



Gary D. Niebur

September 13, 1955 - May 2, 2020

Gary D. Niebur, 64, peacefully passed away at 12:40 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2020, at his home. He was born on September 13, 1955, in Wood River, Illinois, the son of Melvin and Edna (Huelsman) Niebur. He married Debra Werden on July 15, 1983, at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville, Illinois, and she survives. He is also survived by daughters Ashley (Josh) Sharp, Amanda Niebur and Abby Niebur; son Andrew Niebur; grandchildren Blair and Brady Sharp; brother Randy (Jo) Niebur; sister Jan (Mark) Muckensturm; sister Gail (Roy) Eagle; brother Mark Niebur; and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family. Gary was preceded in death by his father, Melvin Niebur. Gary frequently shared fond memories of growing up on Dunlap lake, where he and his siblings enjoyed a childhood of fishing, swimming and outdoor activity. Gary grew to love the game of baseball and lifelong friendships stemmed from his many summers spent playing Little League and Legion Post 199 baseball. He loved to recount the story of his homerun hit that made its way all the way from the ball field to the LeClaire water tower. As a teenager, Gary began his career with the City of Edwardsville by doing lawn maintenance for the Parks and Recreation Department and took pride in his office underneath the LeClaire bandstand. His dedication to the City only grew from there, and in 1985 he was elected to the city council, where he spent 8 years as alderman. In 1993, Gary began his first term of Mayor of the City of Edwardsville, a position he held for 20 years. In 1982, Gary began his career as Chief Executive Officer of the Edwardsville YMCA. He established the YMCA financial assistance scholarship program to ensure that every resident could participate in YMCA programming, regardless of their ability to pay. Under his leadership, the organization grew steadily in membership, expanded to three locations and achieved record levels of private donations to fund capital improvements by the time of his retirement in 2018. Gary was active in multiple organizations including the Edwardsville Rotary Club, Illinois Municipal League, Anderson Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, Greater Edwardsville Area Foundation, First Cloverleaf Bank Board of Directors and Metro East Park and Recreation District, among others. Over the years, Gary was the recipient of numerous community service awards and accolades, including: Jaycees Ten Outstanding Young Persons in the State of Illinois; Rotary Club International Paul Harris Fellowship Award; the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award; SIUE Religious Center

Interfaith Award; and the Edwardsville Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award. Upon his retirement, the Edwardsville YMCA Board of Directors named the ESIC facility the Niebur Center in his honor.

Through his time with the city and the YMCA, Gary cultivated countless friendships that lasted a lifetime, and he truly cherished each and every one of them, keeping in regular contact with friends from all walks of life. Gary loved last minute road trips with anyone that would ride along, most frequently visiting Lake of the Ozarks and Miramar Beach, Florida. He often bragged about the peak of his golf career, winning the 1995 Sunset Hills Member Guest Championship with his dear friend Gordon Broom. Anyone that had the pleasure of being seated next to Gary at a social gathering was guaranteed to have an entertaining evening of laughter and story telling. Most of all, Gary loved to bring people together and put a smile on the faces of all those around him. Private family services will be held at Weber Rodney Funeral Home. Gary will be buried at Calvary Catholic Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the Edwardsville YMCA. A public celebration of Gary's life will be held at a later date.

Cemetery

Calvary Catholic Cemetery

2910 S. State Route 157

Glen Carbon, IL, 62034

Comments



“ Dear Debbie, Ashley, Amanda, Abby and Andrew: On behalf of the SIUE Family we share in your loss of Gary. “Mr. Mayor” as he was affectionately known on the SIUE campus will be celebrated for his love of family, a deep sense of loyalty to his City and a commitment to building an enduring City-Campus partnership. He was, indeed, not only a colleague but also a friend and for that friendship he will be remembered fondly for the gentle soul that he was. We hope that you all find, peace, strength and comfort in the fond memories and joyous moments of an extraordinary person.

Nobby Emmanuel - May 07, 2020 at 01:11 PM



“ Thirty years is a long time to be friends. As quickly as we knew each other, you're gone. I will miss you my friend. Godspeed!

Jim Grandone - May 06, 2020 at 08:00 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of this wonderful guy. He was such a kind man who made you feel as though you were someone special. He gave so much to Edwardsville and the YMCA. He helped me out years ago allowing me to work part-time at the Y.
I am so sorry Debby, children and grandchildren. Know that you all had one of the very best, he was someone quite special who will be missed by many. My heart goes out to you his wonderful family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Kathi Shannon

Kathi Shannon - May 05, 2020 at 03:03 PM



“ I was honored to call Gary "Mr. Mayor", but proud to call Gary my friend. Edwardsville has never had a better Mayor and his love for his home town lives on today. RIP Gary you did well here.

Chris - May 05, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ A dear human being, a capable and admired individual. He gave so much to his community and was a bright light to his friends. Gary always made you feel as if you were the most special person around. He was witty and charming, sensitive and beloved, and had a great sense of humor. He gave to any effort he worked on insight, energy, intelligence, and a remarkable ability to execute his many dreams, plans and strategies -- all to the good of community. He was devoted to Debby and his family, and ecstatic about being a grandfather. One thing not mentioned in what I've read about Gary - he served as Treasurer of the Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors for longer than anyone who ever held the office. He is deeply and sadly missed. Judy Nelson, Director, Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors

judith nelson - May 05, 2020 at 11:30 AM



“ You greatly missed and I not had to reconnect with you since I recently moved back to town. Prayers are being said.

Amy Foster - May 05, 2020 at 10:35 AM



“ My condolences to your family! I had the privilege of getting to know Gary while I worked at Inlandesign. He was a great guy and always made me smile. He will be missed!

Cheryl Noll - May 05, 2020 at 10:07 AM



“ Dear Debby and family,
It was my privilege to have served with Gary at RB board. He was always smiling and giving. I am so sorry to lose such a great man for you all and we Edwardvilians!
Sympathies and prayers,
Debbie Evans

Debbie Evans - May 04, 2020 at 07:12 PM



“ Such a kind and supportive person- former teacher at Columbus school

Gaileen Hoenig - May 04, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ Dear Debbie and family,
My heart goes out to you and the children. Feel my hug!
Susie(Hamlin)Welden

Susan Welden - May 04, 2020 at 02:15 PM