



## George Gabel

April 30, 1950 - January 9, 2015

George Jacob Gabel, born April 30, 1950, Des Moines, Iowa, passed away quietly January 9, 2015, Spirit Lake, Iowa. George was the 2nd in a family of five siblings, which relocated from Des Moines to Okoboji in 1960, when father Jacob launched a new furniture manufacturing business in Milford -- an extension of his 10-year-old, Des Moines-based company. All children attended Milford public schools until 1966, when the family moved to Seattle, Washington.

George returned to Spirit Lake, graduated from public school there and started a family. His first child, Jennifer Gabel Pangburn, still lives there, works for Spirit Lake Hospital and raises her own family. George later returned to the Seattle area and started another family. His son Jason, now lives in Everett, Washington with his own family.

George worked most of his life like his father, as a furniture maker, either for various concerns or independently. 2014, he retired as a valued team member of the internationally renowned Kaas Tailored, furniture design and manufacturing company, Mukilteo, Washington.

Summer 2014, George returned to Iowa with his wife, Cynthia (also from the Okoboji region) to a modest acreage in Peterson, down along the Little Sioux River, where he'd planned his retirement, fixing up a hundred-year-old farm

house, hunting, fishing and relaxing with family and friends. But alas, it was short lived, as a recurring bout with cancer took its toll.

George Gabel leaves a legacy extending to 5 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, plus 2 step grandchildren and 3 step great grandchildren, Immediate survivors include wife, Cynthia Fales-Gabel, daughter, Jennifer Gabel Pangburn, son, Jason Gabel, brothers, Jack and Jeff Gabel and sisters, Debbie Reiter and Mickey Sutton. George's passing is preceded by his father Jacob Gabel (1911-1988) and mother, Mabel Evert (1925-1998).

A memorial service will be held at 11:00A.M. Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in George's name. The Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ My heartfelt sympathy to the whole family. I grew up just a block away from the Gable family in Milford. Debbie and Mickey and I became good friends. George always LOVED picking on me. Probably because I was pretty shy in those days! I remember my favorite treat at the Gable home was white ice cream in a glass filled with chocolate milk! Then there was Jack, I always had this secret little crush on the handsome "high schooler"..many fond memories and whenever I think of the Gable family I always think of their furniture store, and their slogan....."Look for the label, made by Gable". May you all find peace in the days and years to come and may his memories bring smiles and laughter! Sandi (Guthrie) White

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**Sandi (Guthrie) White** - January 13, 2015 at 04:05 PM

MS

“ Although as humans, we can't even try to imagine why events in this life happen. I only know that God is in control and if I know Him as my personal Saviour, He will give me the ability to handle anything. I believe George had come to have that personal relationship with Jesus Christ and had received the peace that only Christ can give. It hurts all of us who will miss him and wish we had more time with him. His passing leaves such a void. But I believe he is in Heaven, celebrating, and looking down on us with a watchful eye, hoping someday we will join him there.

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**Mickey Sutton** - January 12, 2015 at 04:21 PM

TK

“ George Gabel

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**Tasha Krohn** - January 12, 2015 at 10:06 AM

DF

“ George Gabel

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**Donna Fruzia** - January 12, 2015 at 09:29 AM

CG

“ George Gabel

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**Cindy Gabel** - January 12, 2015 at 12:40 AM

JG

“ George, they're asking

*why, your family asks, why  
just when you'd seen your so long  
longed for retirement, so carefully  
planned, fall finally into place  
so quickly stripped away  
from you, and you  
from us*

*at last, no more time clocks, reports  
freeway time - no more production schedules  
a deserved respite - a memorable legacy  
5 wives, 5 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren  
a trifecta of sorts - so much love - so much angst  
too much to convey by any metric - too much  
for anyone to guess a life so full could crash so fast*

*so together we share all our great times with you  
fish landed, game bagged, grills, libations  
jokes and stories shared  
and all your great big bear hugs  
yet, we still ask why, but know  
you completed your essential mission  
you gave ten-fold life and love to match*

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**Jack Gabel** - January 11, 2015 at 10:12 PM

YG

“ George Gabel

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**Yvonne Gabel** - January 11, 2015 at 08:59 PM

PD

“ George Gabel

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Phillip Detering - January 11, 2015 at 06:37 PM

BW

“ George Gabel

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Bev Wittler - January 11, 2015 at 10:42 AM

KG

“ I was sixteen years old when I met George. I was dating his son, Jason whom I later married. He immediately welcomed me to the family. I was always invited on every fishing trip. (But no girls allowed to hunting camp!) We had a lot of fishing trips, the three of us. Some of the greatest memories Jason and I have from our youth are fishing with his dad. He was there when I caught my first trout, and again when I graduated to salmon. He taught me all about "cutthroat cribbage" and was only mildly annoyed if I won. (I think it happened once) George even came to my high school play, even though Jason couldn't attend. He always showed me love and support and I miss him dearly. I know what heaven looks like for George. Catch a big one dad!!

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Karen Gabel - January 11, 2015 at 09:54 AM