



## Gary Lawrence Hansen

January 7, 1940 - June 5, 2020

Hansen, Gary Lawrence Died on June 5, 2020 of complications from Alzheimer's and COVID-19. He was 80 years old. Gary was born in Drayton, ND on January 7, 1940 to Bernice (Hammerback) and Lawrence Hansen. They preceded him in death along with his brother, Wayne (Jill), sister, Sandra (Tom) Wilkinson, and stepmother, Amy. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann (Muggli) Hansen of Minneapolis, MN; children Erik (Lisa) Hansen and grandchildren Courtney and Gabrielle Hansen of Big Lake, MN; Richard (Kristie) Hansen and grandchildren Magnus and Draggon Hansen of San Francisco, CA; Anne-Marie Fischer and grandchildren Hawkon and Holiday Fischer of Minneapolis, MN; Nils (Molly) Hansen and grandchildren Hazel and Audon Hansen of Minneapolis, MN; Catherine Hansen, of Minneapolis, MN; and brother Lawrence (Kym) Hansen of Weott, CA; and many nieces and nephews, friends and relatives. Gary graduated in 1958 from high school in Two Harbors, Minnesota. After high school he entered the U.S. Army for three years, two of them spent in Germany where he flew sail planes. After his service, he lived in Silver Bay, Minnesota working at Reserve Mining Company. In 1963, he began college at St. Cloud State University where he met Mary Ann Muggli. He became an art teacher for 33 years in the St. Cloud School District, #742 in St. Cloud, Minnesota where they made their home for almost 50 years. He loved teaching and producing art, and other creative pursuits which was also passed on to all his children and grandchildren. He drew caricatures at the Holiday Inn, graduations, and various celebrations for many years; and went to art shows where he won prizes for his watercolor paintings. He also worked at Powder Ridge ski area in Kimball, Minnesota for 47 years in many capacities. He was a ski instructor, designed and painted signs, and designed and created Powder Ridge's logo. One summer he helped build up the hill 50 feet higher. In winter he made a glider plane and flew it down the hill. He made many lasting friends working at Powder Ridge (who affectionately called him "Fossil"), and he taught his whole family how to ski. He had many, many interests. He loved Lake Superior where he sailed, fished, and hunted. He enjoyed golf, playing the guitar, and was a loving caregiver for the family's many cats, and they liked to visit him in his art studio in the basement. Above all, he was an incredible artist, able to draw and paint any subject. Mary Ann and Gary were big fans of the Minnesota Twins. They enjoyed going to movies and plays, playing Scrabble, going for

rides, attending activities of their children and grandchildren, and observing nature. Gary loved their backyard in St. Cloud where he could watch the birds on the birdfeeders in his private paradise. We will miss him terribly, but he now has peace. We wish to thank the staff at Abbot Northwestern Hospital for the kind and thoughtful care of Gary during his last days. A service and celebration will take place at a future date. Donations can be given to the Paramount Center for the Arts in St. Cloud, Minnesota. A private family memorial service will be livestreamed at 11AM on Saturday, October 3rd at: [washburn-mcreavy/obituaries/Gary-Hansen-9/](http://washburn-mcreavy/obituaries/Gary-Hansen-9/) under the photos & videos tab.

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Washburn-McReavy** - October 02, 2020 at 10:45 PM



“ This was so beautiful and memorable. I could help but shed some tears. God be with all of you.

Love,

Janet Robinson

**Janet Robinson** - October 03, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ Lovely Memorial. Beautiful. Loved to hear about Gary's beautiful life. What an amazing man. Husband, father and grandfather. My thoughts and love go to your family. Love Tony Kara Evelyn and August Harlan.

**Kara Harlan** - October 03, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ Beautiful memories of Gary ,my brother and art mentor. Always encouraged me to create, inspired me to travel, and supported my own career.

Living with him and family in St Cloud while i was in college, i got to share some special times and learned so much about life ,art ,skiing ... Gary was a huge influence on my decision to travel the world and paint. I feel his positive attitude ,energy and enthusiasm every day in my studio. Blessings to all my family. Was nice to spend a moment together

**Lawrence Hansen** - October 03, 2020 at 12:53 PM



“ Lovely service. I enjoyed hearing the family stories. Sending love to everyone. - Anjanette

**Anjanette Harper** - October 03, 2020 at 01:13 PM

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“ A memorable service for a memorable man. It brought tears to hear the fun, loving remembrances from the grandchildren. Once, years ago, when we were riding in the country, Gary thrilled me by calling birds who then came and sat on the hood of the car and sang. He had an amazing, thrilling ability to do that and it's a treasured memory for me. You are all in my thoughts and prayers as you move on without Gary in your lives, but what memories of .....holidays, birthdays and vacations. I saw him for the last time on Thanksgiving last year, now a special memory of family and caring love. I'm remembering all of you in my prayers every day and thinking of you as you move forward without husband, father and grandfather. Blessings and love to all, Rita

Rita Muggli - October 03, 2020 at 05:08 PM

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“ Thank you for sharing Gary's memorial. It was a beautiful service. My dad, Don Warner, was one of Gary's friends in Two Harbors/Silver Bay as well as they served in Germany at the same time. I grew up with stories of their adventures in their younger years. I got to meet and know Gary through "deer camp" held at our home in Silver Bay. Gary spent a few opening weekends with his high school friends deer hunting and telling stories. One of the stories told was that Gary did more drawing in the woods than hunting. I rode to SB with Gary from St. Cloud a few times, which provided him an opportunity to tell HIS side of the stories I'd heard growing up. These trips were truly enjoyable. Gary talked about his family, art, fishing, skiing with passion. In addition to being a husband, father, grandfather, teacher, Gary was also a good friend. Even though my dad and Gary in later years did not get together often, the bond of friendship was realized in their banter and the comradery they shared. God bless and my deepest sympathy to the the Hansen family.



Jackie Miller - October 03, 2020 at 02:05 PM

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“ It was a very nice service I wish circumstances were different at this time and all of Gary friends at Powder Ridge could have been there with you but we were in spirit. Jerry

Jerry Wahlin - October 03, 2020 at 12:53 PM

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“ With Sympathy Tazo Tea Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Lawrence Hansen.



October 02, 2020 at 06:09 PM

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“ Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Gary Lawrence Hansen.



October 02, 2020 at 05:24 PM

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“ Gary was a great friend and he was instrumental in the operation and growth of Powder Ridge over the years. We had many good times and many good laughs together over the years. Our adult ski racing team was named Team Fossil and Gary even made the team logo for the team. I don't think I have ever laughed any harder in my life as when we would go out golfing with the PR guys and Gary, he was awful and he would get so mad, it was so classic Gary. Gary drove earth movers in our big hill expansion and I know he was very proud of his roll in that major project. So when you look up at the top of Powder Ridge you can think of Gary having put some of that dirt up there. I will miss Gary greatly but he will always have a special place in my memories and in my heart.

With Love

Jerry Wahlin ( Gary's friend )

**Jerry Wahlin** - October 01, 2020 at 03:07 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Lawrence Hansen.



September 30, 2020 at 11:10 AM

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“ Gary was a cherished co-worker and friend during the years I worked with him at Powder Ridge. I got to know his wife and family well as they came out to ski many weekends and during school vacation every season. I watched their children grow into the successful adults they became. Family was so important to Gary and he was always so proud to talk about any one of them. Gary was fun to work with too and had a good sense of humor which allowed him to laugh with you, and at times at himself too. I have lots of good memories of his time spent out there with us. My deepest sympathy to you, Mary Ann, and children- Erik, Richard, Anne-Marie, Nils, Catherine, and your spouses and families. You had a very special husband, father and grandfather. God bless all of you and always cherish the memories!

Your friend,  
Janet Robinson

**Janet Robinson** - September 26, 2020 at 10:04 PM

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“ Jerry Wahlin, Layne Anderson & Powder Ridge Staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gary Lawrence Hansen.



**Jerry Wahlin, Layne Anderson & Powder Ridge Staff** - September 24, 2020 at 10:49 AM

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“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Gary Lawrence Hansen.



September 16, 2020 at 09:35 AM