



Mr. Gary Penley

May 11, 1949 - October 3, 2017

Gary Penley from Momence, Illinois died October 3, 2017 in Alpharetta, Georgia. He was known for his love for life, being an engaged and playful grandfather and an enthusiastic father who often bragged about his 4 kids. He had a contagious enthusiasm for whatever he was 'into' at the time. Everything from photographing birds, salt water fish tanks, refurbishing cars, rocket launching, or listening to "good" music and dancing. His heart was for Jesus, his wife and his family. Gary had a servant's heart and was always willing to help others in their time of need. He is survived by his mother Betty Johnson, brother Craig and Judy Penley and sister Sandra and Tom Konopacke. Also his wife Judith Penley of Alpharetta and her children Curt Ashley and his kids (Alex and Zane) and Felicia Ashley. Also, his children; Michelle and Todd Chapman and their 2 kids (Sarah and Rachel), Mike and Lauren Penley and their three kids (Lance, Taylor and Holland). Paul and Christy Penley and their 5 kids (Soren, Kyra, Bri, Langham and London) and Krista and Darren Sellers and their 3 kids (Marcus, Naomi and Mason). He was deeply loved and will be keenly missed by those who knew him. The Penley family will receive friends on Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 11:00am until 1:00pm at Northside Chapel Funeral Directors, Roswell. 770-645-1414. www.northsidechapel.com

Cemetery Details

Momence Cemetery

Momence, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 7. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Gary Penley*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Dear Judy & family,*

I apprenticed under Gary for my first Oasis Group leadership training. You & Gary graciously opened your home to the Group & Gary opened his heart. I was so very sorry to learn of Gary's death. He was so very full of life & full of giving. I know you will miss him. You are all in my thoughts & prayers!!

*God's Many Blessings!
Jane Miller*

Jane Miller - October 24, 2017 at 11:39 AM



“ *Cindy and Pete Mathias purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. Gary Penley.*



Cindy and Pete Mathias - October 19, 2017 at 08:17 AM

“ 10/16/17 Gary (5/11/49 10/3/17) married my bff Judy Ashley. Judy & I lived 2 miles apart in Naples. I missed Judy when she moved to Atlanta (actually Alpharetta, GA). Gary lived there! Her kids lived there! Gary was so easy to get to know & love. It was always a pleasure to have them visit & I loved to visit them in Alpharetta.

Dear Judy, I'm still thinking of you & praying for you. I have probably passed on the below writing at least 100 times & I'd guess more. I hope this writing by Dietrich Bonhoeffer helps as you begin the journey of how to live life without your true love & soulmate. Gary was a blessing to many & so are you. I love you & yours. geOrgetta

This is a reading my husband Lee brought home from work to read to our guests before our Thanksgiving Day dinner the year his brother died 10/29/92. We had our normal twenty-some of his family there that day. We were missing his gruff-voiced and rowdy older brother who always drove from Detroit to Pittsburgh with his two big dogs to be there with us for a few days at Thanksgiving. Lee had a hard time getting through the reading.

After Lee died 9/8/94 with 131 others aboard USAir Flight 427 we found this writing in his personal file at his office. It still speaks to my heart yet today; words that were a comfort to me when I was trying to find a way to live life after Lee's death. I hope it helps you too.

Thank God for God.

"There is nothing that can replace the absence of someone dear to us, and one should not even attempt to do so. One must simply hold out and endure it. At first that sounds very hard, but at the same time it is also a great comfort. For to the extent the emptiness truly remains unfilled one remains connected to the other person through it. It is wrong to say that God fills the emptiness. God in no way fills it but much more leaves it precisely unfilled and thus helps us preserve -- even in pain -- the authentic relationship. Further more, the more beautiful and full the remembrances, the more difficult the separation. But gratitude transforms the torment of memory into silent joy. One bears what was lovely in the past not as a thorn but as a precious gift deep within, a hidden treasure of which one can

always be certain." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

geOrgetta weaver - October 16, 2017 at 04:42 PM

GW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



geOrgetta weaver - October 16, 2017 at 04:41 PM

 Linda
Walters
Pollino

“ *Dear Judy and family,
Joe and I are so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. We are so sorry for
your loss.*

*You and Gary were our first Christian Friends in Alpharetta, and we
so enjoyed our Bible Study at your home, and meeting others from
the church. Gary was so full of life and such a wonderful man.*

*Our hearts are broken, but we have the hope of enjoying eternity
with him. We love you Judy. Please know you are in our hearts and
prayers.*

Love,

Joe and Linda Pollino

Linda Walters Pollino - October 10, 2017 at 06:53 PM

DH

“ Dear Uncle Gary,
I will miss you. Even though I haven't seen you in recent years I have all the memories of growing up with David and I spending weeks at you and Aunt Jerri's house in Neenah watching my cousins grow up. Memories of the Oshkosh air shows, times in the north woods at Grandma and Grandpa's cabin, fishing on Lake Winnebago. Pulling an 18 foot boat with a Ford Pinto from Green Bay to the lake was nerve racking enough to leave a lasting memory. LOL.
The Christmas's spend at our house in Ohio. I was glad I introduced you to model rocketry. Building and launching them was time well spend with my uncle. The years of good memories will be cherished.
Love you Gary, Darryl Harris

Darryl Harris - October 09, 2017 at 12:24 PM

FF

“ From Paul & Vicki Bartholomew & Family
purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the
family of Mr. Gary Penley.



From Paul & Vicki Bartholomew & Family - October 06, 2017
at 01:30 PM

BP

“ Judi. I am so sorry for your loss!! Words can not express how I feel. I cared deeply for him also. I did enjoy your visit earlier this year. God bless you and your family. He will be deeply missed by all. Take care. Love you too. Aunt Barbara

Barbara Powell - October 06, 2017 at 12:46 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Penley.*



October 06, 2017 at 10:37 AM



“ *I love you Uncle Gary, you will be missed and remembered by all those who knew you. You were one of a kind. I'll always remember your voice and how kind you always were. You always wrote me the nicest text messages and Facebook message. You made me feel special. Thank you for loving my aunt way you did. Even though we weren't blood related, I still considered you my uncle. I will always remember the good times. I love you, your niece Jenny*



Jennifer Bartlett - October 06, 2017 at 08:13 AM



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



October 06, 2017 at 08:06 AM

JJ

“ I was so blessed to serve with Gary as an OASIS leader through NorthPoint Community Church. Gary loved the Lord and sincerely cared about the participants in our groups. He touched the lives of many people experiencing separation and divorce, guiding them toward healing with his strong faith, his comforting voice, and his warm heart. He will be missed.

Janet Jacobs - October 05, 2017 at 11:32 PM

JJ

“ Jan Jacobs purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Mr. Gary Penley.



Jan Jacobs - October 05, 2017 at 11:29 PM

RR

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Richard Read - October 05, 2017 at 08:09 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Penley.



October 05, 2017 at 04:52 PM

FA

“ *Penleys, Ashleys, and Coffees*



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:52 PM

FA

“ *Gary and Judy*



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:51 PM

CD

Sorry a about your loss I personally didn't know him but I worked with his dad and I were very good friends

chester. delaney - October 05, 2017 at 07:28 PM

FA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:50 PM

FA

“ Gary lived for and loved his grad babies!



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:50 PM

FA

“ Garys Family



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:43 PM

FA

“ Gary loved his children and grand kids!



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:42 PM

FA

“ Gary loved birds!



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:42 PM

FA

“ Gary with Mike Penley



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:41 PM

FA

“ Gary with his children 2016



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:40 PM

FA

“ *Hary with Alex Ashley and Judy Penley*



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:35 PM

FA

“ *Gary with Alex Ashley and Judy Penley*

felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 04:34 PM

DL

“ *To the Penley Family, I met Gary in the last couple of years and was very warmed by his passion for life, and zeal for family and his many interests. May his memory be Eternal! with sympathy, Damon Limberis*

damon limberis - October 05, 2017 at 04:10 PM



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



October 05, 2017 at 02:56 PM



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



October 05, 2017 at 02:04 PM



“ *Gail & Earl Harris purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Mr. Gary Penley.*



Gail & Earl Harris - October 05, 2017 at 01:52 PM



“ *Caryl & Bruce Barrett sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Gary Penley*



Caryl & Bruce Barrett - October 05, 2017 at 01:30 PM



“ *Gary was a great guy and friend . I will miss him very much. My deepest sympathies to Gary's family*

Jimmy Pratillo - October 05, 2017 at 12:40 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Penley.*



October 05, 2017 at 12:10 PM



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



October 05, 2017 at 11:59 AM



“ *I so saddened to hear of Gary's passing. My prayers for his lovely wife and family during this time of loss and grieving.*

Sally Johnson - October 05, 2017 at 11:06 AM



“ *Our sincere sympathies for everyone in Gary's family, had a nice conversation online with him a short time ago about the horses that the Penleys and Cotes had as kids and the stories that my late husband. Larry Cote, use to tell about Gary and his brother Craig and their many adventures, And it seemed both Larry and Gary had a love for photography and nature with Gary's wonderful photographs he took. I would hope that Larry has greeted Gary at the gate but am sad for all the wonderful people in his life who will miss him forever. Our family sends our love to all of you. Alice Cote and the Cote family in NC.*

Alice Cote - October 05, 2017 at 10:42 AM

KD

“ So sorry to hear about Gary! It was so wonderful to see him and his wife in August at our 50th Class Reunion! He shared his passion for what he does with bird watching and his fish. He told so many wonderful stories and his adventures! He was a delightful person with a passion for his family and wife. He will surely be missed.



Kay Dorman - October 05, 2017 at 09:43 AM

SM

Prayers for Gary's Family - Judy and his family! I was so happy to have seen him and Judy at the 50th High School Reunion. So Sorry for your family's loss. He was a very good man!

Steve Marcotte - October 05, 2017 at 06:46 PM

FA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 09:23 AM

FA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



felicia ashley - October 05, 2017 at 08:30 AM



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



October 05, 2017 at 05:54 AM

VI

“ *Gary had a heart of gold. He always put others needs before his own. His great compassion and love of God will be greatly missed.*



vickie - October 05, 2017 at 12:28 AM

KB

“ *Kathy Beisenstein Brickweg lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary Penley*



Kathy Beisenstein Brickweg - October 04, 2017 at 11:43 PM

DT

“ We met Gary last year when he was visiting his grandkids in Colorado Springs. He was thrilled about all the different birds in Colorado. He was especially tickled when Soren convinced him to take all the grandkids to Casa Bonita. They had a grand time and Gary proudly showed us all the pictures of the kids. He so loved his family that his joy of being with them was infectious. It was our honor to meet him.

Deanna Tulet - October 04, 2017 at 11:04 PM

KB

“ He will be so missed. Back when he was in Neenah, I worked as his assistant for 8 years. He made such a difference in my life in so many ways. Not only was he truly the key to getting me to finish my degree, but he was the one who cheered me up and convinced me to come back to Wisconsin when I flipped out and took off in my car! He was a brother, a father, and a best friend to me. Most certainly one of the most inspirational people I've ever known. Rest in sweet peace in the arms of our Alford, dear friend.

Until we meet again.

Kathy Beisenstein Brickweg - October 04, 2017 at 09:27 PM

KB

Our Lord

Kathy Beisenstein Brickweg - October 04, 2017 at 09:29 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Penley.



October 04, 2017 at 09:19 PM



“ Gary was always so kind and inviting. Leonard and I felt honored to be invited into your small group as well as your lives. Alex was so thrilled when you asked him to be the pet sitter for your beautiful salt water fish. The whole family loved learning about sea horses. We loved sharing and comparing our various home improvements with you and Judy.
Gary was one of a kind and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.
Judy- we are so sorry.

Pamm Mulcahy-Ferrand - October 04, 2017 at 09:00 PM

KK

“ Going to miss this sweet man. He was such a wonderful neighbor, always there to lend a helping hand whenever needed. I will miss hearing about your wonderful travels and you showing off the wonderful bird pictures you had taken. I will miss walking out to my backyard and smelling your cigars. I will think of you fondly every time I smell someone smoking a cigar. The Kelly's will miss you.
Love you Judy!!



Kathy & Fred Kelley - October 04, 2017 at 08:01 PM

JH

“ Gary was a terrific church small group leader and a dear friend. We greatly enjoyed our common love of bird photography. The world is a smaller, duller place without him. All our love to Judy,
Jennifer & Philip Hui

jennifer hui - October 04, 2017 at 07:47 PM

LP

“ I still can't believe this is real. We miss you so much. I keep thinking we will get a phone call from you that everything is alright. You were an amazing grandpa. We love you.



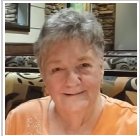
lauren penley - October 04, 2017 at 07:43 PM

FA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



felicia ashley - October 04, 2017 at 05:59 PM



“ Gary, not a cruise will pass without thinking of you showing all of us the beautiful bird photos you had taken in our last port of call.

What a great phone call I had with Judy the day she received her engagement ring from you, how happy and so much in love. You became a part of our Hialeah High family and we all enjoyed your wonderful personality, a fantastic addition to our cruiser group.

Judy and family, my heart aches knowing how much you will miss Gary, as we will. Life will go on but our heart will have a void, we will miss you Gary but you will always be in our thoughts. Love and prayers to Judy and Family, Linda Shipley Rompot, Hialeah High Class of 1958

Linda Rompot - October 04, 2017 at 05:42 PM

EW

“ Gary brought so much joy to everyone and everything he was involved in and will be missed and has always been loved by all that had the privilege to know him

Ene Sooro Watts - October 04, 2017 at 05:17 PM

FA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



felicia ashley - October 04, 2017 at 04:51 PM

FA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



felicia ashley - October 04, 2017 at 04:45 PM

FA

Great picture of Gary and Judy September 2017

felicia ashley - October 04, 2017 at 09:32 PM

FA

“ Gary, I love you and will miss you! Xo

felicia ashley - October 04, 2017 at 04:43 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Penley.*



October 04, 2017 at 03:47 PM