

Gary Louis Schoning

June 3, 1954 - March 1, 2024

Gary Schoning, 69, of Thornton, formerly of Sheffield, passed away peacefully with his soulmate/loving wife by his side, and his family by his side. He gave a long hard-fought battle against cancer. He never once lost hope in the 7+ years. Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 7, 2024, at Zion St. John Lutheran Church in Sheffield. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 8, 2024, at Zion St. John Lutheran Church in Sheffield. Gary will be laid to rest at Pleasant Valley Township Cemetery in rural Swaledale. Woodley Funeral Home of Sheffield is caring for Gary and his family.

Gary was born on June 3, 1954, at Mercy Medical Center in Mason City, to Louis and Dorothy (Schroeder) Schoning. He was the oldest of four children. Gary graduated from Sheffield-Chapin High School in 1972. He then went to NIACC receiving his degree in Retail Merchandising. Gary worked at St. Paul Clothiers before coming back to the family farm to work with his dad and Grandpa Schroeder. In 1974, he had a job with Sukup Manufacturing while farming. Gary enjoyed the trade show road. First, he started with selling Lyon's Basket Company, then his last was selling lotion, lip butters and soaps for Honey House Naturals.

Gary had a gift of gab and could sell to anybody. He enjoyed his show family. He and his wife, April, had a lot of fun times on all their trips when she helped

him for a few years.

Gary is blessed with two daughters from his first marriage, Kaci and Amy. He eventually became a grandpa and a great-grandpa.

Gary met his soulmate, loving wife, April, by selling seed to her father. It took just one conversation about going hunting. They went hunting in the winter of 2016; one shot through the floor board of his truck and dead center of the exhaust, missing the catalytic converter. That is when they started dating and then got married on September 9, 2023.

Gary's deep love for land and all things farming never went unnoticed. You would find Gary spending long days in the field during farming season; always the first one out and the last one in. Involving his friends in helping with season or helping a friend in need. Gary always felt close to God out in the field; a passion he looked forward to all the time. He gathered his friends and hunted for 48+ years. The phrase "If it's brown, it's down!" was commonly said. He always wanted the youngsters to shoot a deer; he always said, "I don't need to shoot one." Gary could be found sharing stories and having a few drinks after every hunting day. Everyone enjoyed his smile, laugh and kind-hearted nature, including a saying he used continuously, "It is what it is".

Those left to celebrate Gary's life, memories, and mourn his passing are his soulmate, loving wife, April (Markwardt) Schoning; daughters Kaci (Glen) Harper and Amy (Joe) McKee; siblings Greg (Sue) Schoning, Diane (Rich) Duzenbury, and David Schoning; grandchildren: Samantha (Nathan) Meinders along with great-grandson Jacksyn, Madisyn Harper, Emma, Cole, and Cale McKee; many nieces and nephews, along with many other relatives and friends which he called family. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Valley Township Cemetery

Corner of 130th Street & Jonquil Ave
Swaledale, IA 50477

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Zion St. John Lutheran Church
422 Sherman Street
Sheffield, IA 50475

Service

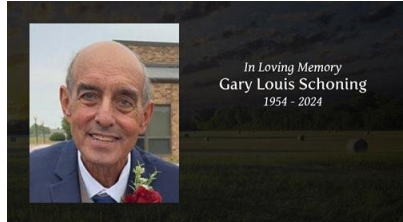
MAR 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

Zion St. John Lutheran Church
422 Sherman Street
Sheffield, IA 50475

Tribute Wall



“ Woodley Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary Louis Schoning



Woodley Funeral Home and Crematory - March 06, 2024 at 04:21 PM

BS

“ I worked with Gary for a few years when he would sell seed with Five Star Coop. Gary was always a joy to visit with and always had a warm smile. I have missed seeing him at field days these past years. Peace and prayers for all the family.

Bob Sobolik - March 07, 2024 at 09:24 PM

AS

Thank you for the kind words. He enjoyed selling seed.

April Schoning - March 10, 2024 at 09:48 AM

BF

“ Brian, Colette and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gary Louis Schoning.



Brian, Colette and family - March 07, 2024 at 09:57 AM

RG

“ *Randy & Holly Coffee / Block 10 gals purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gary Louis Schoning.*



Randy & Holly Coffee / Block 10 gals - March 06, 2024 at 08:03 PM

CI

“ *Clay & Sarah Ivonavitch purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gary Louis Schoning.*



Clay & Sarah Ivonavitch - March 06, 2024 at 05:48 PM

BL

“ *Bill Eno, Sally Crowley and Sandra LeDuc purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary Louis Schoning.*



Bill Eno, Sally Crowley and Sandra LeDuc - March 06, 2024 at 05:02 PM

KC

“ *With heartfelt condolences, from all whose lives he has touched at Honey House Naturals.*

At Honey House Naturals, we would like to take a moment to honor the memory of our dear friend and valued team member, Gary. We are deeply saddened by his passing and want to express our heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones during this difficult time.

Gary was not just a team member to us, but a cherished member of our Honey House Naturals family. His warm smile, fun-loving spirit, and passion for our natural skincare products will always be remembered.

One of the things that made Gary so special was his unwavering commitment to providing exceptional customer service. He always went above and beyond to ensure that every interaction with our store was a positive one. Whether it was answering questions, offering product recommendations, or simply sharing his own experiences, Gary's dedication to making others feel valued and heard was truly remarkable.

As we reflect on the great memories we shared with Gary, we are reminded of the impact he had on our team and our community. His enthusiasm for our top-selling Lip Butter Tubes and Bee Bar Lotion Bars was contagious, and his feedback and support played a significant role in shaping our products and services.

Once again, our deepest sympathies go out to Gary's family and loved ones. May his memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to all who knew him.

Kitty Carpenter - March 05, 2024 at 02:19 PM

KH

He loved his Honey House family for much!!! We are so grateful to you for the years he was able to continue to sell through his cancer journey. Thank you so much for the kind words about our dad... ❤️

Kaci Harper - March 05, 2024 at 04:57 PM

AS

I was so glad when we got to work together for you guy's. We always wanted to do the best for you. We loved your products and "bee" all we use. We have truly missed selling for you guys. Thank you for all the love and support. ❤️❤️

April Schoning - March 06, 2024 at 12:04 AM



My first show with Gary was in Virginia Beach - it was a small souvenir and gift show and a little slow - but he taught me so much about engaging with people and sharing the benefits of our products. We also had some spare time on our hands and Gary introduced me to his cassette tape of Jeff Foxworthy! I'm such a fan girl now and I'll always think of Gary and his great laugh when I hear Jeff's shows. You just might be a redneck...

Kitty Carpenter - March 07, 2024 at 08:03 PM

HN

“ *Honey House Naturals purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Gary Louis Schoning.*



Honey House Naturals - March 05, 2024 at 02:13 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gary Louis Schoning.



March 05, 2024 at 11:19 AM



“ From Eileen Ahrens Kaplan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Louis Schoning.

From Eileen Ahrens Kaplan - March 05, 2024 at 11:19 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Louis Schoning.



March 05, 2024 at 09:07 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gary Louis Schoning.



March 04, 2024 at 03:12 PM

GH

“ *Sincere Sympathy to the Schoning Family. Have known Gary since he was born. A lovely family*

Gerry/Marllys Beyer Hartman - March 02, 2024 at 06:40 PM

BE

“ *Betty & Ed Etnier lit a candle in memory of Gary Louis Schoning*



Betty & Ed Etnier - March 02, 2024 at 12:15 AM