



## Gary M. Piper

April 7, 1940 - February 1, 2021

Gary M. Piper of Okoboji, IA, passed away on Monday, February 1, 2021, at the age of 80, after an ongoing battle with health issues.

Gary was born to Waldo and Florence Piper on April 7, 1940 in Sioux City, IA, joining his brother Wally, who was 11 years older and later became his high school football and basketball coach. After graduating from Central High School, he attended Morningside College on a football scholarship.

In 1963, Gary married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Judy Compton. Together they jetted off to Fremont, CA, to start their lives as newlyweds, returning years later to the Lakes region to raise their children, son Casey and daughter Cory.

Gary was in the insurance business for over 40 years. In the community, he served as an elder at Presbyterian Church and was later a member of Good News Church. He was a member of Kiwanis and the Iowa Navy Commodores and was instrumental in starting the annual Abben Cancer Golf Classic at Emerald Hills Golf Club.

Gary loved playing golf, eating a good hot dog, and enjoying his morning coffee while visiting with his beloved by their bay window— or with his friends around town. More than anything, Gary loved his family. His children and his

six grandchildren were the center of his life. There was never a better “Papa.” His love affair with his best friend and wife, lasted until the day he died.

Gary is survived by his wife Judy of 57 years; son Casey (Laura) Piper of Naperville, IL, and their children, Cullen, Jack, Shaye and Drake; and daughter Cory Piper of Minneapolis, MN, and her daughters, Paige and Kit; along with other extended family members. He is preceded in death by his parents, brother, sister-in-law, Fran Piper and niece Jodi Piper Bappert. A Celebration of Gary’s Life will be planned for later this summer.

# Tribute Wall

NS

“ *Nancy Skinner lit a candle in memory of Gary M. Piper*



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**Nancy Skinner** - February 11, 2021 at 04:51 PM

NR

“ *Nancy Skinner Robinson lit a candle in memory of Gary M. Piper*



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**Nancy Skinner Robinson** - February 11, 2021 at 04:45 PM

ET

“ *Judy, Sympathy to you and your Family. Will always remember the after church lunches with you and Gary and others. Take care. God Bless. Elaine Tusa. From Jackson*

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**Elaine Tusa** - February 10, 2021 at 04:36 PM

TM

“ *Dear Judy and family,  
I am so sorry to learn of Gary's passing. It is so hard to lose a loved one and Gary was a great guy. We always enjoyed seeing you and Gary at countless sporting events over the years. Cory and Casey...you know he was always your biggest fan.*

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**Thomas Madigan** - February 07, 2021 at 12:34 PM

MS

“ *My prayers surround you at this difficult time. Gary & Judy have always been such genuine good folks...appreciated the shared friendship and neighborhood. Again, know that he was held in such high regard...and that you, his precious family, will be in continued prayers. Heaven is Real...we will see our Loved Ones again...hold onto your Faith during this hard time.*

*Marilyn*

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**Marilyn Strickland** - February 05, 2021 at 03:31 PM

DK

“ *Diana Kies lit a candle in memory of Gary M. Piper*



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**Diana Kies** - February 05, 2021 at 01:52 PM

MS

“ *Judy, Cory, Casey and Family - I was so sorry to learn of Gary's passing. He was a great neighbor who cared deeply for his family. I particularly enjoyed conversations with Gary and Judy when we encountered each other on walks or at the dock. My deepest thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

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**Marci Stoller** - February 05, 2021 at 01:15 PM

MD

“ Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley lit a candle in memory of Gary M. Piper



Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley - February 04, 2021 at 04:01 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary M. Piper.



February 04, 2021 at 03:33 PM

JR

“ When I moved to Spirit Lake Gary was one of the first people I met and then become a very good friend and golf partner. The fondest memories I have when living there was with Gary and the rest of our golfing group. My condolences to Judy and family and may Gary Rest In Peace.

jim Rogers - February 04, 2021 at 02:58 PM

LS

“ So sorry for your loss! Gary and Judy you were great neighbors to my parents. Your in my thoughts and prayers



Lucrecia Sievert - February 04, 2021 at 02:14 PM

RT

“ *Ray And Diane Tucker lit a candle in memory of Gary M. Piper*



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**Ray and Diane Tucker** - February 04, 2021 at 12:59 PM

LB

“ *Linda Wahlman Ballah lit a candle in memory of Gary M. Piper*



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**Linda Wahlman Ballah** - February 04, 2021 at 10:30 AM

SC

“ *So sorry for your loss. Gary and Cecil were great friends and now they can continue with their stories and coffee. Hugs to you Judy !!*

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**sharon Caskey** - February 04, 2021 at 08:30 AM

FF

“ *From the Michels family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary M. Piper.*



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**From the Michels family** - February 04, 2021 at 07:35 AM

MP

“ *Mavis Palmer lit a candle in memory of Gary M. Piper*



mavis palmer - February 03, 2021 at 11:08 PM

SM

“ *Judy, Cory, Casey and Family, Sorry to hear of Gary's passing and your loss. We are glad to have been neighbors and family friends for years. Gary was a man of strong principals and faith and we always appreciated conversation and friendship, he will be missed. In our prayers Steve ,Anna stephanie , skyler & joe Moore*

steve moore - February 03, 2021 at 10:47 PM

KE

“ *Kelley Sorbo Eisenbacher lit a candle in memory of Gary M. Piper*



Kelley Sorbo Eisenbacher - February 03, 2021 at 10:22 PM

DM

“ *Judy, I am so very sorry to hear about Gary. You two were such fun to watch together as you always acted like newlyweds! That's one of the many things I admired about you both! I will be keeping you in my prayers during this heavy time.... Praise the Lord that Gary knew Him! His last breath on earth was followed by his first breath in Heaven...and one day you will be reunited. Blessings, my friend.*

Dee Dee. McCoy - February 03, 2021 at 09:02 PM

JK

“ Julie And Jack Kliegl lit a candle in memory of Gary M. Piper



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**Julie and Jack Kliegl** - February 03, 2021 at 08:24 PM

NW

“ Oh my sweet Judy, my heart aches so much for you and family 😞. So very glad you will celebrate his life later this summer! We want to be there! We are over in Rochester, Mn and hope to be back in SL soon. Know we love you, think and praying for Jesus to hold you tight in his loving arms to give you strength.

Hugs, love, Larry and Nan Woods

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**Nancy Woods** - February 03, 2021 at 06:37 PM

TP

“ So very sorry for your loss! Thoughts and prayers to you all!  
Tom Parks

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**Tom Parks** - February 03, 2021 at 03:23 PM

SE

“ Thoughts & prayers go out to you Judy, Cory, Casey and your families for your loss  
Shar & Russ Eckard

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**Shar Eckard** - February 03, 2021 at 01:31 PM

KC

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Many fond memories of Gary when Casey and Cory attended Arnolds Park school, he was always active and involved, and had kinds words for all the kids. In later years, I always enjoyed running into him and catching up for a few minutes. May many happy memories fill your days ahead....

**Kirt Carstens** - February 03, 2021 at 01:23 PM

DK

Very sorry to hear of Gary's passing. I was fortunate to have him as a neighbor and mentor to life itself. My thoughts and Prayers to Judy, Casey, Cory and their families. He was a good man and I'll continue to cherish the memories of all that he did for us as kids growing up.

**Darrin Kruse** - February 03, 2021 at 05:21 PM

TU

“ Our sympathies to the Piper Family always enjoyed my visits with Gary always asked about the family

**Tom and Della Underwood** - February 03, 2021 at 01:05 PM

SS

“ Our sincerest sympathies to you dear people. Your family has always been special to us through the years. May God comfort you during this time and may wonderful memories last a life time. Stan and Rhea Sybesma

**Stan and Rhea Sybesma** - February 03, 2021 at 12:45 PM



Judy, Casey and Cory and families...our sincere sympathy and prayers go out to your families on the passing of Gary. I know he was a great dad and husband. I pray that God will bless you with all the beautiful memories you have to cherish, and knowing he is now in his eternal home in the arms of Jesus! God bless you!

**Charlene Radcliffe** - February 04, 2021 at 11:50 AM