



Godfrey "Garf" Stych

December 12, 1931 - November 26, 2017

Godfrey "Garf" Stych (1931-2017)

CEDAR FALLS – Godfrey "Garf" Stych, 85, of Lansing, Michigan, formerly of Cedar Falls, died Sunday, November 26, 2017 at his home.

He was born December 12, 1931 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, son of Bohumil and Helen (Navratil) Stych. He married Lillian Kolar and they later divorced.

He graduated from McKinley High School, Cedar Rapids, in 1950 and served as a Navy Airman during the Korean War. He earned his Masters degree in Physical Education from the University of Iowa in 1960. In 1966, he became the Assistant Professor of Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance at the University of Northern Iowa, retiring in 1990. He coached gymnastics at UNI from 1966 to 1981, reinstating the men's gymnastics program during that time. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Cedar Falls and Cedar Falls AMVETS Post #49. He held the titles of Cedar Falls AMVETS Post #49 Bugler and State of Iowa AMVETS Bugler.

Survived by: two sons, Jim Stych of Oxnard, CA, and Jerry Stych RT (R) of Lansing, MI; three grandchildren, Samantha Lynn Stych, James Jeffrey Stych, and Jeffrey Charles Stych; and two nieces, Sheryl Stych-Karr and Linda (Stych) Olson.

Preceded in death by: a son, Jeffrey Allen Stych; and a brother, Jerry Joseph Stych.

Services: 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 4 at St. Patrick Catholic Church with burial in Greenwood Cemetery, both in Cedar Falls. Visitation from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 at Richardson Funeral Service and also for one hour prior to the service at the church. Military honors will be conducted by the Cedar Falls AMVETS Post #49 Honor Guard and the U.S. Navy Funeral Honors Detail.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

the end of College St, north of First Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 273-8628

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 3. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 4. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
705 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3523
<http://saintpatrickcf.org>

Burial with Military Honors

DEC 4 (CT)

Greenwood Cemetery
the end of College St, north of First Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 273-8628

Tribute Wall



“ *My sympathies to you Jim, and to the entire Stych family. May your faith keep you strong and that the Lord bring you Peace.*

Julie Bruns - December 04, 2017 at 12:50 AM

KJ

“ *Garf was my mentor when I first started coaching gymnastics back in the 1970's. He was so generous with his time and knowledge. I will always remember the comedy gymnastics routines he would perform; he was so talented. He was one of those people you never forget because of their personality and enthusiasm for life. I am a better person for having known and worked with him back then. May he rest in peace.*

Karen Dworschack Johnson

Karen Johnson - December 03, 2017 at 12:36 PM

PW

“ *So very sad, my heart felt sympathy to Garf's family. He holds a very special place in my heart and he will be missed. I have many, many memories with him and my days at UNI and gymnastics! I have every Christmas letter he wrote and sent me. Love and Hugs,*
Penny Wilson

Penny Wilson - December 03, 2017 at 11:46 AM

CC

“From the UNI Media Guide 1976: “To those who know him , Garf Stych may best be described as a man with spirit, humor and devotion . Since moving to Cedar Falls in 1966, he's revived the gymnastics program and led his high-flying Panthers to the North Central Conference Championship last season for the first time in school history. Panther teams have never finished lower than 2nd in his 44-71 career coaching span. Trips to the nationals the past two seasons are only an indication of the motivation this man instills.”

Spirit, humor, devotion, motivation. Absolutely.

My sister was coached by Garf, and she particularly cherished the memories of the gymnastics camp coached by Garf that she assisted at in Juneau Alaska.

I have many memories of Garf coaching (boy did his voice carry across the old UNI mens gym!) and his love of speaking Cesky (Bohemian).

*Deepest condolences,
Carol Crowe
sister of Laurel Crowe*

Carol Crowe - December 02, 2017 at 09:30 PM

NW

“RIP Coach. Thanks for all you taught me while at UNI.

Nancy Holbach Ward - December 01, 2017 at 09:31 PM

DH

“ *Garf could always make me laugh! He was a joy to work with at UNI. I can remember him bringing me that year's Christmas letter! My background is Czech so he would attempt to teach me some. He talked me into taking a Bohemian language class that Niles Vernon was teaching. He would set in and the two of them would get to talking and telling jokes so quickly, that all I could do was sit back and enjoy. I didn't learn any Bohemian, but it was a fun class. He will be missed. We are so sorry for your loss*

Diane L Headington - December 01, 2017 at 03:38 PM

PF

“ *I ran around with Stitch some when I was working at UNI. He was quite a character. We shared some laughs some whiskey and more than a few games of Cribbage. He always had an opinion about everything and wasn't shy about telling you about it. When he had his hip surgery we tried to get him a cell phone. As I remember that went over like a ton of bricks. He would talk to me about his Navy Buddies. He had me looking for one of them forever by the name of Lyman Gip. I think he made it up. :) he will be missed. Prayers to you. Paul and Peggy Felix Grapevine Texas*

Paul Felix - December 01, 2017 at 01:36 PM

 Kim
Cross

“ *Many fond memories of this great man. My sympathies to his family. Back in the day, my dad served alongside Garf in the Cedar Falls Amvets post 49 Color Guard at many area funerals. Rest in peace Garf*

Kim Cross - December 01, 2017 at 10:03 AM

TH

“ *Garf was a dedicated veteran, but most of all he was dedicated to being the bugler for the Cedar Valley area Veterans who needed full military rites at their funerals/burials. If there was a veterans funeral, without reservation Garf would be there to play taps. We will all miss his loyalty to veterans and his talent of playing a bugle.*

I hope Garf will be proud of all of us as we conduct full military rites for his funeral.

Taps has faded away for this veteran God speed old friend. Rest in Peace.

*Tom Hagarty
Cedar Falls AMVETS &
Cedar Falls American Legion*

Tom Hagarty - November 30, 2017 at 03:13 PM

LH

“ *My sympathy to the family, I played on a pool team with Garf many years ago. I always enjoyed his humor and it was always a pleasure just to be around him.*

Lee Holck - November 30, 2017 at 12:17 PM

DD

Jim and Jerry, So sorry to hear about Garf. He was a big part of our lives for many years and he is truly one of the great men I met in my life. I loved his sense of humor and his loyalty to those who met the most to him. My thoughts are with you and your families.

Dave Decker - November 30, 2017 at 01:04 PM

MM

Garf was a unique individual who could be a bit crusty at times.. He was a proud U. S. Navy veteran. He was proud of his Czech heritage and make several trips to Czechoslovakia and loved going there as often as possible. On one of his trips to the country of ancestors he returned with a trumpet that was his pride and joy. He claimed it was the best of trumpets because it was Czech made and Czech played.

During his time as an AMVET bugler Garf had many occasions when he might play two or three funerals a day and several times a week. Not only would he serve as bugler for his local AMVET Post 49, he would acquiesce to playin for other veteran's organization when they needed a live bugler, and would travel many mile to honor his fellow veterans.

Garf served as Iowa State Department AMVET bugler and AMVET Post 49 bugler and served in that capacity for nearly 60 years. Garf had a good sense of humor. He was not hesitant to acknowledge and laugh at stories told about him playing "TAPS" at the funerals of his fellow veterans.

On one occasion, in bone-chilling, below zero weather, in the depths of a January or February winter, the valves froze on his beloved trumpet as a result of practice prior to the arrival of the funeral cortege. Upon being commanded to play "TAPS", Garf explained that the valves were froze. After the service and the committal of the veteran's body, the parish priest admonished Garf choose, perhaps, a better choice of words to explain the difficulty in the future.

Rest in peace, thou good and faithful servant.

*Marvin R. Mattfeld
AMVETS Post 49 Commander,
and Honor Guard Captain.*

Marvin R. Mattfeld - December 01, 2017 at 01:48 AM

TL

Having served as Department Commander 2005-06, it was my pleasure and privilege to get to know and have Garf come into my life. Marv Mattfeld's comments really hit home and I would play echo to that if possible. I regret that I will not be able to pay respect in person, but know the family will be in my prayers. "Sailor, rest your oar", the Master has called.

*Ted Lanske
AMVETS PDC 2005-06
Post 79*

Theodore L Lanske - December 03, 2017 at 04:21 PM

JS

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Jerry Stych - November 30, 2017 at 11:58 AM