



Gary L. Knox

June 19, 1940 - March 7, 2023

Gary Knox, 82, of Iowa Falls, passed away Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at Scenic Manor. Funeral services will be 11:00 AM Monday, March 13, 2023 at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora. He will be laid to rest next to his wife, Verdeen, at the Union Cemetery in Iowa Falls. Visitation will be from 9:30 AM until service time on Monday, March 13 at the church. Counsell Woodley Funeral Home of Iowa Falls is caring for Gary and his family.

Gary Lee Knox was born on June 19, 1940, the son of Alvah and Vera (Richards) Knox in Boone, Iowa. He was raised on a farm near Boone and graduated from United Community High School class of 1958. Gary met his future bride, Verdeen Rieck, when her high school in Luther, Iowa merged with Gary's high school, United Community, in 1957. Gary and Verdeen were married on June 10, 1961 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Madrid, Iowa. They celebrated 56 years together before she passed away on June 11, 2017.

Gary earned a Bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1962 and a Masters degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois in 1967. Gary began his 39-year mathematics and computer programming teaching career at Armstrong High School in Iowa in 1962. In 1966, Gary and his family moved to Newton, Iowa where he continued his teaching career, retiring in 2000. Gary developed a computer programming curriculum while at Newton, and taught four summers at the University of Iowa. Gary loved teaching and

touched the lives of over 4,000 students.

Gary and Verdeen moved to Eldora, Iowa in 2005, and later to Iowa Falls in 2011. Gary retained his love of farm life and country living his entire life by gardening wherever he lived. Gary was a self-taught, well-known woodcarver. He also carried a love for music and sang in many choirs and groups. Over the years he remained in contact with many of his former Newton and Armstrong students, classmates and colleagues. He enjoyed sports of all kinds, but baseball was his favorite sport and he was a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan. Most important to him was his Christian faith that guided him his entire life.

Those left to remember Gary are three children, Kristin (Brian) Hagedon of Eldora, Kevin (Tiffany) Knox of Muscatine and Karen (Wade) Brandt of Clarinda; sister, Carol (Fred) Minnis of Peosta and eight grandchildren: Matthew (Holly) Hagedon, Sarah Hagedon, Jacob (Antonia) Knox, Jonah Knox, Madison Brandt, William Brandt, Dara Brandt, and Justin Brandt; two great-grandchildren and one more expected to arrive in July. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Verdeen and older sister, Kathleen Neff.

Cemetery Details

Union Cemetery

Iowa Falls, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 13. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1105 Washington Street
Eldora, IA 50627

Service

MAR 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1105 Washington Street
Eldora, IA 50627

Tribute Wall

CP

“ I have a carving of an eagle he did on my mantle... As well as my daughter has a cat he carved. He was my favorite teacher of all time. So sad to hear he passed! I was planning a visit up to see him this year if I could figure out how to do it... -Chert Pellett

Chert Pellett - August 14, 2023 at 05:32 PM

MB

“ He was a great teacher, but I was even more touched when he reached out to me long after my high school graduation. In the days before Facebook, he found me and asked what I was doing. When I shared some of my story, he replied that he always knew I'd be something special. His words meant a lot to me back then, and I'll always treasure my relationship with "Mr. Knox".

Mike Baderstadt - March 18, 2023 at 10:02 AM

KC

“ The one teacher who got me to understand algebra. Rest in Peace Mr. Knox. Karla R Cook (Funk)

Karla R Cook - March 16, 2023 at 07:39 PM

KH

“ I took college-level geometry with Mr. Knox in 1966-67, his first year at Newton High School. My girlfriend and I liked him so much we would sneak into his classroom when it was empty and write HI MR. KNOX on the blackboard at the back of the room - - top to bottom, edge to edge. He knew who it was and he just smiled. He inspired my interest in math and love of geometry which I later transitioned into a career as A Civil Engineer. I will never forget him.
GOOD-BYE MR. KNOX

Katharine Smith Hough - March 15, 2023 at 03:16 PM

SM

“ Sorry to see that Gary has died. As a colleague in Newton High School, I always enjoyed visiting with him. His elvish smile, keen mind, unassuming nature, and soft spoken voice always made for a relaxing conversation. Condolences to the family.

Steve Mullan - March 14, 2023 at 09:18 PM

CP

“ If you had a special teacher that helped make your life better you are blessed. Gary Knox was my high school teacher which introduced me to computers and programming when I was 16 and encouraged me in getting my Com Sci degree at Iowa State (79). My entire career was based upon his help. When I had my 30th anniversary at Caterpillar, I was able to contact him through a thank you letter I sent him. He wrote me back a 7 page letter and told me that yes he remembered me well and I was one of his students he had put a star by their picture in the year book as that he knew would do well. He even still had something I had printed out for him from my first program in college. This meant so much to me, I have been in contact with him ever since then, especially after he got on Facebook. He let us know his journey was coming to an end a couple of weeks before he passed. I am thankful to have been blessed by knowing him. I know he and his bride are back together again. My sincere condolences to his children and family he left behind.

Cindy Altenhofen Peterson - March 14, 2023 at 07:48 PM

AN

“ I had Mr. Knox for advanced geometry at Newton in 1967-68. Somehow I was mistakenly put in the advanced class even though I am terrible at math. I told Mr. Knox this and that I wanted to transfer to an easier class. He encouraged me to stay and try. By the end of the year I had gone from a C to an A. He wrote a letter of recommendation for my Maytag scholarship application. He really was a wonderful teacher!

Ann - March 14, 2023 at 04:43 PM

TF

“ The Brandt family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gary L. Knox.



The Brandt family - March 10, 2023 at 11:36 AM

DC

“ Gary was my, Geometry 68-'69 and Algebra '69'-70', teacher at Newton High School. An outstanding teacher and very kind. My heart aches for his family and friends. God bless all of you.



Denise Cathlina-Wildman - March 09, 2023 at 08:46 PM



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



March 09, 2023 at 04:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Gary L. Knox.



March 08, 2023 at 10:19 PM