



Gary E. Carr

August 15, 1932 - February 20, 2021

Walleyes in this area are safer today. Gary Carr, 88 of Fort Dodge, died peacefully at his home on Saturday, February 20th surrounded by family.

Gary was born in Ames, Iowa on August 15, 1932 and graduated from Ames High in 1950. He went on to serve 4 years in the Air Force during the Korean War. After an honorable discharge, he enrolled in Iowa State College. While at Iowa State, he was a member of the swimming team where he lettered.

After graduating, he accepted a teaching/coaching position in the Fort Dodge Community School District. He taught ninth grade history and social studies for 32 years. During that time, he coached swimming/diving, football, and golf, as well as+ hosted a fishing club. He cheered for Phil Michelson, the Cyclones, Jeff Gordon, and was a long-suffering Minnesota Vikings fan. He retired in 1992. In his retirement years he gardened, fished, and played golf. He was a founding member of St. Olaf Lutheran Church's "Oles".

He is survived by his wife of 55 years Karen, son Chad (Trisha) of Fort Dodge and daughter Stacey Carr (Dave Sick) of California and 3 grandchildren, Ashlyn Sick, Drayson Sick and Caden Carr, along with his brother Larry Carr of rural Wisconsin and sister Patsy Heady of Portland, OR. Survivors also included many friends, inlaws and former students he thought of as family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Beverly and Nancy, and brother Bob along with the Little, Hydroelectric & REA dams where he caught the largest walleye of his life, 10 lb/27 inch.

He was known by many titles during his life: Mr. Carr, Coach Carr, husband, dad, uncle, brother, son, golf partner, WALIGUY (his license plate signified), Ole, fishing buddy, friend, and lastly garage sale Gary. He will be missed.

Until then, as Gary would sign off, "tight lines!"

A celebration of life will be at 1pm on Saturday, July 10, 2021 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church with Military Honors by the Air Force and VFW.

Comments



“ Karen, Chad, Stacey. What a wonderful, no, fantastic individual, your husband and father. But, you know that so very well. Gary's teaching is very well reviewed here, so it is my pleasure to go back a ways, a very long way, to the time that Gary and Karen were dating, in the 1960's and that is a long time ago. Gary was managing the family swimming pool, Carr's Swimming Pool, in Ames during the Ft Dodge schools summer vacation period and was living in the big Carr Home at the top of the hill. Gary was so well liked in Ames, one of the "Most Eligible Bachelors" of the town, driving a new Oldsmobile Red and White Delta 88 2 door with the "Rocket V8" Emblem blazon on its side. Gary and his friends hosted almost nightly parties in the back of a downtown establishment where you had better be an excellent pool player, or you had to purchase the pizza. BUT, he met this beautiful girl in Fort Dodge, who was taking care of her mother, and he wanted to spend the summers in Ft Dodge to be with you, Karen. He hired me as a lifeguard, then taught me to be the pool manager while he was in Ft Dodge. Even at that young age, he would catch fish in Skunk River behind the pool, and using the small charcoal grill, have a fresh fish dinner complement of the river. Gary's leadership was based on his personality, and friendship. People gravitated to him, as did I, he knew so much, had been in the Air Force so had that mindset, had a degree from Iowa State, was a teacher, and just a wonderful person. One of the fondest memories was teaching both Gary and you, Karen, to waterski on Little Wall Lake north of Ames. Looking back, there are a handful of individuals that left a mark on my life, and Gary was one of them. He was 10 years my senior, and a role model that was so easy to look up to. He found his love, you, in Fort Dodge, Karen. He talked about this girl that "Was the One." He loved you so much. Gary was not complicated, understood people, how to help them be successful, bring out their best qualities. He gave away so much and asked for so little. He was fun, funny, smart, and compassionate. What a joy to have known Gary Carr. Hundreds and hundreds of people benefited from his wisdom and generosity. RIP, Gary, you made this world a better place. Tom Arthur. twarthur@aol.com

Tom Arthur - August 06, 2021 at 03:29 PM



“ Mr. Carr as I knew him Best was of several things my homeroom teacher in high school for three of four years. He was also my ninth grade history teacher and the guy that my dad and brother fished with as a little damn many times. Gary was always a friend and in my ninth grade year of high school someone who I felt safe around after making the transition from parochial school to public school. He was always a help always a example and a very kind hearted good man! He will always be missed! I always considered him to be one of my favorite teacher And my friend! Paul Brandow class of 93’

Paul Brandow - July 10, 2021 at 11:17 AM



“ I went to university of northern Iowa. Several times when I'd be home to visit my family-I'd also go say hello to Mr Carr, one of my favorite teachers. He knew I was working on my teaching degree & when I walked in to say hi, he always said: “take over the class Karen. I'm going on a short break”. . Fun memories Karen Howick Nesvold

karen nesvold - July 08, 2021 at 06:47 PM



“ Wonderful teacher! Gave me confidence in myself.

Judy VanAlstine - July 09, 2021 at 04:37 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary E. Carr.



July 08, 2021 at 02:30 PM



“ He was one of my favorite teachers. He challenged us and made learning fun. One of my memories is the 'Quote of the Day'.

Kathy Khommanyvong - July 08, 2021 at 06:55 AM



“ Condolences to Karen and family. Gary was a good friend, and I cherish the memories that we shared during our times together. The "Round Table" socializing, the pre-church coffee discussions, church services, after church get-together in the fellowship hall, the Tuesday morning Ole's gathering, tubing the Des Moines river, walleye discussions/stories, and golfing. Gary was "one of a kind." Truly one of the "Good Ole Boys." Best wishes to you Karen, and your extended family. Rick "Ricko" Duneman



Rick Duneman - July 07, 2021 at 12:40 PM



“ Stephanie, Bill, Jill & Pitch. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary E. Carr.



Stephanie, Bill, Jill & Pitch. - July 06, 2021 at 05:34 PM



“ I am in the picture Sue Bartik mentions and am sharing it for her! I was in his class when the announcement was made about JFK. Such a great teacher!! Sue Osterberg Olesen



Sue Olesen - February 27, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ From: Scott, Holly, Quinn and Katelynn Barnard purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Gary E. Carr.



From: Scott, Holly, Quinn and Katelynn Barnard - February 26, 2021 at 02:01 PM



“ Mr Carr was my North Junior High School teacher he was a good instructor and coach
I recall conversations that included mention of the family swimming pool in Ames and I admired his Lincoln Continental.
This past summer during a visit to Fort Dodge I had the opportunity to stop by and visit Mr Carr he had just returned from a fishing trip from his place in Okoboji.
I'm thankful for having known Mr.Carr.

Mark Andersen
Rochester,Minnesota

mark andersen - February 22, 2021 at 08:39 PM



“ The best teacher ever!!! Deb VanGundy

Deb Van Gundy - February 22, 2021 at 08:23 PM



“ Dear Karen - we are so very sorry for your loss; he was such a good man. Heaven has a fine new citizen!

Craig and Lori Gascho - February 22, 2021 at 08:04 PM



“ My Mom, Lucille Larson, has talked to me so many times about Gary and how much she cared and respected him and all he has meant to her personally and to St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Deepest Sympathies to Karen and family from Lucy and all of the Larson family...Heaven has received an amazing Angel in Gary and we thank you for sharing him with us while he was here. Love and Prayers to all you. Lucille Larson

CINDY L MCCARTHY - February 22, 2021 at 08:15 PM



“ Fare-well and thanks to Mr. Carr, a great 9th Grade Social Studies teacher and an encourager through St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Comfort and hope to Karen. Mr. Carr was a great blessing! Denny Hanson

***Denny Hanson** - February 27, 2021 at 10:19 PM



“ good by and thank you to a great coach; a wonderful teacher and true friend.

Kraig Stromberg - February 22, 2021 at 07:45 PM



“ Mr. Carr got me interested in history and social studies from 9th grade on. To this day I have a great need to learn more about both because of Mr. Carr.
Thank You, Mr. Carr
John Baber Class of 1976

JB - February 22, 2021 at 07:40 PM



“ Kraig Stromberg purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Gary E. Carr.



Kraig Stromberg - February 22, 2021 at 07:36 PM



“ Condolences to you Karen and your family. Will surely miss Gary's humorous leadership in the Ole's group at church. Always fun kidding each other. I still have one walleye in the freezer that I received from Gary. Will fix it in his honor, with a cold beverage. May be gone but not forgotten. Best to you and your family. Rick Duneman

Rick Duneman - February 22, 2021 at 06:15 PM



“ Sending love and hugs to the Carr family.He always had a smile to share.-Amy Manternach Green

Amy Green - February 24, 2021 at 06:44 AM



“ On the first day of class, Mr. Carr stood at the doorway, and announced "The squeakiest wheel gets the most grease". We looked dumfounded, and he said, "this is the only time I will repeat it". Next day, we all had our pens and papers ready. My brother just told me it was his exact class where they learned of the Kennedy assassination.

His photo of the two boxers demonstrating "your rights end where another one's begin", left an indelible impression on me. Just referenced it last month, as a matter of fact.

I had the legendary Pearl Swenson as my HR teacher, but we could never compete with "the Broken Drum".

Thanks, Mr. Carr.

John Burnquist - February 22, 2021 at 04:45 PM



“ Mr Carr --- a one of a kind teacher at North Junior High who was top notch in teaching his students how to think and learn.

Also, one heck of a fisherman at the infamous "Pond" with my Dad, Butch Udermann. I don't know who told the best stories about the fish who got away, but they were good ones!

Our sympathies to his family

Kent and Diane (Udermann) McClurg
FDSH Class of 1970
Gainesville Texas

Diane McClurg - February 22, 2021 at 03:01 PM



“ I remember laughing at the jokes and funny stories he would tell at our Ole's meetings at St. Olaf.

Loren Miller - February 22, 2021 at 02:14 PM



“ Mr. Carr was my home room teacher at North. He was kind, funny and used his time wisely. I will always remember winning the spelling bee in home room and the long, hard words he threw at us. My winning word was antidisestablishmentarianism. Thank you for the memories, Mr. Carr. You impacted so many lives. RIP.

Christine Keyser-Fanick - February 22, 2021 at 02:10 PM



“ Gary was the epitome of coolness. I remember laughing at the jokes and funny stories he would tell at our Cole's meetings at St Olay.

See you down the road....Loren Miller

Loren Miller - February 22, 2021 at 02:08 PM



“ Karen, very sorry for your loss. After Mom died, I remember how kind you two were to loan Ramona and me your pickup so we could move some of Mom's furniture to the Rhodes' farm for Shirley's kids. Thinking of you. Sandy (Sime) and Frank Sauer

Sandra Sauer - February 22, 2021 at 01:27 PM



“ Mr. Carr was the best. I loved his class and his quotes. I still remember some of them and still collect quotes. He once told me I'd be a lawyer. I didn't, I became a teacher and thought of him often during my career.

Deb Day - February 22, 2021 at 12:55 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



SCarr - February 22, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ The best 9th grade Social Studies teacher I ever had!! Will think of him every time I make chocolate chip cookies. Thanks for the memories.

mary e moore - February 22, 2021 at 11:39 AM



“ With love, Bill, Stephanie, Jill and Pitch purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary E. Carr.



With love, Bill, Stephanie, Jill and Pitch - February 22, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ Mr. Carr was one of my all time favorite teachers. Each day of class he'd start out with what he called "Mr. Carr's Quotes". He was such a cool guy and made learning so much fun.

Mary Petersen - February 22, 2021 at 09:13 AM



“ one of my all time favorite teacher's he always started the class with a quote that you had to write down. god bless. mike kenney

mike kenney - February 22, 2021 at 06:55 AM



“ Gary will be sadly missed. My best memories are at 45,000 feet with him. Sue & I send our prayers to all of you. God Bless Gary.

Tim & Sue Lippert - February 21, 2021 at 06:26 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



SCarr - February 21, 2021 at 06:07 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



SCarr - February 21, 2021 at 04:17 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



SCarr - February 21, 2021 at 04:03 PM



“ Karen Ruth ans I have been talking about the stste tournaments and all the good times we had st them with you w. He had our respect and love and you and the family are in our prayes. Love to you.

John Marrs - February 22, 2021 at 09:38 PM



“ Mr. Carr was my social studies teacher. I wasn't doing very well in class so he stopped me one day. Don't remember the conversation but it made a difference. This was the time when "Bye, Bye Birdie" was popular. Our potluck group,adapted the ballad: "We love you, Gary, oh yes we do . . ." He honored us at our table for our last day of school that year. Unfortunately I don't know how to attach the picture but it still brings fond memories.

Sue Bartik, Class of 1967

Sue Bartik - February 27, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ In lieu of flowers, if you are so inclined, please make a donation to St. Olaf Lutheran Church or Hospice in Gary's honor.

SCarr - February 21, 2021 at 04:00 PM



“ Everything that has been said by others is so true. I remember the "Broken Drum" and 9th grade social studies. He was a great teacher and was in the right profession as he impacted so many lives in a positive way. You can't do much better than that. Wish we had more Gary Carrs" in this world. As I think back North Junior High had so many great teachers in the 1960s, Walter Lafallotte, Doug Dunsmore, Elaine McKnight and Roger Nattie to name a few. Wayne McMannus

Wayne McMannus - July 09, 2021 at 10:19 AM