



## Gary Wittrock

February 26, 1958 - November 21, 2013

Gary was born February 26, 1958, in Estherville, Iowa, to Francis and Helen (Stinogel) Wittrock. He attended St. Joseph Catholic School in Milford, and graduated from Arnolds Park High School in 1976.

Photography, tree care and dock building were Gary's labors of love. He married his true love, Roberta (Ruby) Dana on Nov. 18, 1985. They were soon blessed with the birth of Kelsie Ann, who currently is a teacher in Independence, Iowa. Their second blessing, arrived five years later, Caleb David, who currently works with farm equipment at Jaycox Implement in Lake Park, Iowa.

Despite Gary's "Park Rat" upbringing (or maybe because of it?!) he was the master dad in arranging many camping expeditions and all fun outdoor activities for family and friends. He was the ever patient, always smiling mentor with his talents in woodworking, photography and horticulture. He had a special place in his heart for all creatures big and small; over the years many stray animals found a loving home on the Wittrock acreage.

Gary was preceded in death by his mother, Helen; father, Fritz; brother, Rodney; and sister, Nancy.

Those he leaves with loving memories are wife, Ruby; daughter, Kelsie

(Brian); son, Caleb (Alexa); sisters, Susie (Mike) Burgett, and Kathy (Darryl) Way; brother, Joe (Renee); brother-in-law, Jon Dana; sisters-in-law, Terri (Kelvin) Bronner and Jeannie (Charlie) Carney; along with many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

For all who met him will remember him, and those who remember him will miss him.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00P.M. Saturday, November 23, 2013, at the Schuchert Funeral Home. There will one hour of visitation held prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Gary's name to the N.W. Iowa Humane Society.

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ I just found out of Gary's passing today. and a piece of my heart has broken off. We were classmates and "Little" Gary, tho ornery, was such a sweet, kind soul...even in Jr. High. Gary was the one that all the guys would say "He's my best friend". After graduating, he was my Husband's Best Friend, and stood with us in our Wedding. We moved to Houston in 1983 and lost track of the the Park Rats, and Ruby I don't believe we ever met, which saddens me. All our best to you and your Daughters and we hope that your hearts are at Peace...that's what Gary would have wanted....Be well and Happy

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**Sue (Sprague) Covington** - April 03, 2016 at 06:22 PM

PA

“ Ruby and family, my heart breaks for you. I hope you know that you have so much love out here and that we are praying for you at this time.  
*Pat & Russ Thomson*

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**Pat** - December 02, 2013 at 10:29 PM

RS

“ Ruby - I am sorry to hear of your loss - my thoughts and prayers - and a virtual hug - are with you.....

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**Rick Steuben** - November 25, 2013 at 08:02 PM

TB

“ Hi Miss Ruby,  
I'm so truly sorry for your loss. I never had the pleasure of meeting your husband but from all these other kind words and stories written about him, I can tell he was a wonderful and special man. He will always be in your hearts.  
Thoughts and prayers for you and your family.

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**Tammy Bredael** - November 25, 2013 at 03:06 PM

SB

“ I remember the day mom brought Gary home from the hospital and introduced him to us. What a gift! Gary loved the simplicity in life, gentleness of nature, companionship of friends and love of family. He was a very genuine and gentle soul. He reminds me of our Grandpa Stinogel because he loved to work with wood and tinker...a lot. He also reminds me of our mother because he had her unlimited patience. He beams with pride over his children. I will always remember him saying my name, smiling with open arms and waiting for a hug. My memories are treasures that I will cherish forever.  
Love you brother,  
Susie

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**Susan Wittrock Burgett** - November 24, 2013 at 02:35 PM

LL

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Lisa Lipinski** - November 24, 2013 at 10:28 AM

KD

“ I have many fond memories of Gary. he always welcomed us with a smile and kind words. One time that sticks in my mind is on a camping trip to MN. We had gotten rained on and the only food we had for breakfast were some eggs. Gary and I were in charge of cooking breakfast. So as we were both cracking eggs in the bowl something obviously fell into the bowl. We looked at each other with a look of we have got to serve these eggs because it is all we have left. After some investigation we found it was an acorn. I have often wondered if it was something else would we have served them? Gary loved his family and was very proud of them. He was a gentle soul. I am proud to say I knew Gary Wittrock!!!

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**Kathleen Dana** - November 24, 2013 at 01:26 AM

BB

“ Ruby and kids, we are so sorry for your loss. We have many fond memories of Gary early in our marriage, some 37 years ago. Sweet, kind and gentle. May he rest-in-peace and your memories be sweet. Fondly,

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**Blair and Anita Bailey** - November 23, 2013 at 03:29 PM

KS

“ Ruby and family I am so very sorry for your loss I will be thinking about you at this most difficult time.

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**Kelly Schultz** - November 23, 2013 at 03:03 PM

LS

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Linda Schaffer** - November 23, 2013 at 03:00 PM

TK

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Tonya Keith** - November 23, 2013 at 01:55 PM

TK

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Tonya Keith** - November 23, 2013 at 01:55 PM

TK

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Tonya Keith** - November 23, 2013 at 01:55 PM

DC

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I don't think an unkind word would ever come out of him. He was a special kind of guy, and so proud of his family. My prayers that your memories of him bring you peace.*

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**Diane Chaplin** - November 23, 2013 at 01:19 PM

MH

“ *Ruby and family, Am so sorry for your loss, there are never words to ease your grief at this time, just know we are thinking of you.*

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**Merle and Charlotte Hurd** - November 23, 2013 at 12:55 PM

KL

“ *Ruby and Family I am so sorry for you loss.*

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**Kathy LeStrange** - November 23, 2013 at 10:44 AM

KH

“ *Do not stand at my grave and weep;*

*I am not there. I do not sleep.*

*I am a thousand winds that blow,*

*I am the diamond glints on snow.*

*I am the sunlight on ripened grain.*

*I am the gentle autumn's rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush,*

*I am the swift uplifting rush*

*Of quiet birds in circled flight.*

*I am the soft stars that shine at night.*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry;*

*I am not there. I did not die.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you Ruby.*

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**Kevin Helfenstine** - November 23, 2013 at 09:48 AM

JW

“ I dont have one single bad memory growing up with Gary. I do remember being 4 or 5 yrs old on the 4th of July and falling off the water bike dock and Gary being right there...he just jabbed his hand in the water grabbed a hand full of hair, pulled me out and stood me on the dock where I was,that explains my rooster tail hair to this day. I always looked up to and wanted to be like him. I will miss hanging out with him in his shop. I will always love my older little brother.God blessed you with a great life and a great family, I will see you in heaven.

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**Joseph Wittrock** - November 22, 2013 at 10:32 PM

DK

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Deb Kalish** - November 22, 2013 at 09:22 PM

JW

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Joe Wittrock** - November 22, 2013 at 09:15 PM

HL

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Holly Van Lenning** - November 22, 2013 at 08:53 PM

CS

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Chad Schuchert** - November 22, 2013 at 03:47 PM

DD

“ Gary was truly a wonderful soul with a loving smile that made everyone feel at home when they talked to him. He always had a kind word to say every time I talked to him. To know Gary was to love him. My prayers and love go out to Ruby and his children.

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**Diane Daws** - November 22, 2013 at 03:17 PM

SH

“ What a gentle and kind soul !! So sorry Ruby.

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**Sally Haas** - November 22, 2013 at 01:50 PM

MS

“ Gary Wittrock

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**mollie sander** - November 22, 2013 at 11:35 AM

AW

“ I was so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. I will always cherish the memories of the "good ole days" and send my deepest sympathies to Ruby and their children and family. Gary will be missed dearly.

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**Annie Woods** - November 22, 2013 at 10:37 AM

SM

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Sheryl McKeivitt** - November 22, 2013 at 08:24 AM

DJ

“ Gary Wittrock

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**Debby Jenkins/Wessling** - November 21, 2013 at 07:15 PM

KW

“ Gary was a gentle, caring soul and to know him was to like him! He & Ruby raised two wonderful kids! Gary would always light up whenever we asked him about his family.

*A fun memory for me is when we were about 20, I mentioned to Gary that I missed my Mom's home cooking and wished I knew how to make fried chicken. A few days later he knocked on our door and came in with a grocery bag with chicken and potatoes and said it was time I learned to fry chicken and he gave me a cooking lesson. (Of course, he gave me a lot of grief about being the only girl he knew with such a complete lack of culinary skills!)*

*He was a very sweet guy! Always a smile on his face and kind word when he would greet you.*

*God bless him and his lovely family! He will be missed! Our deepest sympathy to the Wittrock family!*

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**Kris & Ron Walker** - November 21, 2013 at 11:38 AM