



Gary W. Books

March 1, 1946 - February 1, 2008

Gary W. Books, 61, of Ossian, a columnist for the News-Banner, died Friday, Feb. 1 at 5:15 p.m. at Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis. Death was due to acute myelogenous leukemia.

Born March 1, 1946 in Bluffton to Virgil L. and Marjorie (Kreigh) Books, he is survived by a son, Jeremy L. (Tracie) Books of Indianapolis, a grandson Peyton Books and his former wife, Lana (Johnloz) Books.

Also surviving are two sisters, Joyce Books and Elaine Keys, both of Ossian and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a sister, Marcia Lynne Books, who died in 1953 at the age of 11 from leukemia.

Mr. Books was a 1964 graduate of Lancaster High School. He also attended the Indiana University School of Journalism and served with the U.S. Army as a Ranger during the Vietnam War.

He was a recipient of four Purple Hearts during his combat service in Vietnam. He was a guest speaker at many local schools in recent years, bringing slide presentations of Vietnam telling of his experiences in the Vietnam War.

An accomplished journalist, Mr. Books had previously worked in advertising and marketing at The New Castle Courier Times and Fort Wayne Newspapers, and the News-Banner. He was sports editor of the News-Banner from 1970 to 1977 and after retiring from FWN had worked at the Bluffton newspaper on a part-time basis, assisting in advertising and sports writing as well as writing a weekly human interest column entitled "By the Books."

He was a member of Sigma Pi Fraternity, American Legion Post 111 and a

former member of the First Presbyterian Church, having served on the Board of Elders. He served on the Ossian Revitalization committee and also coached PAL Club basketball in Bluffton for 10 years.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home with Pastor Bud Abrams officiating.

Calling will be on Tuesday from 1 to 8 p.m. and for one hour prior to services on Wednesday.

Burial will be at Elm Grove Cemetery with military graveside rites by American Legion Post 111 and the U.S. Army Honor Guard.

Preferred memorials are to the Leukemia Foundation or the American Legion Honor Guard.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary W. Books*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Gary W. Books*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Gary's death. We worked together at FWN for many years and he was my first boss. He was a wonderful man, always had a laugh and a smile on his face. He was so easy to talk to about anything. He will be missed by allot of friends and by me. So sorry for your lost.##imported-begin##Debby Miller##imported-end##*

February 13, 2008 at 11:38 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. We were friends for many years--in the same confirmation class at First Presbyterian Church and classmates throughout the years at Lancaster Central. He was good at writing and journalism even in high school. He was our class president and a quiet and polite, but strong leader. I remember well the arrangements we made to place a wreath on President Kennedy's grave during our senior class trip to Washington DC. Even at 18 he had a strong sense of patriotism. His sense of humor was known by everyone that spent time with him! He was a gentleman, scholar, good with his hands, free with his heart, and a delightful person to know. The past few years I have had the pleasure of hearing him speak to the students at Snider High School about his experiences in Viet Nam. There was never a dry eye in the crowd when he finished telling his stories. It was wonderful for the young people to hear it and a sacrifice for Gary to spend so much time and energy educating them.

He will be greatly missed by many other people in addition to his family. With deepest sympathy--Janet Hunt Hawley##imported-begin##Janet (Hunt) Hawley##imported-end##

February 07, 2008 at 12:44 AM



“ *Jeremy*

You don't know me and i'm sure you have met alot of people this week that you didn't know. Your mother and I are friends. I never met your dad but I always enjoyed reading the paper when he had an piece in it (what a story teller). I have been under the weather this week so I couldn't make it up to pay my respects to you and your family. I have heard all about you and your son from from your mom boy is she proud of you guys!

Sorry for your loss,

Kurt Gentis##imported-begin##Kurt Gentis##imported-end##

February 06, 2008 at 01:12 PM



“ *I had the opportunity to be Gary's classmate for 12 years at Lancaster. Gary was always the leader no matter what the activity. He excelled through out our school years, and when the teacher was not looking he could be a bit ornery. After relocating to the West Coast I always enjoyed keeping up with Gary's writing especially "By The Books". I would like to let his family know how much I appreciate Gary's service to our country. My wife and I are saddened by his passing, but treasure the time we had together.##imported-begin##Don Easley##imported-end##*

February 05, 2008 at 11:27 PM



“ *May Gary rest in the Adytum on high with his fraternal brothers and his brothers in arms. God Bless them all.*

A Brother in Sigma Pi##imported-begin##Mike Dietz##imported-end##

February 05, 2008 at 09:14 PM



“ *Jeremy,
I am real sorry for your loss. I think it is a great tribute to Gary that all the pictures are posted and we can watch and laugh a little at some funny memory we have of your dad and shed a tear because we are sad he is gone. The good news is that you will always have those wonderful memories. I am sure you handled his illness and passing with dignity and you have honored him by doing that. After the grieving subsides, you will be amazed at the amount of times you will think about your dad and the smiles that it will bring you.##imported-begin##Joe Johnson##imported-end##*

February 05, 2008 at 07:56 PM



“ *I just wanted to extend my sympathy to Gary's family and write briefly of my association with Gary. He was my boss, as Classified Manager, at Fort Wayne Newspapers but more importantly a friend. It was a pleasure to work for such a respected, good natured, fair man but my fondest memories will be of the wonderful story-telling, mischievous-look in his eye, fantastic cook, (and so much more) kind-of-guy that I and several other co-workers came to know. He was a very special person.
Karin Oliver##imported-begin##Karin Oliver##imported-end##*

February 05, 2008 at 03:35 PM



“ *Jeremy, I'm sorry to hear about your fathers passing. He was always very kind and generous and made me feel very welcome while in his home. My family's thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Bryan Byerly ##imported-end##*

February 05, 2008 at 08:44 AM



“ It was a pleasure to visit with Gary at our 40th Lancaster high school class reunion and to hear about all of his accomplishments. I am saddened at the news of his passing. My prayer is for peace and comfort for his family.##imported-begin##Rodger Fulton##imported-end##

February 05, 2008 at 06:53 AM



“ Gary was a class act. He always had a twinkle in his eye like he was up to something. I always enjoyed reading his By the Books articles when we lived in Bluffton. And we would still keep up with them after we moved. I feel privileged to have walked along life's path with Gary. He will be missed by all who have know him and his shining spirit. A classmate from the class of 1964.##imported-begin##Ruthann Kyle##imported-end##

February 04, 2008 at 10:41 PM



“ Elaine,

I was so sorry to hear about Gary's passing. He was such a great guy. You have my deepest sympathy.

Sandy##imported-begin##Sandy (Newhard) Lorenz##imported-end##

February 04, 2008 at 02:25 PM



“ Uncle Gary and Family; We were home from CO. in December and had lunch with Gary. It was great to see him! He always made us laugh. Gary was very good to us 4 Barrick girls when we were little. We all will keep his memory alive by telling all the stories of funny things Gary did. It saddens us to know his life was shortened because of the time he spent in Viet Nam fighting for our country. Gary has written many articles that we have all enjoyed over the years. I hope his wonderful son Jeremy Books will share all these stories with his sweet little boy Peyton. He will be missed in our family. We are sorry we won't make the services in IN. The Byerly's###imported-begin##Vicki, Kirt, Maxx, Jack, Byerly###imported-end##

February 04, 2008 at 11:44 AM



“ My sympathy goes out to his family. Gary you will be missed, thank you for your kindness and generosity and your great sense of humor.###imported-begin##Bridgett Miller###imported-end##

February 04, 2008 at 09:22 AM



“ We are so very saddened at the news of Gary's death. Our many memories of Gary will always be with a smile because of his incredible sense of humor and remarkable ability to make the immediate area around him and the world a better place because of his presence. He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him, and those who had not yet enjoyed the pleasure of making his acquaintance, well, they will never know just how very much they have missed. Gary was truly a one-of-a-kind guy who definitely made his friends better people just by being himself. When someone who is loved becomes a memory, the memory becomes a wonderful treasure. Rex and Billy Kreigh##imported-begin##Rex and Billy Kreigh##imported-end##

February 03, 2008 at 10:16 PM



“ My prayers are with the family members of Gary Books. He was my Classified Manager at Fort Wayne Newspapers and I truly enjoyed working for and with Gary. The world has lost one great guy. He is now in a much better place though. I will miss him and his smiling face.

Sincerely,

Deb Campos##imported-begin##Deb Campos##imported-end##

February 03, 2008 at 09:34 PM