



Garry Lee Cunningham, 67, of Faulkton, passed away Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at his home, surrounded by his family.

Garry Cunningham was born March 21, 1946 to John and Evelyn (Alldritt) Cunningham in Aberdeen, SD. He grew up on a farm eight miles south of Mina until he entered first grade, when the family then moved into Mina. In 1959 the family moved to Faulkton, where Garry's dad managed the Faulkton Farmer's Elevator. Some of Garry's first jobs were cleaning filters at the new swimming pool, working at the Faulkton Golf Course, and working for Doyle and Jean Deiter on their farm. His job on the Deiter farm led to a lifelong relationship that will forever be cherished.

He taught at Cresbard School from 1968 to 1974, and he entered Basic Training in the winter of 1969, spending six years in the Army Reserve. In 1970, Garry moved back home to Faulkton and was the Industrial Arts teacher in the Faulkton School from 1974 to 2006. He was also a substitute bus driver during this time.

Sports and children were a large part of Garry's life. He coached midjets, teenagers, and junior legion baseball in Faulkton. Garry felt honored to play in the State Amateur Baseball Tournament held in Renner, SD with a team from Seneca, which also included his dad and brother Dale. Throughout his teaching career, Garry coached boys

basketball, girls basketball, football, and golf for Cresbard and Faulkton Schools. In the winter of 2007, Garry was honored by the SDHSAA for twenty five years of coaching. Then in February 2013, Garry's commitment to sports in the Faulkton Area was recognized with the formal dedication of the "Garry Cunningham Sports Complex", an honor that was humbling to Garry and his family.

Garry had a passion for the game of golf. He began working part-time at Lakeside Country Club when he was in the eighth grade. In 1972, he began his tenure as course manager. He dedicated many hours to managing and improving the golf course, watching it become what it is today. He continued to work at Lakeside Country Club until the fall of 2012, when his health would no longer allow. During this time, he only spent two summers away from the course. Much of the time Garry spent at the golf course also included his family. Irene and Deena were often found cleaning the clubhouse. Irene also kept busy preparing meals while Darin and Brice spent many hours alongside Garry mowing and watering. He also had the privilege of watching his grandchildren become part of the family team. Garry not only loved to work on the course, but he loved to play the game as well. He played countless rounds of golf with his golf partner of thirty-four years, DuWayne Hushka. Garry had the privilege of acing two holes in his golf career.

Garry married Irene Kaatz, his loving wife of forty-four years, in Buchanan, ND on December 28, 1968. To this marriage three children were born: Darin, Brice, and Deena. Garry and Irene raised their children in the community of Faulkton, which will always be home to the entire family. Garry's hobbies included golf, woodworking, cards, bowling, hunting, working at his cabin, and helping people in any way that he could. Much of his spare time after retirement was spent mowing yards for people that needed an extra hand. He was also notorious for cruising around in his tractor and scooping people out after a blizzard. Nothing meant more to Garry than spending time with his grandchildren, whom he deeply loved, and each and every one of them knew it.

Garry is survived by his wife Irene, Faulkton; his sons: Darin (Lara) Cunningham, Yankton, and Brice (Nicole) Cunningham, Faulkton; daughter, Deena Cunningham, Sioux Falls; grandchildren: Jimmie, Jake, and Jordyn; Tyler, Noah, Ally, and Hannah; Carter, Benjamin, Lincoln, and Grant; two brothers: Dale, Colton, SD, and Bob (Leanne), Mina, SD, and sister, Karen (Gary) Hanson, Bloomington, MN.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Evelyn, an infant sister Kathy, sister-in-law Beverly (Becker) Cunningham, brother-in-law Gene Kaatz, and nephew Grant Kaatz.

In Loving Memory Of

Garry Lee Cunningham

March 21, 1946
Aberdeen, South Dakota

June 19, 2013
Faulkton, South Dakota

PRAYER SERVICE: 7:00 p.m., Sunday, June 23, 2013
St. Thomas Catholic Church ~ Faulkton, South Dakota

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL: 11:00 a.m., Monday, June 24, 2013
Faulkton High School Gym ~ Faulkton, South Dakota

OFFICIATING: Fr. James Morgan & Fr. Joji Itukulapati

LECTORS: Lara Cunningham, Laura Cassens, Kelly Aesoph

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Bill Warren & Glenna Clement

ALTAR SERVERS: Jack & Alex Aesoph

OFFERTORY: DuWayne & Diane Hushka

EULOGIST: Roger Deiter

HONORARY BEARERS:

DuWayne Hushka, Glenn Fischer, Darrell Carr, Randy Schraeder,
Roger Deiter, Lee Hansen, Gary Hardie
All of Garry's Golf, Bowling and Card Playing Buddies

USHERS: Chuck Huss & Doug Deiter

MUSICIANS: Chris Hammond & John Cassens

HYMNS:

"Homesick" "On Eagle's Wings"
"Amazing Grace" "I Can Only Imagine"
"Song of Farewell" "Old Rugged Cross"



Faulkton, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

*If Love could have saved you
You would not have died.
If tears could bring you back,
You would be by our side.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone;
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.
God took Garry
And broke the family chain.
But somewhere in a better
Land our chain will link again.*



In Loving Memory



Garry Lee Cunningham
1946 ~ 2013