



## Gary Bray

June 17, 2013

Bray, Gary William Longtime Coon Rapids resident, retired teacher and former U.S. Marine passed away Monday, June 17, 2013 following a long battle with heart disease. Gary was born in Mpls. Nov. 30, 1934 to Alfred Napoleon and Mabel Bernadette (Dupont) Bray, both long since deceased. His earliest memories were those of growing up on the farm outside Red Lake Falls, Minnesota where his French-Canadian ancestors settled in the 1880s. Gary's family moved back to Minneapolis where Gary attended Incarnation school and graduated from Minneapolis West. He was stationed in Japan during his time with the Marines. Upon returning home he met and married Ginny Herrick in 1960. He attended the University of Minnesota and Mankato State on the GI Bill and with his earnings as a mail carrier for the US Post Office. He was the first in his family to graduate from college. In 1969, when the Hiawatha corridor was being cleared, Bray moved his family to Coon Rapids where he was a teacher with Anoka-Hennepin School District 11. Gary Bray was dedicated to the youth of Coon Rapids, teaching at Northdale / Sorteberg, L.O. Jacob and Adams Elementary Schools as well as Coon Rapids Junior High. He was also involved in youth athletics coaching numerous Little League, softball, and hockey teams. Gary was an excellent craftsman and enjoyed remodeling, woodworking, and restoring antique cars. He was active in politics. Gary Bray was well-known in the Coon Rapids community. He was chosen to serve as Coon Rapids Snowflake Days Marquis in 1988. He is survived by his loving wife of 50+ years, Virginia "Ginny" (Herrick); brothers,

Mike (Betty) and Tim (Sharon); 3 children, Michelle (Alan) Wilson, Socrates (Deborah Field), and Lisa (Scott) Tessier; 6 grandchildren, Brittany Bray, Sam, Jack and Jessica Bray, Nathan and Isaac Tessier; and 28 fond nieces and nephews & their children. Preceded in death by sister, June Werneke; and brother, Robert. Gary Bray touched the lives all of who knew him. He will be missed. Private interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorial Mass Thursday, June 20 at 6:00 PM, with visitation two hours prior to Mass, all at: [www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com) Coon Rapids Chapel 763-767-1000 1827 Coon Rapids Blvd.

# Cemetery Details

## **Fort Snelling National Cemetery**

7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

# Tribute Wall

PR

“ I'm so sorry to see my wonderful 4th grade teacher from Northdale Elementary has passed away. I remember him sounding tough as he told us our class didn't know the multiplication tables like my twin sisters' class, Mr. Gundersons across the hall. He made sure we knew the proper pronunciation of Marine 'Corps'. But he was a soft-hearted man, who even at my young age, I knew he had a heart for the best for our class. I will always remember his big smile and laugh after my twin sister and I had switched classes that day. He will be greatly missed. Patricia Klammer Robinson

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**Patricia Klammer Robinson** - January 18 at 03:20 PM

AN

“ Gary was the best neighbor! We are going to miss his wisdom and wonderful conversations, friendly waves, helpful spirit, his laugh, the love he gave to our kids, and presence each day. In the 2 years we were neighbors, he taught us alot about life in how he lived. To know him was a gift. We will always remember him. Our deep sympathy to your family, and most especially, Ginny.

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**Amy Norquist** - June 22, 2013 at 11:42 PM

LP

“ Gary was a great fellow teacher. His gift was teaching the youth, leaving a very special legacy. Lois Peterson

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**Lois Peterson** - June 20, 2013 at 08:22 PM

SL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



sharon, sister in law - June 19, 2013 at 01:55 PM

MI

*Sharon, thanks for sharing the photos. I'll point them out to Mom right away. -Michelle*

Michelle - June 19, 2013 at 08:37 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Bray.*



June 19, 2013 at 01:49 PM

UT

“ *UnitedHealthcare - North Texas purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Bray.*



UnitedHealthcare - North Texas - June 19, 2013 at 12:51 PM

CP

“ I am so sorry for your loss. It can be so hard to face the first year without your loved one, but the love of family and friends can carry you through. You can also find comfort in the Bible. Many find 1Corinthians 15:21-26 and Revelation 21:4 very comforting.

Clyde and Cynthia Penny - June 18, 2013 at 01:04 PM

FR

“ Fresenius-Kabi purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Bray.



Fresenius-Kabi - June 18, 2013 at 12:11 PM

TD

“ Ted Dupont purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary Bray.



Ted Dupont - June 18, 2013 at 11:52 AM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Bray.



June 18, 2013 at 10:16 AM