



Gary Martin Diehl

July 16, 1946 - November 14, 2019

Gary Martin Diehl, 73 of Sterling, VA, passed surrounded by his family on Thursday, November 14, 2019.

Born Tuesday, July 16, 1946 to the late Callie (CJ) Diehl and Mary L. Diehl of Harrisonburg, Virginia. Gary grew up in Harrisonburg, VA and attended Turner Ashby High School (Class of 1964). He received his BA from Eastern Mennonite College. After college, Gary became a Vocational Career and Education Teacher at Fauquier High School in Warrenton, VA. He then received his master's degree from Virginia Tech and continued pursuing his passion for Vocational Education when he joined the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America. He later retired as Chief Operating Officer from Skills USA, formally VICA.

Nothing was more important to Gary than family. He was very involved in his grandchildren's activities and enjoyed attending many sporting events and school musical performances where he always ensured he had the best view. Gary was also known for finding toys for his grandchildren at yard sales, driving his '69 Mustang, helping his neighbors, and refinishing furniture to share with his children and sell on one of the many facebook sale sites he monitored. He volunteered every Saturday during basketball season as score keeper for Upward Basketball at Christian Fellowship Church where he was also a member.

Gary is survived by his three children Patricia Diehl Winters (Jason), Amy Diehl West (Shawn), and Adam Diehl (Nikisha), their mother Brenda Diehl, as well as seven grandchildren who meant the world to him: Emma, Jacob, Colby, Lillian, Logan, Gavin, and Ainsley. He is also survived by his brother Lary Diehl (Carol), as well as many others who loved him.

The family would appreciate donations to The Cancer Research Foundation or Heritage Hall in Leesburg, VA in his name.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 23rd at 11:00am at Christian Fellowship Church, 21673 Beaumeade Cir, Ashburn, VA 20147. Please enter through door #100.

Events

NOV **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

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Christian Fellowship Church

21673 Beaumeade Cir., Ashburn, VA, US, 20147

Comments



“ Gary made a huge impact on my career. I worked with him to negotiate hotel contracts at two hotels in KC and then went to work for VICA about a year prior to the first SkillsUSA in KC in 1994. His recommendation to MO DESE I'm sure had a huge impact on the hiring committees decision hire me and for that I'm forever grateful. I'm sad to read of his passing and sorry for his families loss, he was a VERY good man. We need more like him.

Teresa Hellman - November 22, 2019 at 12:03 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 22, 2019 at 11:51 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 22, 2019 at 09:47 AM



“ Gary was a great neighbor.....always there to help out. Prayers for his family.

Mark and Sandy Swanson - November 22, 2019 at 08:37 AM



“ Love Uncle Ray & Billie purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



Love Uncle Ray & Billie - November 22, 2019 at 06:10 AM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 21, 2019 at 11:26 AM



“ Your SkillsUSA Family -- Leesburg, VA purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



Your SkillsUSA Family -- Leesburg, VA - November 20, 2019 at 03:03 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 20, 2019 at 10:29 AM



“ Full Heart was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 20, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 20, 2019 at 10:14 AM



“ So sorry to hear the sad news of Gary's passing. Gary always took great pride in his home and yard, and was such a valued neighbor. We will miss chatting with him whenever we met in the street and at neighborhood gatherings. He has been a fixture in the community for so long - it's hard to believe he will no longer be there. He was taken from us far too soon.

Our deepest sympathies go to the family he loved so much.

Tony and Connie Jenkins

Tony and Connie Jenkins - November 20, 2019 at 10:12 AM



“ Love, Jack & Brigitte purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



Love, Jack & Brigitte - November 20, 2019 at 09:47 AM



“ My prayers for healing are for the family. I always enjoyed visiting with Gary during my 6 years on the SkillsUSA board and then the years after. Gary stayed at my house one time when he came to Nebraska. He was a true gentleman. May God be with you.

Tony Glenn
Nebraska Department of Education

Tony Glenn - November 19, 2019 at 03:54 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 18, 2019 at 07:29 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 18, 2019 at 05:12 PM



“ My heart aches at the news of Gary's passing. Prayers for his family whom he loved so much. My first encounter with Gary was at a national conference. I was a new (FL) state director and had invited my parents to the opening session without giving them a ticket to get in. Gary saw the confusion and ever so kindly solved the problem while introducing himself to my parents. They thought he was so kind and so did I. I also had the privilege of a good will tour to Puerto Rico with Gary and my state officer. That experience will stay with me forever. Gary will be truly missed. May he rest in peace.

Jill Van Weelden
Florida

Jill Van Weelden - November 18, 2019 at 02:50 PM



“ Oh my goodness,so sorry for more loss. I only stood chatting with him about a month ago and Shane had the opportunity to pray with him. I can't believe, that was my last conversation with him. Such a lovely man. He always liked to give you a good strong handshake and have an interesting conversation about all sorts of things and he always was so nicely dress. What I would call, a real gentleman. So very sad. Sending prayers and condolences to your family. Praying for your peace and comfort and wisdom on how to talk to your children.

Miriam and Shane Rootes - November 18, 2019 at 08:55 AM



“ Gary, from first meeting him, was always such a good person in each and every encounter, he never changed. So very sorry for this loss in your life. For the light Gary brought to the world, it is carried on through those he nurtured in life. Adam, Nikki, Jacob, and Lily, love you so much and pray for you and your family at this time.
Love,
Aunt Sonnie

Sondra Hill - November 18, 2019 at 08:14 AM



“ Going to miss the backyard chats with Gary. So sorry for your loss.
- Scott, Trish & family

Scott Nestor - November 18, 2019 at 07:47 AM



“ Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 18, 2019 at 07:12 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss and are praying for peace of mind during this difficult time. Gary was a nice, gentle man who loved his family very much and exhibited this love in every way. He treated everyone with respect and quietly made us feel welcome any time we visited. He will be missed.

Ron and Brenda Parsons - November 17, 2019 at 10:48 PM



“ Ron And Brenda Parsons lit a candle in memory of Gary Martin Diehl



Ron and Brenda Parsons - November 17, 2019 at 10:46 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear this sad news. Gary was always a good neighbor to us. One of our favorite memories is several years ago when he got his new snow blower - he had so much fun with it that he cleared our driveway as well as his...for almost every snowfall that winter! He also humored me (Michele) every spring and let me cut lilacs when they were in bloom on the side of his house, because he knew I loved to fill my house with the scent of them. He always talked about his family and it was clear how much love he had for you all. May God wrap His loving arms around Gary now and forever...

- Michele, Mark, Kyle, Rebecca and Conor Wilson

Michele - November 17, 2019 at 08:20 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Pa was a special man who loved his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. –Dave & Rebekah Shaffer

David & Rebekah Shaffer - November 17, 2019 at 07:55 PM



“ We are very sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Much love and prayers for your family during this hard time.
Brenda and Glenn Ulrich

brenda ulrich - November 17, 2019 at 07:28 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. I was a classmate of Gary's at Turner Ashby High School. In later years, I would visit with Gary at the Bridgewater Home while we both were visiting our moms. I always appreciated Gary keeping us up to date with our TA classmates. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. Judy Craun Compton

Judy Craun Compton - November 17, 2019 at 06:08 PM



“ I wish to express my condolences to Gary's family. Gary was a dear friend to me through SkillsUSA. After I first involved in VICA (now SkillsUSA) on the national level in 1980 I soon met Gary and we became fast friends. It was with much sorrow that I learned of his passing. Gary touched many lives through the years and I have often thanked God for allowing me to be one such life that Gary impacted. Please know that I will be lifting your family in prayers and also know that my fond memories of my relationship with Gary will never be forgotten.

Carl Creasman
1228 Gateshead Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Carl Creasman - November 17, 2019 at 05:30 PM



“ Gary positively touched and influenced the lives of many students, teachers, administrators and others through his work in the field of career and technical education. He was a great colleague and a wonderful friend who will be missed greatly. May his family gain comfort during this time knowing of his contributions to make our world a better place.

Dr. Michael H. Regauld

Michael Regauld - November 17, 2019 at 04:03 PM



“ May you feel God's loving arms surrounding you during this time of sadness and may your sweet memories of him keep a smile on your faces! Love all of you!
Mike and Sharon Carpenter

Sharon Carpenter - November 17, 2019 at 03:06 PM



“ With my deepest heartfelt sympathy and sending love and prayers to the entire family on the passing of dear Gary. May God comfort and direct you in the difficult days ahead.

Gail Roberts Greene - November 17, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Martin Diehl.



November 17, 2019 at 02:45 PM



“ So shocked and so sorry to learn of Gary’s passing. May he rest in peace.



Karen and Jay Beatty - November 17, 2019 at 02:38 PM



“ Karen is following this tribute.

Karen - November 17, 2019 at 09:48 AM