



Gary David Knutson

September 11, 1943 - January 18, 2025

Gary D. Knutson, age 81, born on September 11, 1943 in Duluth MN, died at home in Columbia Heights, MN on January 18, 2025. Preceded in death by his parents Edward and Lillian and by his brother Jack. Survived by his sister Janet and by his nieces and nephews. Graveside service 11am Tuesday, June 17th at Park Hill Cemetery in Duluth, MN. Luncheon to follow.

Memorials are preferred to the Sister Kenny Institute, Minneapolis MN.

Although Gary lived a life of difficulties stemming from the head trauma he received in a car crash in 1961, he will be remembered for his sense of humor and his persistence towards life. He was trained in Architectural drafting and for a time as a younger man held a job using those skills. He was an avid coin collector. He seldom missed a chance to demonstrate his latest card trick to whomever would pay attention. On Saturday evenings he could usually be found in his apartment enjoying a Tombstone pizza and watching Cops, his favorite television show. And to those of us who knew him well Gary was enthusiastic about Minnesota State Lottery scratch-off games. It is unknown how much of his allowance was invested this way over the years, and although he would hit the occasional \$5 prize, or even the \$10 prize, alas, it had little effect on his lifestyle except to remain convinced the next one could be the big one. Optimism endured.

Gary was a lifelong artist. His room was always stocked with pencils, pens, colored markers, sketch paper, and foam boards which he would use to model buildings and cityscapes. When a local art gallery put up a show of works by a variety of artists Gary was invited to display some of his pieces as well. It was an exciting time for Gary and the family.

Gary's passing marks the end of an era for his family. We pray to our loving God that Gary, being released from this world at last, would find himself at peace with God in the promised world to come.

Tribute Wall

JK

“ 10 files added to the album Gary David Knutson



Jeffrey Knutson - February 01, 2025 at 05:05 PM

JK

“ Gary was a character that, despite the tragedy his life-long struggle with surviving a violent accident, endeared himself to the hearts of the family. His keen sense of his own brand of humor, evident in the recording below, permeated our lives and kept us laughing, even though he could barely speak at times. His speaking disability left him only able to speak one to four words at a time, which he turned into his own style of comedic art.

I can recall many instances of this, such as one afternoon my wife, Patty, and I took Gary out for lunch. The conversation turned to nutritional supplements and though I was certain he would not be interested in the topic at all, I shared some with him to take with our meal. He took one look at the pills and replied, "Junk!", in his way of speaking that is his own. That word is now part of our own vocabulary when we see something we think is worthless.

When Jerry and I flew with him for a Vegas vacation in the early 1980s, we had decided for fun that we could use code names for special identities while gambling there. On the plane I told him I was going to be "Party Master" and Jerry was going to be "Chicago Dude." I said now he needed a special code name, too. What should it be? Without hesitation he said, "Boss" and that has been my name for him ever since.

His horrific accident was not only a loss for him, but was a loss for all of us because his artistic potential and sheer physical strength was always evident, even though he faced incredible odds every moment of his life. His contribution to the family cause would have been amazing, I am sure.

Rest in Peace, Boss. Your struggles are over.

Jeffrey Knutson - February 01, 2025 at 03:29 PM

JK

“ <https://soundcloud.com/cornerstone-music/gary>

Jeffrey Knutson - February 01, 2025 at 02:46 PM

JK

Listen to this hilarious adlib comedy play! Classic Gary, the one we all remember best.

Jeffrey Knutson - February 01, 2025 at 05:39 PM

PK

“ *Gary, you always made me smile. Hubby Jeff (nephew) and I are the proud owners of a Gary Knutson original. It is one of my favorite pieces of art and I cherish it! I call it Sparkle City. So glad you are at peace. Now go give Jack a hard time! 😭*



Patty Knutson - January 31, 2025 at 04:47 PM

SH

“ *I'll always cherish the memories of our cribbage games. Gary would sneak an extra point or two, then burst into laughter when he won! Anytime I was at his home in Columbia Heights, Gary would show me magic tricks and refuse to tell me how he did it, it was a delight to know and provide care to Gary over the last two years. You brought so much joy to our lives, and every time I play cribbage, I'll remember you and smile. Sarah Huseth*

Sarah Huseth - January 31, 2025 at 03:50 PM

JK

Thank you, Sarah, for all you've done for Gary making him feel comfortable and happy in this last couple years. You must be an angel. Warmest appreciation to you and your dedication to the kind and loving work you do.

Jeffrey Knutson - February 02, 2025 at 08:44 PM