



Gary Van Gardner

January 29, 1946 - September 6, 2019

Gary Van Gardner, J.D., age 73, died on Friday, September 6, 2019 and at his daughter's and son-in-law's home in McCalla, Alabama. He was born on January 29, 1946 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana to Van Watt and Margaret (Little) Gardner. He graduated from North Side High School in 1964 and attended the University of St. Francis in Ft. Wayne, Indiana where he received his BS and Master's degrees. In 1988 he received his Juris Doctorate from Birmingham School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama. He married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Rose Lapadot on September 16, 1967. She preceded him in death. Together they had two children. Gary spent his career in international business and traveled the world as an exporter of heavy hydraulic equipment, retiring from the Boeing Company in 2014. Gary also was an adjunct instructor of International Business at the Birmingham Southern College and the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama. Early in his his career he worked in Kenya Africa exporting equipment to expand farming and agriculture. His hobbies included furthering his education, reading, traveling and raising his family. He was a member of several professional organizations and served as the President of the Alabama International Trade Association during the 1980's. His love of history and ancient civilizations led him to understand that to understand the present you must look to the past. He is survived by his daughter, Monica Lynn Gardner and husband Jeffrey Smith; his son, Gregory Ryan Gardner and wife Stacey; grandson, Tristin Van Gardner; sister Cheri Becker (Mark); brother Terry Gardner (Tammy) and two nephews and a niece, their spouses and 8 great nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. CT at McCalla Memorial Funeral Home 4780 Letson Farms Parkway, McCalla, Alabama 35111

Events

SEP **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

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McCalla Memorial Funeral Home

4780 Letson Farms Parkway, McCalla, AL, US, 35111

Comments



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Van Gardner.



September 11, 2019 at 10:08 AM



“ Monica lit a candle in memory of Gary Van Gardner



Monica - September 10, 2019 at 04:56 PM



“ So sorry to hear of cousin Gary's passing. Prayers to the family. He was a good friend and cousin I will miss talking with him. I remember my mother always telling me a story about Gary and green Sox. I think she sent him a pair for his birthday every year till she couldn't any more!
Best wishes to his family.
Cousin Debby Ditson

Debby Ditson - September 08, 2019 at 06:01 PM



“ Gary and Barbara were our closest couple friends for about 47 years. His wife, Barb, was like a sister to me, and Gary was like a brother to me. Through many moves and geographic relocations we always remained close and visited each other in the various locations . My husband , Phil, Gary, and Barb enjoyed many hours and years of fun times filled with love and laughter. Our long time friendship began at Dominion Placeon Craftsbury Circle in Ft. Wayne , Indiana when I walked to the next door apartment and presented our new neighbors with a basket of home baked blueberry muffins. One week later we all went out to dinner at Red Lobster to celebrate Gary's and my mutual birthdays of January 29th. Barb's clever humor kept us in stitches , and Gary's perfect portrayal of John Candy in “ Uncle Buck brought all of us countless hours of hilarious laughter. As the years passed by our friendships with

other couple fell by the wayside, but our unique and cherished friendship with Barb and Gary Gardner continues to grow and remained loyal and constant in our lives. Now I know that Phil, Barb, and Gary are all in Heaven having a happy reunion of laughter and friendship love renewed. It is a lonely feeling to be the last one of the four of us left. There are so many funny stories I would like to share with Greg and Monica, but there is not time or space to do it here. They could fill a book. How happy we were when Gail reappeared in our lives again after Barb's passing. How happy we were that Gail and Gary enjoyed several years of happy travels. Monica, Greg and Gail, and all the family , you are in my thoughts and prayers that the Lord will bring you peace and comfort until you are reunited with Barb and Gary again one day in Heaven.

Tonya Reasoner - September 08, 2019 at 12:37 PM