love Gary. Rest in Peace my friend.

Lyn Ramsey

Lyn Ramsey - February 11, 2023 at 10:38 AM

TW

Gary was a big guy, a wonderful friend who would do anything for you. he loved to have a good time, and we had many. Golfing, skiing, boating, and just plain 'chumming around. he was an outstanding professional in his field of work. Gary loved his family and friends. he will be missed. Loved you guy! TOM WHALEN

Tom Whalen - February 11, 2023 at 10:50 AM

LR

Beautiful service.

Lynnell Rowe - February 13, 2023 at 01:02 PM

JF

Sorry to miss Gary's services, being out of state, but he and his family are in our prayers. So many memories of attending high school together, playing football and basketball side by side, and later attending college in Lincoln at the same time. Rest in peace Gary.

John Flor - February 13, 2023 at 01:31 PM

RB

*Gary
I love you Brother
Bill*

Rittenhouse Bill - January 09, 2024 at 11:42 AM