



Gary Hamre

February 10, 1946 - March 25, 2008

Gary Charles Hamre was born February 10, 1946, in Granite Falls, MN, the son of Harry and Corella (Oie) Hamre. He was raised in the family farming community of Sacred Heart, MN. During his childhood and throughout high school, Gary was involved in sports, 4-H, music and church activities. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1964. Following high school, Gary furthered his education at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, where he received his teaching certificate and a B.A. in History and Political Science while minoring in Physical Education. With this degree and a shortage of teachers, Gary had a number of offers and chose Mahanomen as it had the largest new gymnasium and offered the most money. With this offer, he also took on the roles and responsibilities of an assistant football coach, wrestling and junior high track coach and summer recreation advisor - a job which turned into over 30 years of enthusiastic coaching and teaching. On August 7, 1971, Gary was united in marriage to Cheryl Young. The couple made their home in Mahanomen and to their union came three daughters: Shannon, Rachel and Amanda. Over the years, Gary also became involved in the Community Theater Presentations and held a supervisory position with the WE Fest organization. Near the end of his teaching career, he began managing the Mahanomen Country Club. Gary retired from the Mahanomen School System in May of 1999 and continued to manage the golf course until the fall of 2002, when he began working at the Shooting Star Casino as the Guest Services Transportation Coordinator. Having loved so many things,

Gary kept quite active throughout the years. He was an active member of First Lutheran Church and enjoyed being part of the choir. You could always count on Gary to cheer on the Minnesota Twins - at home or in the hospital. Collecting baseball cards also kept him busy as his collection seemed to grow and grow. Gary enjoyed playing golf, even mastering the 9-hole course in Mahanomen. An outdoor enthusiast, he liked taking in the beauty of the trees, traveling to different places and seeing the sights. In 1989, he traveled with other family members to Europe and Norway, tracing back his family origins. The love of his life however was his family - as he enjoyed spending endless hours with his children and grandchildren. In April of 2007, Gary was diagnosed with a rare type of brain cancer. To this came many trials and tribulations for him and his family. Throughout the many hospital stays and doctor visits, Gary remained steadfast while his family and friends stood by his side. His energy and zest for life did not falter as he continued to live life to the fullest. He enjoyed activities with his grandchildren, watching the Minnesota Twins - even buying baseball cards on eBay while sitting in his hospital room. The highlight of the year came in June when Gary went on a fishing trip to Alaska where he was able to take in the beautiful scenery and enjoy a sport he loved, fishing. This past year's journey was filled with ups and downs, smiles and tears - one that seemed all too short. Gary left to be with his heavenly father on March 25, 2008, at the age of 62. He leaves behind his three daughters: Shannon (Jeff) Hedstrom, Bemidji, MN, Rachel Hamre, Mahanomen and Amanda Hamre, Fargo, ND; four grandchildren: Chelsea, Mason, Olivia and Mario; his parents, Harry and Corella Hamre, Sacred Heart, MN; two brothers, Paul (Carla) Hamre, and David (Annie), both of Sacred Heart; three sisters: Sue (Tim) Griffith, Walnut Grove, MN, Marilyn McMahon, Savage, MN, and Marianne Friday, Rosemount, MN; and many nieces and nephews. His wife, Cheryl, precedes him in death.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Dear Family, Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. It was a pleasure to know your dad. Your parents left you a rich legacy of love, compassion, and faith. May you cling to Jesus, and let him hold you as you remember the joys of family. Be kind to one another, it can be a hard task when missing your parents. Love, Julie & Perry

Julie Doerfler - April 22, 2008 at 01:17 PM

LS

“ Your family is in my prayers at this difficult time. May you be comforted by the peace in knowing that God is with you at this time, just as he was during this last year.

Lindsey Scholar - April 22, 2008 at 01:16 PM

GL

“ To Gary's family: I am sorry for your loss and the difficult year you and Gary have experienced. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Gaylen Lerohl - April 22, 2008 at 12:47 PM

EN

“ Gary was one of my best friends we went to Hawk Creek Church together. I went to Granite Falls to school and Gary Sacred Heart but through church we became good friends and did many things together. I was in Gary and Cheryl's wedding. I really enjoyed visiting Gary when he came back to Sacred Heart. I know Paul and David well and they keep me informed about Gary over the years and now these past month with his health problems. We prayed for Gary and his family daily.

Earl and Cheryl Nellermoe - April 22, 2008 at 12:45 PM

MH

“*Mr. Hamre was my summer baseball coach in grade school and my geography teacher in 8th grade. When my son asked me why I knew many of his geography questions, I would tell him that Mr. Hamre was the reason. He made it interesting and expected us to pay attention to every detail. That left a lasting impression on me. In one baseball game that I remember with him, I tried to stretch a single into a double but hesitated rounding first base and was tagged sliding into second base. When I returned to the dugout, all Mr. Hamre said was, "He who hesitates is lost!" In every game I played through the years, I never forgot that lesson.*

Murray H. Hanson - April 22, 2008 at 12:44 PM

AH

“*I just want you all to know that we are thinging and praying for your entire family at this difficult time. Gary was a teacher that I remember learning a great deal from. He was also a tremendous football coach who was great at teaching the fundamentals of the game and was able to pick up the smallest of tendancies from the opponents. He will be greatly missed.*

Allen Houdek - April 22, 2008 at 12:44 PM

FS

“*Mr. Hamre was a great teacher that many of us will remember. He taught us many things that we continue to use today. Although we may not have agreed all the time, he will be remembered as a teacher who strived for excellence. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his daughters.*

Former Students - April 22, 2008 at 12:05 PM

JP

“ When you work with someone for thirty years you grow very fond of the person. I considered Gary a true friend and it was my pleasure to know him. He was a great teacher and coach. I am very sorry for your loss and it is a loss for many of his fellow teachers.

John Peterick - April 22, 2008 at 12:04 PM

LF

“ Gary will be remember at the Shooting Star as an educator, a mentor and friend. He created a peaceful work enviroment for us all. God Bless the Family of Gary Hamre. Our prayers are with. Sincerely, Liz Anderson

Liz Foster-Anderson - April 22, 2008 at 12:04 PM

AC

“ I just wanted to let the girls know how sorry I am to hear about your dad. I'm sure you are also missing your mom especially at a time like this. I am thinking about you and you are all in my prayers.

Aubrey Carter - April 22, 2008 at 12:03 PM

CG

“ May God's love heal your sorrow, and may His peace replace your heartache with warm & loving memories. We did not know your Dad personally, but with a wonderful daughter like you...we know that he was a good man. Our Sincere Sympathy! Craig, Karen, James & Jon

Craig & Karen Gaasvig - April 22, 2008 at 12:02 PM