

The Life of Gary Lenling



Services for Gary Lenling, 64, of Claremont will be 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 8th at the Claremont United Methodist Church. Pastor Gwen Mader will officiate. Burial with military honors will follow in Hufton Cemetery.

Gary died in his home April 4, 2015 of natural causes. Gary was born on June 30, 1950 in Aberdeen, South Dakota. His family moved to Claremont when he was 5 years old and he continued to live there until his death. He met Marian Ness when he was 10 years old and Marian was 7 years old. They were childhood playmates, teenage sweethearts and they finally became lifelong mates as husband and wife on July 27, 1971.

Gary and Marian, along with their two daughters, made their home in Claremont. Gary bought both his home and his plumbing/ electrical business from Russel Beaver, his mentor and surrogate father. Gary was a tireless worker who was always on call at his job, even on holidays.

Gary served in the South Dakota National Guard and helped during the Rapid

City flood. He was recognized for his service during that natural disaster. Gary was an active community member in Claremont belonging to the American Legion, the Claremont Rural Fire Department, and serving on the Claremont Town Board for nearly 30 years.

Gary loved Claremont so much that he even went out of his way to testify in Pierre before state representatives to obtain funding for the town of Claremont to reconstruct substructures damaged during flooding. During later flooding, he drove Governor Dennis Daugaard through the three feet of water surrounding Claremont to attend an emergency meeting. The meeting in Claremont was attended by the Governor as well as many Brown County Commissioners to find a solution to the submerged roads surrounding our little town.

When Gary wasn't working he was busy with one of his many hobbies including gardening, cooking, yard work, and designing and building creative woodworking projects. Gary also enjoyed fishing. That was the only time he could truly sit down and relax. He would happily sit all day long with a line out even when the fish weren't biting.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Marian of Claremont, his daughters, Wanette Lenling of Claremont, and Corinna Lenling of Escondido, California; two sisters, Ardell Saylor of Claremont and Deb (Ron) Dell of Mina Lake; and his sister-in-law, Barb Lenling of Redfield.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Elden and Elizabeth (Betty) Lenling, brothers, Larry & Myron, a sister-in-law, Loreen Lenling and brother-in-law, Don Saylor.

Honorary Casketbearers will be Don VanderVorst, Dean Haselhorst, Roger Schuller, Ron Dell, Gerry Saylor, Jason Lenling, and all of Gary's other nephews and nieces.

Casketbearers will be Steve Cutler, Sherm Cutler, Wayne Lenling, Arnie Lenling, David Saylor, Matt Schuller and David Traylor.