



Gary Ormsby

October 20, 2004

Ormsby Gary Ormsby, age 48, of Mpls., formerly of CA, passed away at home on Oct. 19, 2004 after a courageous battle with cancer. Preceded in death by father, John. Survived by wife, Nancy; son, Jacob; stepsons, Lee and Peter Sorensen; mother, Margaret; brother, Jack (Jane); sisters, Maureen (Larry) Kozoll, Therese (Bill) Wolf, Peggy (Jim) Zalenay, Regina (Randy) Gassner; many nieces, nephews and friends. For the last 15 years Gary worked for the House of Representatives. He loved playing his guitar and singing with friends. A celebration of Gary's life will be held 7 PM Friday, with visitation one hour prior. Reception to follow all at: Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel W. 50th St. & Hwy. 100 952-920-3996

Tribute Wall



“ *Dear Gary,Happy Birthday, little brother.Miss you and love you always,Regina and family*

~

Regina Gassner,

North Tustin, California

Regina Gassner - February 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Dear Gary, Thinking of you with much love and fond memories on this 7th anniversary of your "going home." It must be wonderful to have Mom so recently with you again. Give her a kiss from me and loads of love to you, little brother. Always, Regina

~

Regina Gassner,

North Tustin, California

Regina Gassner - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



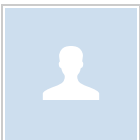
“ Dear Gary,Happy Birthday! Think of you so often, but especially on your day. An extra dose of love for you on your Valentine's Birthday.Regina and Randy

~

Regina Gassner,

North Tustin, California

Regina Gassner - February 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Gary,Not a day goes by that I don't think about you. I'll never stop missing you and wishing you were here with us.Love you, Nancy

October 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Dear Gary, We're thinking of you and remembering you in our prayers on this the 6th anniversary of your passing. Can't believe it's been that long! We miss you and pray you are at most sweet peace. Love you always, little brother! Regina, Randy, and family

~

Regina Gassner,

North Tustin, California

Regina Gassner - October 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Dear Gary Our Little Brother, Seems like yesterday that we were with you. So hard to believe you left us 5 years ago. We miss you, we will always miss you....

~

Jack & Jane Ormsby,

Laguna Niguel,, California

Jack & Jane Ormsby - October 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Gary, I think of you often and remember how so many times you would start a sentence with "Well, Regina..." I love you and miss you. Maureen

October 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Gary, It's unbelievably the fifth anniversary of your death! You are ever in our thoughts, in our prayers, and in our hearts. Love you so much, little brother, Regina, Randy, Joe, Tim, and Stevie

October 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Our Gary,
It's a year ago today since you left us. I think of you often. All sorts of little things bring you to mind. For instance, I heard that old song, "Moon River" on the radio a few weeks ago. The line that said, "we're after the same rainbow's end..my Huckleberry friend" so reminded me of our childhood. You were my Huckleberry friend. You got to that rainbow's end much sooner than the rest of us. Sooner than we hoped. Love to you always. Rest in Peace.
Regina and family

~

Regina Ormsby Gassner,

Santa ANa, California

Regina Ormsby Gassner - October 19, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ You know how people say "I can't believe it's been a year already"? Well it seems like ten years! I try to focus on the first 46 or 47 years, we get by, but it was just too soon. I know time will ease the pain. I do miss you Gary. I'll keep on thinking about all those things that made you a good friend. We'll smile more than we'll cry and all of us that loved you so will be remembering you, especially on these bright fall days when the sun lights up the golden trees. Rest in peace Gary

~

Billy FitzGerald,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Contact Me

Billy FitzGerald - October 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

NO

“ Happy Anniversary Gary,

You bought me a rose for every year we were married. We would laugh about how long it was going to take before I got a dozen roses from you. Today you would have given me nine roses.

You're the first thing I think of when I wake up and the last thing I think of when I go to bed. I miss the way you could always make me laugh. When you smiled I could'nt help but smile back. Even after your surgery, when I first saw you, I tried so hard not to cry.

I wanted to be the one who could cheer you up and be strong.

When I saw you with tubes everywhere and not able to talk. I could'nt stand to see you in pain, I just started to cry. Right away you started to write on a note pad they had given you. You wrote, no crying until I cry first. Then you wrote, do I look like Frankenstein? I just laughed and hugged you. Even though you were going through one of the hardest times in your life, you were the one to make me laugh. You acted like you were more concerned about me than yourself. Throughout your whole illness you seemed to be the one comforting others.

I can't listen to a song on the radio without thinking of you and your love of music. We would watch music DVD's on the T.V. for hours. Your favorites were Santana, Supernatural, Roy Orbison, Black and white, and of course Neil Young. Billy would stop by and you would have him sit in a certain spot in our livingroom, where the music sounded the best. Right between the speakers. You wanted him to enjoy the music as much as you did.

I remember when you first found out you were ill You fixed up your electric guitar and bought an amplifier. you would play it for as long as you could and as loud as you could. Music brought you so much joy.

Peter misses you too. He was just five years old when he met you. You treated Peter and Lee as if they were your own children, with love, kindness, and patience. One time Peter said to me, "Im so lucky to have two Dad's that love me". Thank you Gary for helping me raise two wonderful boys. You were a great influence in their lives.

You are missed by so many people. When I talk to our friends about

you we all end up with smiles on our faces. So many wonderful memories. You brought joy and laughter to all of us. We were so lucky to have been a part of your life. I love you sweetheart.

Nancy

~

Nancy Ormsby,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Nancy Ormsby - September 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Happy Birthday Gary,*

It's funny how many things I do every day that remind me of you. When I was tieing all those leaf bags in the fall (You showed me how to tie it so it would stay tied!)...now I put the detergent in the washer first then the clothes...There are things that I do every day that remind me of you and that makes me smile. We had a lot of fun together playing basketball, singing to your guitar, and just hanging out. When you were sick and going to the hospital you talked about how sad it was to see those sick children and how it wasn't fair. You never complained about your sickness. You just said "I had a lot of fun in my life". I'm glad I was ther to share some of it. You were kind, thoughtfull, helpfull, funny, but most of all a good friend. I miss you.

~

Billy FitzGerald,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Contact Me

Billy FitzGerald - February 14, 2005 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ I have known Gary for only the past 5 years. He was always at work when I arrived, and that was close to the time that the sun would rise each morning. We would discuss the sunrise as well as the sporting events from the previous night. Gary loved the sunrise and loved our teams. As Gary got worse, and had to miss work, we would talk about these things via email, and he not onced complained about his illness during these conversations. One day, when he had really gotten bad, he came in to work and we were talking about the beautiful sunrise, and he said "Art....I came in to take a picture of the sunrise this morning, thinking that it would be beautiful, and do you know what? I forgot to bring my camera". Gary was a very gracious gentleman. Always a smile on his face, even when it hurt him tremendously. He loved sports, and he loved sunrises....and he loved his family. When you are up and about early on any beautiful morning, just know that Gary has to be in charge of sunrises and that he is smiling down as you enjoy the sunrise. We were on a cruise in mid-December, and I happened to be up one morning as the sun began to rise. I just set there for about a half hour waiting for it to make it's appearance, and I took that picture for Gary, knowing full well that he was watching it all from a better place. God bless you, Gary. I am proud to have known you.

~

Art Jones,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Art Jones - January 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Gary,

This is the most recent of many attempts to put into words the joy you brought to me from the time you graced our lives as baby brother. You were so much fun and so talented- as a student, an athlete and a musician.

*You have left a void for now, but we will be reunited later on. I am so glad we got to see you in September and that you were so very you. I love you and will miss you, as will Larry and the kids. Thank you for sending your guitar to my musician Casey! Love you forever,
Maureen*

~

Maureen Kozoll,

Valley Village, California

Maureen Kozoll - November 14, 2004 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Dear Gary, I treasure the memories of my time on this earth with you. The magical summer of 1976, our friends and neighbors on Clinton Court, bringing Jacob into the world... You were the original “Don’t worry, be happy” kind of guy. But you still had strong feelings and a sense for the way things should be. You were a true friend, a caring neighbor, a loyal family member and a pure soul. You respected the earth and were resourceful and principled in ways that most people in this modern world are not. As Peggy said, you were a good-lookin’ kid, but like the house Nancy and you created and shared, the best part of you really was on the inside. It is so tragic that you were taken from us so early. Those of us left behind would do well to take a page from your book and treat others with the respect and caring and fellowship that you always showed.
Love, Frances

~

Frances Fitzgerald,

Pasadena, California

Contact Me

Frances Fitzgerald - November 08, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I am sad to hear of Gary's passing. He was a very good friend of mine that I will sorely miss.

~

Michael Hansen,

Burbank, California

Contact Me

Michael Hansen - November 06, 2004 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ I moved to California in the early 70's and befriended Gary, meeting him at work. To me he was the quintessential laid-back Californian. To be in his presence was to be calmed. So many fun times at Lucy's El Adobe and Saturday Night Live parties. Janie and I look back fondly on Gary, and hope to meet him again.

~

Fred Stann,

Moorpark, California

Fred Stann - November 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Dear Family and Friends,
What a wonderful way to say goodbye! Gary gave those of us in
California a chance to support each other, in the way he chose to
have his ashes scattered on the ocean.
Thank you, Gary!
Love,
Mimi Fitzgerald*

~

Mimi Fitzgerald,

Pasadena, California

Mimi Fitzgerald - November 03, 2004 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ Gary, you were such a strong and brave man. you never shed a tear or felt sorry for yourself after going through so much. You were the one to comfort us when we couldn't hold back the tears. you were the one who held us and said "you will be all right" We miss you and love you so much.

~

Nancy and Peter Ormsby, Sorensen,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Nancy and Peter Ormsby, Sorensen - November 01, 2004 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ We are saddened to hear about Gary. It has been many years since we've seen him, the last time being neighbors on Commonwealth St. with a few other Sullivan boys. Gary participated in the nightly dinners cooked by Jo and was considered a part of our family.

As with the rest of us, it appears that Gary learned from his young adult experiences and grew to be a fine man. For family and friends, please accept our condolences.

~

Frank and Jo Sullivan,

Eugene, Oregon

Frank and Jo Sullivan - November 01, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Hi Gary,

I will miss my handsome Uncle who was never judgmental, just comfortable to be around. Last summer at my parents house we had lunch and watched the sail boats go by over the Pacific, that was a special day for me. My prayers are for you.

~

Susan Ormsby,

Laguna Niguel, California

Susan Ormsby - October 31, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ I remember Gary so very well as being one of the good guys from our old neighborhood and at St. Gregory Catholic school. Our prayers for the family. God bless you Gary.

~

Michael Guardia,

Houston, Texas

Michael Guardia - October 30, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Gary, at 15 you were my first love. I will always love you. I was so happy to reconnect with you later when we were all grown up (well, sort of grown up...). What a sweetheart you were. Really almost more spirit-like than human...so you must feel right at home now with the angels. My warm thoughts are with all your friends and family, who must be missing you terribly. I hope to visit you in my dreams.

~

Colleen McCarthy-Evans,

Santa Barbara, California

Contact Me

Colleen McCarthy-Evans - October 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ As my sister, Kathleen, reminded me last night, our childhood home, even with it's 8 permanent resident children, dogs, cats, lizards... Oh, and parents, was enlivened to a higher high with the often presence of the Sullivans (Bobby, Tim, Dennis) and their adopted-brother-side-kick Gary Ormsby. I thank God for the times we all shared growing (up) in the 70's. What wonderful people and memories. Gary was such a sweet and gentle person. Tho I haven't seen him in years, the thought of his absence on this Earth is sad. Hope you are up there dancing, playing, & singing beyond those Pearly Gates! Say "Hi" to Dad.

~

Sharon (McCarthy) Keithley,

Albany, Oregon

Contact Me

Sharon(McCarthy) Keithley - October 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Dear Gary and Family, Gary was a lovely, kind and extremely giving man. He was quiet yet his presence always seemed enough. When he laughed he was engaging. I believe that his being and memory will live on with all of us. To his wife and his family especially Jacob our prayers and thoughts are with you. May you rest in all your memories but especially the love you shared with Gary. May the lord hold you tight in the palm of his hand. We love you Gary.*

~

maggie Sullivan,

Oceanside, California

maggie Sullivan - October 28, 2004 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Gary we grew up together and went to many concerts. I especially loved Neil Young as I know that you did. You were a brother to me, as well as my six others. Was it our 5th grade teacher Sister Rose (Batalliac Rose) that gave you your love for music. I know we use to chuckle when she sang without being able to hold a note. Come to think of it Neil has a funny way of holding a note also. I loved when you played your guitar and we sang like nobody was listening. I hope that you meet all the legends before you, and play your heart out in heaven. Thank you for all the fond memories that I have of you. Your friend Bobby Sullivan

~

Bobby Sullivan,

Oceanside, California

Bobby Sullivan - October 28, 2004 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I am a childhood friend of Gary's and will have wonderful memories of listening to him play the guitar and harmonica from the songs of neil young and rod stewart
he was a true friend when i needed his comfort during the time when my sister died in a tragic car accident
he was there for me

~

tim sullivan,

paso robles, California

tim sullivan - October 28, 2004 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Gary, our darling baby brother, your gentle ways and easy-going manner will be greatly missed. You were blessed with, and a blessing to, many friends and a loving family. Your spirit is with us always.

Love, Therese & Bill

~

Therese & Bill Wolf,

Sherman Oaks, California

Therese & Bill Wolf - October 27, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *I was saddened to learn of Gary's death. I so enjoyed working with him at the Legislature. He will be missed.*

~

Mary Ryan,

St. Paul, Minnesota

Mary Ryan - October 26, 2004 at 12:00 AM

WO

“ Gary,

*Although we did not know each other in this life we will meet some day in a better place. It appears from reading the messages, that we share similar traits. It's the twinkle in the eyes, the sense of humor, the ability to stay calm in the fiercest of life's storms and being able not to take ourselves too seriously. Now, what separates us? If I were to sing, be assured the heavens would open up just to drown out the noise. I too took guitar lessons--they did absolutely no good. Only the alley cats responded to my strumming. Save me a seat Gary and say hello to your Dad for me. Rest in Peace Cousin.
With Love and special prayers,
Bill & Madeleine Ormsby*

~

William Ormsby,

Malverne, New York

William Ormsby - October 26, 2004 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *It's said that in the end we'll be judged by how well we loved. It's clear from the numerous people whom Gary helped and that were touched by Gary's life, he loved well indeed. He left us too soon but must have been happy knowing he had the love and respect of so many. We will miss you, baby brother. Rest in peace.*

*Love, Regina (Ormsby), Randy, Joe, Tim, and Stevie
P.S.*

Nancy, Jacob, Peter, Lee, and all your families, Our thoughts and prayers are with you, too.

~

Regina and Randy Gassner,

Santa Ana, California

Regina and Randy Gassner - October 24, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ I remember growing up playing hours of basketball with my uncle Gary. I remember him as a caring person who had the uncanny ability to make others around him feel comfortable. He will be missed.

Love,
John & Heather

~

John & Heather Ormsby,

Everett, Washington

John & Heather Ormsby - October 23, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Gary was a wonderful brother, bright and cheerful, the only musically gifted of the six. He will always be cherished and missed.
Gary we love you.
Jack (brother) & Jane

~

Jack & Jane Ormsby,

Laguna Hills, California

Jack & Jane Ormsby - October 22, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I worked with Gary at the Legislature for 10+ years. He took pride in what he did and he always went above and beyond to help someone. He was a true and loyal friend and I'll miss him.

~

Cassie Sweeney-Truitt,

St. Paul, Minnesota

Cassie Sweeney-Truitt - October 22, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *I worked at the Capitol in the Chief Clerks office from 1995-2000.
Gary was a fun person to work with and I always enjoyed his humor.*

~

Jan Smith,

Eagan, Minnesota

Jan Smith - October 21, 2004 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I worked with Gary at the Legislature and I knew him to be a true original and a really nice guy. He had a wonderful smile and an amazing twinkle in his eyes. In that crazy world he was always calm, always cool and always smiling, even at 1am with the entire Journal ahead of him. He will be missed.

~

Aliceann Murphy-Grusin,

Santa Monica, California

Aliceann Murphy-Grusin - October 20, 2004 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Nancy,
our prayers are with you. Joe and I enjoyed taking Gary and (Dave Moorman) to the Crosby Stills and Nash concert with us. We had the best seats and I know how much Gary enjoyed it. Joe enjoyed playing guitar with Gary (and Dave) too. I will miss Gary's singing and will always remember how he always has a smile on his face.

Joe and Linda Hoffman

~

Linda and Joe Hoffman,

Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

Linda and Joe Hoffman - October 20, 2004 at 12:00 AM