



Gary Shaffer

June 7, 1956 - August 9, 2025

Gary Shaffer, 69, of Lakewood, CO; formerly of Spencer, IA; passed away unexpectedly while on vacation at his summer cottage in Okoboji, IA.

A memorial service for Gary will be held at a later date in Colorado. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

Gary was born in Spencer, IA to Thomas and Evaughn (Loeser) Shaffer on June 7, 1956. He graduated from Spencer High School and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in engineering from The University of Nebraska – Lincoln where he was a brother of the Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta. He owned a successful engineering firm, Shaffer Baucom Engineering & Consulting. Gary was united in marriage to Dawn Kersbergen on August 26, 1989, in Lakewood, CO.

In his free time, he enjoyed mountain climbing, skiing, biking, sailing, traveling and cheering on the University of Nebraska Football Team.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Dawn Shaffer of Lakewood, CO, his daughter Rachel (Greg) Holman and their two-month-old daughter Lily, his son Spencer Shaffer, sister Beth Kimmerling-Dumler and her husband Dean Dumler, brother Dr. Brian Shaffer, sister Lecia Shaffer and her husband Jim Rogers, and the countless other lives that Gary touched.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Carla Shaffer, and his brother-in-law Phil Kimmerling.

Tribute Wall



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



September 09, 2025 at 08:54 AM



“ Dawn, I'm so sorry to see this. Praying for your comfort and peace in the difficult season. Miss you!
Judy

judy dexter - September 09, 2025 at 05:54 AM



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



August 25, 2025 at 03:56 PM



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



August 22, 2025 at 09:23 AM

SD

“ I am deeply saddened by the passing of Gary. He was not only a remarkable mentor and leader, but also someone who profoundly shaped my life both personally and professionally. I will always cherish the memories I have of him and of time spent with his family, both before and during the years I had the privilege to work for him. My heartfelt condolences go out to Dawn, Rachel and Spencer, his extended family, his colleagues and friends at SBEC and to the many others whose lives he touched. I know his legacy of kindness, wisdom, and generosity will continue to inspire all of us who were fortunate enough to know him. May he rest in peace, forever climbing the mountains he so dearly loved. His memory will be cherished always. With love, Stephanie Dammen-Morrell

Stephanie Dammen-Morrell - August 18, 2025 at 04:21 PM

JJ

“ Our sincere condolences to Dawn and family at this time of great loss. Ann and I want the Shaffer family to know our thoughts and prayers are with you. Gary was a good friend of mine during our time in Spencer. I will always have special memories of him.
Jess & Ann Johannsen

Jess Johannsen - August 15, 2025 at 12:14 PM

NC

“ My deepest condolences to Dawn and family. I share in my Spencer classmates' expressions. We will all cherish Gary's life and memories.

Ned Carroll

Ned Carroll - August 13, 2025 at 09:08 PM

JG

“ My prayers are going out for Dawn, Rachel, Spencer, and all of Gary's family. Gary was a great guy and a true friend. He disdained social media but the irony is that I believe he would cherish all the wonderful things his friends and family are posting about him now. Gary was the real deal. I love you and miss you, Gary.

JP Greer - August 12, 2025 at 05:08 PM

DL

“ Gary shared a calming confidence focused in care of family, service of others, and the quiet strength with which he gave dignity life. My deepest sympathy to his survivors with my most sincere condolences for the loss of this gentleman of a person.

Duane Lookingbill - August 12, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ My heart goes out to Gary's family and friends at this sad time. I, along with our many classmates, were fortunate to celebrate our 50th high school class reunion with him this past June. Gary was an exceptional man and a cherished classmate. May he rest in eternal peace.



Pat Robidoux - August 11, 2025 at 03:37 PM

TW

“ Gary was such a breath of fresh air. His is cherished and missed. My heart goes out to all the family. Teri Wheeler.

Teri Wheeler - August 11, 2025 at 12:13 PM

ML

To Gary's family and friends i extend to you my deepest sympathy and prayers 🙏❤️ of this amazing classmate. I was so happy to see him at our 50year class reunion in june. He was so proud to be a grandpa, he was just beaming. Rest in Peace Gary. The class of 75 will never forget you.

Mari Lu Larson

mari larsen - August 11, 2025 at 03:43 PM

KB

Deepest sympathy to the family. This really stings since we just saw him, laughed with him, had a meal with an adult beverage...but more importantly, could see the gleam and excitement Grandpa had for his new granddaughter. Gary was very witty, heartfelt, and absolutely the most handsome classmate we had in '75! Comfort extended to my fellow classmates, we will always remember Gary, and those we honored in June. RIP Shaffer 🙏, Kim Parker Bays

Kimberly Bays - August 11, 2025 at 07:27 PM

LB

I worked with Gary on a lot of projects over many years at the University of Colorado Boulder. He was always a very friendly and professional man to work with and will be greatly missed by all of us the university. My deepest sympathy to Gary's family.

Lori Black - August 12, 2025 at 03:07 PM

JT

This message is from Kim (Norris) Seal: I remember my cousin Gary along with Alicia, Beth, Carla, Brian, Uncle Tom and Aunt Yvonne spending many summer days at the Shaffer Cottage on Lake Okoboji. Connie, Wendy, Chris and myself (Kim) spent some fun times together on the X-boat, and diving off the dock. You will be so missed! ❤️

Jennifer Traynor - August 27, 2025 at 02:25 PM