



Gerald E. Sankey

July 24, 1952 - December 21, 2023

Gerald “Gary” E. Sankey, 71, of Cedar Falls, IA, passed away peacefully with family at his side on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at UnityPoint Health (Allen Hospital). Born on July 24, 1952, in West Union, IA, he was the son of George and Inus (Van Brocklin) Sankey.

Gary graduated from Waterloo East High School in 1970 and served in the U.S. Navy stationed in Hawaii during the Vietnam War. On December 26, 1973, he married Susanna M. Distler at the Black Hawk County Courthouse in Waterloo, IA. He worked at John Deere and Nestle as a lab technician before retiring.

A man of many passions, Gary found joy in sharing stories, experiences and knowledge with his family and friends. He played bass guitar for many years in the family's country band, Timber Ridge, creating harmonies that transcended generations. He also expressed his artistic side by painting serene landscapes and vibrant abstracts, leaving behind visual legacies of his creative spirit. Gary's hands crafted not only music and art, he and his wife built two cherished family homes, surrounded by the lush landscaping they nurtured and tended together. His love for outdoor activities, including canoeing, boating, and flying lessons, mirrored his adventurous spirit. In his quieter moments, he expressed himself through words, writing songs and poetry that beautifully captured the depth of his emotions. Gary also found

pleasure in movies, books, and crossword puzzles, reflecting his love for storytelling, literature and intellectual challenges - a testament to the richness of his interests and the diverse tapestry of his life.

Those left to honor his memory are his father, George (Charlene) Sankey of Indianola, IA; his loving wife of fifty years, Sue; and their children - stepdaughters, Catherine (Stan) Sunleaf of West Palm Beach, FL, and Melissa (Dave) Toulouse of Clarksville, IA; son, Gary Sankey II of Cedar Falls, IA; daughter, Amanda (Keith) Pritchett of Waterloo, IA; ten grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sister, Debra (Dave) Berry of Tulsa, OK; and brothers, George (Jackie) Sankey of North Port, FL, Gordon (Linda) Sankey of Cedar Falls, IA, and Galen Sankey of Omaha, NE. He was preceded in death by his beloved mother.

Gary's legacy extends through the lives of his blended family, a living testimony to the love and strength he brought to their lives. His warm smile and gentle loving spirit will be dearly missed by all.

A gathering of family and friends will be held on Friday, December 29, 2023, from 9:30 am - 10:30 am at Richardson Funeral Service in Cedar Falls followed by a graveside service at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Waterloo. Memorials may be directed to the family.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

DEC 29. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

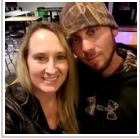
Richardson Funeral Service
615 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3525
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

Burial with Military Honors

DEC 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
4th and San Marnan
Waterloo, IA 50701

Tribute Wall



“ It was an honor and joy to have met and taken care of Gerald many times in the passed year. He always had a pleasant, friendly personality about him, even with all he was going through with his health. We made a connection. He also shared some of his experiences and talents with me during his stays. Prayers to his family for your loss. 🙏❤️ LoriAnne PCA

LoriAnne Sewick - January 12, 2024 at 01:40 PM



“ Sue and family we are so saddened to hear of Gary's passing. Jack and I are sending prayers and our most heartfelt condolences to you! We have shared so many fond memories with you and Gary and family back in the day! Gary will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. 🙏 Jack and Janice Hoffman

jack and Janice Hoffman - December 28, 2023 at 04:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald E. Sankey.



December 26, 2023 at 02:52 PM

BR

“ Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers to Sue and your families! Some of my fondest & favorite memories are of my childhood, spending time at “The Sankey’s”, family reunions & jam sessions! Gary always had a warm smile & welcoming hug! Will cherish these moments always! Find strength, comfort & peace in our Lord and Savior! Richard & Barbara (Brown) Rundle

Barbara (Briwn) Rundle - December 25, 2023 at 08:45 PM

RH

Deepest sympathy to the family 🙏 Gary was a great man always very nice and polite when he saw you. I really enjoyed all the jam sessions that you guys would have all the time and hang out your Mom and dad's! I'm so happy that you have finally found peace and no pain 🙏 Give a big hug to grandma and grandpa my mom, your mom and the rest of our family up there! What an awesome celebration that will be on the good Lord, watching over all of you! I pray for peace and strength during this difficult time 🌲

Rhonda Hruska - December 26, 2023 at 11:00 AM

RP

So sorry too hear about Gary.sendin out prayers an thought too Sue and the whole Sankey family.im sorry i cant make service i will be in Galena with my Daughter an granddaughter from chicago.i have a lot of good memories from all of the Sankeys love Roger Poock

Roger Poock - December 26, 2023 at 12:47 PM

TB

SO SORRY I WON'T BEABLE TO ATTEND BUT I DO DO HAVE FAMILY ATTENDING EXTENDING THE THE LOVE OF OUR BIG FAMILY GOING TO MISS ALL HIS WISE CRACKS HE HAD SOME GOOD ONES SAY HI TO THE REST OF OUR FAMILY UP IN HEAVEN.

Tom Brown - December 27, 2023 at 07:38 PM

CT

I am so so very sorry for your loss, sending prayers and hugs. Christie Twaites former bus driver

Christie Twaites - December 28, 2023 at 02:37 PM