



Robert Gary Wootten

July 2, 1947 - March 8, 2024

Robert Gary Wootten, 76, of Delmar, devoted husband, brother, uncle, patriot, Yankees fan and friend to so many, passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, March 8, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Gary was born July 2, 1947 in Salisbury, a son of the late James Thomas Wootten and Mary Rosa Lee (Truitt) Wootten.

Gary grew up in Delmar and spent almost his entire life there. He loved baseball since he was a child and it is fitting that he hit the first homerun in the history of the Delmar Little League. He graduated from Delmar High School with the class of 1965. Not long after graduation he took a job with the Hoffman-LaRoche Pharmaceutical Company in Salisbury. In 1966 he was drafted into the US Army and he proudly served his country on the battlefields of Vietnam, until his honorable discharge in August, 1968. Upon returning home to Delmar he was reunited with his high school sweetheart, Jeannie Adkins, and they married on August 14, 1970. He was also reunited with his job at Hoffman-LaRoche, which later became Alparma, then Pfizer. He retired as an assistant manager in 2012 after a total of 46 years with the company. After retirement, Gary worked at the Short Funeral Home in Delmar from 2013 until 2021, when his health started to fail. He was known for greeting those at the door with his warm smile and great hugs.

Gary was a proud and vital part of the Delmar community. He was a dedicated member of the Delmar Fire Department, where he joined on September 20, 1968, and proudly achieved 55 years of active service. He served in many

roles, such as firefighter, engineer, hose foreman, driver, safety officer, asst. chief, Delaware Fire Police and Maryland Fire Police, along with serving on various committees such as the New Firehouse, Historical, Building, Social, Ways & Means, Finance and Christmas committees. He was an active member of Melson Methodist Church and served in many capacities. Gary was fondly nicknamed "The Candy Man" around the church by the children as they always knew Mr. Gary would have a pocketful of candy to hand out. Gary loved to surf fish and enjoyed many trips to the Outer Banks or weekends on the Delaware beaches and other locations to fish and spend time with family and friends. Gary was happiest when spending time with Jeannie, whether it was supporting her in her activities with the DFD Auxiliary, traveling to Lancaster on shopping trips or just eating out at a local favorite restaurant. Family was important to Gary. He supported all of his nieces and nephews in all of their Little League games, school and community activities, concerts, graduations and sporting events. Gary loved well and in return, everyone loved him just as much.

He is survived by his beloved wife and best friend, Jeannie Wootten; brothers, Jimmy Wootten and wife, Charlotte and Tommy Wootten and wife, Gail; a sister, Gail Wootten; a special brother-in-law, Gomer Adkins, who introduced Jeannie to Gary and wife, Debbie; and brothers-in-law, Larry Adkins and wife, Shirley and Freddie Adkins and wife, Suzanne; and many special nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and great-great nieces and great-great nephews, who he treated like they were his own children.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Bill Adkins, and his wife, Mary Jane; and a sister-in-law, Geraldine Bradford, and her husband, George.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Delmar Fire Department, 301 E. Grove Street, Delmar, Delaware, where a fireman's funeral will begin at 2:00. Interment with military honors will follow at St. Stephen's Cemetery in Delmar. The Reverend John Oltman will officiate, assisted by Michael Little, nephew, and Tom Adkins,

DFD Chaplain.

In memory of Gary, contributions may be sent to the Delmar Fire Department, P.O. Box 143, Delmar, DE 19940 or Melson Methodist Church, 32705 Melson Road, Delmar, MD 21875.

The livestream of Gary's service can be found here on Sunday and will start at 2:00 p.m.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Stephen's Cemetery

State Street
Delmar, DE 19940

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Delmar Volunteer Fire Department
301 E Grove St
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2530

Funeral Service

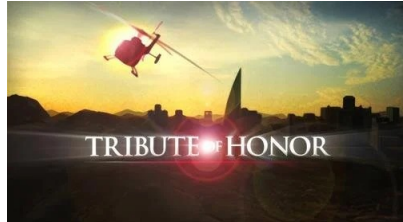
MAR 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

Delmar Fire Department
Delmar, DE 19940

Tribute Wall



“ *Short Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Gary Wootten*



Short Funeral Home - March 17, 2024 at 09:32 AM



“ *Short Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Robert Gary Wootten*



Short Funeral Home - March 14, 2024 at 10:28 PM

JK

“ *So sorry to hear about Gary, we lost a good friend and neighbor. Jeannie our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Jerita and Dale Kenney*

Jerita & Dale Kenney - March 17, 2024 at 11:24 AM

MS

“ Jeannie, We are so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Gary, Rest in Peace my friend. You will be greatly missed at Cardio Rehab.
Ralph & Margaret Ann Smith

Margaret Ann & Ralph Smith - March 15, 2024 at 09:12 PM



“ Spirit - Memorial Globe Candle Holder was purchased for the family of Robert Gary Wootten.



March 15, 2024 at 08:03 PM

PG

“ Penny Glasgow lit a candle in memory of Robert Wootten



Penny Abbott Glasgow - March 14, 2024 at 05:34 PM



“ 264 files added to the album LifeTributes



Short Funeral Home - March 14, 2024 at 05:23 PM

AM

“ I only recently reconnected with Gary through some Delmar H.S. class of 65 luncheons. Each time I was sitting next to or near Gary. I was very impressed with what a wonderful man he became. It was my honor to get to know him. Rest in peace with the Lord.
Audrey McClaine

Audrey M Marie McClaine - March 13, 2024 at 06:53 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Robert Gary Wootten.



March 13, 2024 at 06:38 AM

DE

“ Donna & Franklin Eure planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Gary Wootten.

Donna & Franklin Eure - March 13, 2024 at 06:38 AM

MW

“ There's so much that can be said for Gary. The obituary is a beautiful tribute to the man he was...honorable, kind and caring. I'm so very thankful that he and Jeannie had each other to share their love and lives. They were both very dear childhood friends/family to me and my heart cracked with grief on Sunday. I pray that Jeannie will be comforted by the countless adventures and joys they shared. I know their families will be there to support her. Heaven definitely has another angel.

Margie Gratto Wilson - March 12, 2024 at 08:06 PM

BA

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Gary's passing, many memories of not only growing up across the street from Gary and his family but serving along side of him in the DFD. Please know that both my wife Twila and I share our thoughts and prayers with you and family at this time of sorrow.
Bryan & Twila Adkins

Bryan Adkins - March 12, 2024 at 02:21 PM

JH

“ Jeannie, I'm so sorry to hear of Gary's passing.. sending you lots of prayers for strength and comfort.. 🙏🙏🙏

Joanne Hearn - March 12, 2024 at 01:56 PM

DW

“ *Dan & Robin Wanamaker purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Gary Wootten.*



Dan & Robin Wanamaker - March 12, 2024 at 12:26 PM

JS

“ *Jeannie, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time.*
Jeanette Sheffield

Jeanette Sheffield - March 12, 2024 at 11:41 AM

VR

“ *Jeannie, We send our deepest heartfelt sympathy to you on the passing of your devoted husband Gary. He was a good man and one of God's people. Gary will be missed by many who came within his presence. Our love to you. Audrey and Vernon Rivers*

Vernon Rivers - March 12, 2024 at 10:05 AM

TM

“ *Rest In Peace my friend. I will always remember our last visit. We talked about your guys 30 day road-trip trip you took. You brought out the picture album and we talked about the places you guys went. You were happy and smiling. It is a wonderful memory I have. Thank you for being you! Strong prayers for Jeannie.* 🙏

Tracy Moore - March 12, 2024 at 08:27 AM

JB

“ *Was such a a great person. Always enjoyed talking about fishing and the Yankees. Always met you with that big smile he had. Will be greatly missed.*

James Bare - March 11, 2024 at 09:01 PM

PL

“ *My name is polly I worked at delmar mcdonalds I loved seeing Gary and his wife Jeannie come and visit me at McDonald's I care about Gary and Jeannie I rally going to miss Gary. With my prayers Jeannie and the family.*

Polly lewis - March 11, 2024 at 05:15 PM

KR

“ *Kenneth Ralph lit a candle in memory of Robert Wootten*



Kenneth A Ralph - March 11, 2024 at 01:19 PM

C(

“ *My classmate and friend. Your dedication to the Delmar Fire Dept. Your kindness. Be missing you at reunion dinners. Prayers tou you Jeannie and family. Sincerely. Cindy (Gravenor) Parks*

Cindy (Gravenor)Parks - March 10, 2024 at 11:31 PM

KH

“ *Love and Peace*
Karl and Kay Short-Habig Delmar, De.



Kay Habig - March 10, 2024 at 01:19 PM

KH

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Gary. Karl and I are sending our sympathy to you Jeannie and all of your Family and so many Friends that Loved Gary. He will surely be missed.*
Love and Prayers, Karl and Kay Short-Habig Delmar, De.

Kay Habig - March 10, 2024 at 01:17 PM