



## Gary LeRoy Van Lith

August 26, 1950 - March 15, 2016

Gary LeRoy Van Lith  
East Wenatchee, WA

Gary LeRoy Van Lith's life suddenly ended on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, from cardiac arrest at Confluence Health in Wenatchee, WA. Gary was born on August 26, 1950 in Yakima, WA, and moved to the Wenatchee area in the summer of 1964. During his high school years, Gary played basketball; but baseball was his passion.

The New York Yankees even invited him to play in a developmental summer league, but he turned down the opportunity because he wanted to stay close to home. He graduated from Eastmont High School in 1968. Gary and Pam had their first date at homecoming on Friday, October 13 in 1967, and he gave her his class ring that very night. The two married June 13, 1970. During their first year of marriage, Gary became a black belt in Tae Kwon Do within just 11 months. Gary and Pam became parents nearly four years after marrying. He first worked in the construction industry as a laborer for six years, then Gary became a general contractor in 1976, forming GVL Construction. After a work injury, Gary attended Wenatchee Valley College in the '80s and earned a 4.0 with the help of his study partner Pam. Gary started as a construction laborer and became a skilled craftsman, building 100's of custom homes over 45 years, throughout the Wenatchee Valley. Gary coached baseball in both American Legion and Babe Ruth Leagues before his children were old enough to play. He later

coached his son, Corey, in baseball and basketball. Gary was known for his passion and hard work ethics, both on and off the field and court. The family has many fond memories of spending quality time together boating, fishing, camping, riding motorcycles and playing card and board games. Gary was extremely proud of his kids, but his grandchildren gave him the most joy. He rarely missed an athletic event or school performance and traveled with his family throughout the country for sporting events. Gary donated numerous hours of labor toward the renovation of Morris Baseball Park in Wenatchee. He was a proud father and Papa on the bleachers, soccer field and along the fence line. His family and friends will miss seeing him in the stands, hearing his voice cheering the kids on and feeling his passion for the team.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela Dunlap Van Lith; ma-in- law, Shirley Dunlap; son, Corey and daughter-in-law Jessica Van Lith; daughter Lori and daughter-in-law, Barb Andre-Van Lith; brother, Fred (Butch) Van Lith and wife Terri; sisters, Joan Van Lith Allred and husband Mike, Judy Van Lith Straub and husband Marc; six nephews and three nieces; grandchildren: Tanner, Hailey, Carter and Kayden; an aunt and uncle and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lorraine Dorey Van Lith; father, Fred Van Lith; and niece, Melissa Van Lith.

Services will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at Saddlerock Presbyterian Church, 1400 South Miller Street in Wenatchee. A reception will immediately follow at the church. A private burial will take place at a later time. Contributions in memory of Gary may be made to the Gary Van Lith Youth Sports Fund at Banner Bank. The family will distribute the funds to various youth sports organizations throughout the community. Arrangements under the direction of Jones & Jones

- Betts Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 19. 1:00 PM (PT)

Saddlerock Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
1400 S Miller  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ My memories are of those times when Gary was there cheering his children on at sporting events. my memories of that huge smile and big heart that he had. My memories of when he and Pam were together how much love they shared for one another! Gary keep building up there in heaven. R.I.P

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**Amber Lasater** - March 19, 2016 at 03:27 PM

MU

“ Dear Pam, Our deepest sorrow for your loss. We remember Gary as such a fun-loving guy, dedicated to his family. You love and commitment to each other was always so visible. May that lifetime of love give you the strength during this difficult time.

*Mary & Randy Uhrich*

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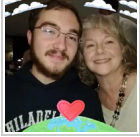
**Mary Uhrich** - March 19, 2016 at 12:30 PM

PW

“ Pam and family, My heartfelt condolences for your loss of such a wonderful man. May you all find peace throughout this difficult time.  
- Pam Wright

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**Pam Wright** - March 19, 2016 at 12:37 AM



“ *Lori, Carter, Kayden and Barb,*

*We want to extend our hearts and prayers to you all. I know how much your father/grandfather/father in law must have meant to you and the rest of your family . May peace be with you and him as well.*

*Jeff, Leigh and Kevin Culver*



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**Leigh Culver** - March 18, 2016 at 04:19 PM

GE

“ *Dear Joan & Mike and family. We would like to extend our deep felt condolences for your loss. May you treasure the memories that you have shared over the years. You are in our thoughts through your time of sorrow.*

*Derek and Gail Ewasiuk  
Surrey, B.C.*

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**Gail Ewasiuk** - March 17, 2016 at 09:08 PM

CI

“ *So very sorry for you loss! Last time I saw Gary I shared with him that he always scared me as a kid with his loud voice and red face! Ha! But we all loved to hang out at Gary and Pam's! I loved seeing him at various sporting events in the last few years! He will be very very missed! Sending prayers! Love you all- Carrie (Eilert) Isaak*

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**carrie Isaak** - March 17, 2016 at 07:41 PM

SH

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Shawna - March 17, 2016 at 07:17 PM



Jeanette  
Cavadini

“ Pam my heart just sank when I read this in todays paper. You have lost your best friend. I will always remember the time I first meet Gary when you two invited me to the movies. The only thing that makes any of this easier is having the promise of eternal life and being reunited with our loved ones. Hang onto your faith in these sad days to get you through. With my love, prayers, and hugs for you and the family, God bless, Jeanette Cavadini

Jeanette Cavadini - March 17, 2016 at 05:13 PM

KS

Dear Pam and family, We are deeply saddened by Gary's passing. Our thought and prayers are with you at this time. Charlie and Kathy


kathy shaw - March 17, 2016 at 08:00 PM

DR

“ Dennis & Betty Radke lit a candle in memory of Gary LeRoy Van Lith



Dennis & Betty Radke - March 17, 2016 at 04:10 PM

 Diana  
Reese

“*Joan, Mike and family -- please accept our sympathies for the loss of your brother and loved one. Our thoughts and well wishes are with you during this very difficult time. In reading Gary's obituary, it is quite apparent he was an amazing man who was deeply loved. May you all find some comfort in your great memories of him.*

*Joe and Diana Reese  
Seattle, WA*

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**Diana Reese** - March 17, 2016 at 03:41 PM

CB

“*Chuck, Paula, Sam & Bree lit a candle in memory of Gary LeRoy Van Lith*



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**Chuck, Paula, Sam & Bree** - March 17, 2016 at 03:14 PM

GS

“*Our hearts and prayers go out to the Van Lith Family. We have known Gary for 10 years, and each time we saw Gary, he would give that special "twinkle" in his eye, and friendly voice that made us each feel special. Gary also was an example of the love that would exude towards his family. We love you Gary and will cherish the memories of your special soul!*

*Gary and Valerie Smith*

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**Gary Smith** - March 17, 2016 at 02:59 PM



Gwen Warnett

*Our love and our prayers go out to you Pam and your family during this time. We are so sad about Gary's passing but absolutely nothing can take away our loving memories of him nor of his family. When we speak of our fun time, our "baseball" days and Gary are at their top. We loved him so much and we are certainly with you in our hearts.*

Gwen Warnett - March 17, 2016 at 10:34 PM

MD

“ Margo Driscoll lit a candle in memory of Gary LeRoy Van Lith



margo driscoll - March 17, 2016 at 02:53 PM

KS

“ It was my pleasure to have known and worked with Gary. My heart goes out to the family. I know you all are hurting with the loss of Husband, Dad, Grandpa, brother, etc. Gary was a great guy with a big personality. He made me laugh so many times and that was a blessing. Kerrie Smith

Kerrie Smith - March 17, 2016 at 11:34 AM

BL

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Barbara Andre-Van Lith - March 17, 2016 at 10:55 AM

RP

“ Prayers and condolences to the Van Lith family on Gary's sudden passing. I am a better person for knowing Gary and the times we have worked together. I will miss his jovial character and every present smile on his face. Gary will be missed in the building industry and what he had to share from his experiences. God Bless.  
Rich Poole

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**Rich Poole** - March 17, 2016 at 09:12 AM