



Gary Stratman

July 30, 1951 - October 16, 2022

Gary Wade Stratman of Cadillac passed away Sunday, October 16, 2022 at Samaritas Senior Living in Cadillac. He was 71.

Gary was born on July 30, 1951 in Belleville, Illinois to Henry and Arlene (Brough) Stratman and they preceded him in death.

After graduating from Buena Vista High School in Saginaw, Gary joined the United States Air Force. He served for 21 years; including during the Vietnam era, retiring in 1991. Following his retirement from the Air Force he worked as a surgical assistant for Cadillac Orthopaedics until retirement. Gary enjoyed the outdoors and could often be found golfing, hunting, fishing or camping. He loved spending time at fish or deer camp and family gatherings. Gary was a member of the Cadillac Christian Reformed Church and was active with the Rack Shack men's group there.

On September 18, 1993 in Cadillac Gary married Mary Jo Reska and she survives him along with children: Stacy (Tim) Hochthanner of South Lyon, Michigan, Brandin Stratman of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Shawn (Jackie) Beger of Muskegon, Michigan, Aaron Beger of Blacksburg, Virginia, and Brian Stratman of Cadillac; grandchildren: Ava and Gavin Hochthanner, Beckett and Brodee Beger; siblings: Robert Stratman, Deb (Jim) Mitas, Ron (Sandy) Stratman, Patty (Tina) Stratman, Scot Stratman, Jeff Stratman, and Michael

(KJ) Stratman; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 4-7 PM Monday October 24, 2022 at Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services in Cadillac. There will also be visitation with refreshments one hour prior to services at the church. Memorial services will be held 11:00 AM Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at the Cadillac Christian Reformed Church in Cadillac with Pastor Jeff Kroondyk officiating and full military rites under the auspices of the Cadillac Area Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to New Hope Shelter, Vets Serving Vets or Hospice of Michigan Cadillac Chapter. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services
205 East Cass Street
Cadillac, MI 49601

Memorial Service

OCT **25.** 11:00 AM.

Cadillac Christian Reformed Church

Tribute Wall

SL

“ I will miss Gary and his: 'I know something you don't' wily smile. He smiled with his eyes and his sheepish/somewhat crooked grin will always be remembered fondly.
Like Washington Irving, he had a way with 'the yarn': His stories and jokes were always fascinating and even if you had heard them before, they never got tiresome.
Two of my favorite lines of Gary's were: While fishing, he would be at the back of the boat trolling, and he would gently say "your gonna like this one" bringing in a 6lb Walleye!
Of course: Euchre, where you always wanted to be his partner. I don't think he lost many matches, and when he put his card down before any other cards were displayed, "never send a boy" was a classic.
He was an undeniably caring, generous Husband, Father, Grandfather and friend.
Wet a line with Jim Lepine up there and pop a Molson!
Will miss you!
Scott Lepine

Scott Lepine - October 24, 2022 at 01:10 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Gary Stratman.



October 24, 2022 at 10:05 AM



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



October 24, 2022 at 09:14 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Gary Stratman.



October 23, 2022 at 10:00 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Gary Stratman.



October 23, 2022 at 07:59 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Gary Stratman.



October 21, 2022 at 02:11 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Stratman.*



October 21, 2022 at 12:24 PM



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



October 21, 2022 at 09:13 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Stratman.*



October 20, 2022 at 07:09 AM



“ *Love to the Stratman Family as you grieve the Most Wonderful Gary! This guy! I will cherish the many memories and adventures with our families as the kids were growing up. Peace sweet Gary - you are loved by so so many. There is a hole in the world with your passing. Much Love, Cori*

Cori Lindell Denman - October 19, 2022 at 05:06 PM

CU

“ Gary had great insight, was a true quiet leader, and led his family, friends, and work colleagues, by example.

Many people valued his opinion highly on a daily basis.

It also seemed like Gary had been everywhere and did everything well:

He was in the Air Force for decades.

He played semi-pro football in Europe.

He was a highly valued Orthopedic Surgery Assistant.

He actually owned part of the Packers (there's a brick at Lambeau Field with his name on it).

Also, he was truly outstanding at golf, hunting, fishing, poker, pool, and ping pong. (How is it possible to be that good at so many things?)

It also seemed like he knew the whole town!

Gary was a great great friend and will be missed immensely.

Chuck Urse

Chuck Urse - October 19, 2022 at 10:23 AM

DS

“ I went to high school with Gary. He was always so much fun and always was the life of the party. He always had a smile. Had lots of fun time that will never be forgotten. Rest in peace Gary.

Diana Summers - October 19, 2022 at 12:52 AM

MK

“ I was stationed with Gary in the Hospital Squadron and played softball with him as well at KI Sawyer AFB in the late 70’s, early 80’s. Gary was a cheerful, competitive guy as I remember him. I shall never forget when he acquired cases of formula for my newborn son when I needed help as a young, married Airman. I will also frequently recall the times I played golf with Gary on the base course, and he attempted to help me improve my swing. We both got some good laughs about that. Gary, May you forever Rest In Peace! You shall be missed by many!

Msgt Retired Randy L Kirkman - October 18, 2022 at 01:20 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Stratman.



October 18, 2022 at 12:26 PM

MM

“ Mike McLean

When people have a profound impact on our lives we tend to think about them through out our lives. Gary was one of these individuals. Gary and I met at KI Sawyer AFB near Marquette Michigan. It was my first assignment and Gary had already been in the Air Force for five years. We met on the softball field for the tryouts for the hospital softball team. We both were young and cocky and ended up getting into a verbal altercation. We apologized to each other and ended up becoming great friends. He and my supervisor mentored me those early years in military life and most importantly in hunting, fishing and sports. We continually made time to see each other as I was stationed in California and would stop in Wyoming to see him. When I left active duty after nine years I ran into him at the boat ramp at Sheplers going to Mackinaw Island. We had just a few minutes to talk but I met Mary Jo and he met Caroline. Then years later I got in touch with him through his son Brandon and Facebook. We rekindled our relationship and come to find out we both had accepted Jesus Christ into our lives. By then Gary was struggling with Parkinson's and I was having physical problems. I was invited by his fishing friends to join them on his last Canadian trip. I was honored. When Gary went into Samaritan my wife and I were able to see him two times but I called every couple of months. Gary was my brother in Christ and a great friend in life. He will be sorely missed by all but welcomed by our Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless your family and I will see you on the other side.

Michael McLean - October 18, 2022 at 12:14 PM

PB

“ I really don't know where to start. How about that as Gary's long term employer, he made me a better physician and surgeon. He had an intuitive knowledge about when things just looked right and helped guide me through many difficult surgeries. He was always there 100 percent. And he never had a bad day, seriously. Whenever Drs. Krusniak, Holen, Kazewych and I learned a new procedure, we made sure Gary went to the training courses with us. Many a time the course was full of only doctors--and Gary! When they found out about his passing, they uniformly noted how much they learned from him. Intellectually, emotionally and spiritually he was always there for me. Somehow I will fill the hole his passing leaves with all of the wonderful memories. And I can still hear him saying, when receiving his paycheck, "Thanks! Financial reward!"
Love you, Gary.
Paul Bizzigotti

Paul Bizzigotti - October 18, 2022 at 09:25 AM