



Gary Charles Reiter

June 22, 1944 - July 10, 2024

A loving grandfather, father, husband, brother, uncle, son, and friend, Gary passed away at the age of 80 on July 10th. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was raised spending summers racing sailboats at Lake Calhoun (Bde Maka Ska) and Lake Minnetonka. His unique upbringing instilled a lifelong passion for water, wind, and sailing. Gary was an avid swimmer and scholar-athlete at Edina High School (class of 1962), received a BA from Carleton College (History), and a law degree (JD) from the University of Minnesota. Gary also received an MS degree in Medical Forensics from Case Western Reserve and was a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He taught at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, worked as an articulate trial attorney and litigator for the State of Minnesota and Hennepin County Attorney General, as well as in private practice for many years.

Gary met his beloved wife Johanna and was married on December 30th, 1971. They shared in a synergistic love and cherished time with family, friends, and neighbors. Gary had a deep appreciation for city, state, and national parks, and experiencing art, history, and the natural world. In 1989, he was a founding member and helped to create the nonprofit Lake Calhoun sailing school (now Minneapolis Sailing Center), seeking to make sailing more accessible to all. He enjoyed friendships during all walks of his life and was an enthusiastic member of the Norwegian Explorers and Scandinavian Stamp

Collectors Club. He will be missed dearly by friends and family. Gary is preceded in death by wife Johanna, son Christopher, and parents Erle and Helen Reiter. Gary is survived by brother Bruce (Marilyn), son Nicholas (Jessamyn), daughter Anastasia (Jeff), and grandchildren (Elena and Abram).

Please consider donations to the Minneapolis Sailing Center (MSC, <https://sailmpls.org>) or to scientific research at the American Heart Association (AHA, www.heart.org). For inquiries about his memorial service, visit www.washburn-mcreavy.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 17. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Chapel
3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Graveside Service

AUG 17. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)
3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall

LK

“ I've been cutting Gary's hair for the last 22 years! I always looked forward to him coming in. We had a pretty good system going on me emailing him when he needed a haircut and he replied right away and would come in the next day. He was a good friend and customer. Nick and Anna its been a long time since High School! I'm sorry to hear about his passing. EHS Orchestra Lloyd "Chuck" Kugler

Lloyd Kugler - September 30, 2024 at 07:52 PM

RC

“ Michael Stanton introduced me to Gary Reiter as the husband of his beloved cousin, Joanna. As Attorneys we would meet for occasional lunches at It's Greek to Me. We would see Gary at Art in Bloom. He particularly enjoyed going to a restaurant of his choice afterwards where he shared great stories about his travel adventures, sailing and his interest in art and Opera. He was a joyful person to be around.

Roger Clarke - September 14, 2024 at 09:19 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Gary Charles Reiter.



August 17, 2024 at 06:05 PM

MG

“ My husband Ken worked with Gary for many years. He often came home with stories about Gary's sly sense of humor. We also enjoyed some music or theater with Gary and Joanna. The last few years we've had chance meetups with Gary at Lake Harriet or in Lund's Parking lot. These meetups were always punctuated with laughs and smiles and a few memories. We extend our sympathy to his dear family. Mary Gleason

Mary Gleason - August 17, 2024 at 05:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Charles Reiter.



August 13, 2024 at 10:56 AM

BS

“ Bill and Jeannie Stanton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Charles Reiter.

Bill and Jeannie Stanton - August 13, 2024 at 10:56 AM

HC

“ Heather and I send are sincere condolences to all of Gary's family and friends. We will truly miss our dear friend. We remember fondly his sly, dignified and mischievous sense of humor. One could never predict what Gary would have to say on any given topic. But one could be sure that his response would be thoughtful and well said. We have lost a truly good man. Steve and Heather Crade

Heather and Steve Crade - August 12, 2024 at 09:29 PM

TF

“ the McGrath family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Charles Reiter.

the McGrath family - August 12, 2024 at 10:32 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Charles Reiter.



August 12, 2024 at 10:32 AM

JL

“ Gary is one of a small group of people who changed the direction of my life. He brought me into the sailing community by teaching me to race C Scows, nurturing my abilities as his crew and then encouraging me to drive the boat myself. His generosity, humility, and quiet constancy created the safety I needed in order to foster an ambition for sailboat racing and sharing sailing with people who haven't traditionally had the opportunity to sail. Gary introduced me to the history of sailing on Bde Maka Ska - and together we spent a summer with an archivist from the Hennepin County Library committing historical BMS sailing records into the HCL special collection. His encouragement and example led me to join Minneapolis Sailing Center's Board of Directors, where we are working to scale the outreach and inclusion efforts that Gary modeled in his relationship with me. My time with Gary always felt rare and special. He will be missed deeply. I hope we can manifest a legacy at MSC worthy of his contributions.

Joe Leadley - August 09, 2024 at 11:08 AM

DP

“ Gary and I were on the Edina high school swim team together for four years. On our first day to sign up for the swim team as freshmen, we went in together. I hesitated at the door, saying I didn't think I could do it, but Gary assured me I could, and in we went. I needed that nudge, and have been forever grateful to him for that. I was not that fast as a swimmer, so didn't letter, but went on to get Senior Lifeguard and summer jobs at a Scout camp as a result. After I retired I returned to swimming in the Senior Games. Thanks for that nudge, Gary! You encouraged me onto a good path. You were a great team mate, classmate, and friend. My best wishes to your family. Rest in peace, old friend.

Dave Price - August 06, 2024 at 05:58 PM

WO

“ So saddened to hear of Gary's passing. What a wonderful, joyful, kind soul. He brought his love of sailing to Lake Harriet too and we loved having him with us. Condolences to the whole Reiter clan.

Wendy Ott - August 04, 2024 at 08:38 PM