



Gary Drown

March 4, 1940 - February 18, 2011

Gary L. Drown, 70, of Kearney died Friday, February 18, 2011 at his residence. A memorial mass will be 10:30 AM, Monday February 28, 2011 at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney. The Rev. Joe Hannappel will officiate. Interment will be held at a later date. A vigil will be 7PM, Sunday Feb. 27th at the church. Memorials are suggested to Harmony Foundation International (also available at www.harmonyfoundation.org). On-line condolences may be submitted to osafh.com. O'Brien Straatmann Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. He was born March 4, 1940, in Ravenna to Gerald and Florence (Wieczorek) Drown. He graduated from Ravenna High School in 1958, and then attended the University of Nebraska, Kearney State College, and Colorado State University. On June 26, 1965, he married Judith K. Graham in Fort Collins, CO. He worked in Plattsmouth as a game biologist for the Game Commission. Then he moved his young family to Scottsbluff where he worked as a sports broadcaster and in radio and building sales for 19 years. Moving to Kearney in 1990, he worked in cable TV sales and most recently as the head of his own independent advertising business, AdCo. He was a member of St. James Catholic Church and served as a song leader. A lifelong music lover, he was also a member of the 1733 Barbershop Chorus, The Sugar Valley Singers, and many barbershop quartets through the years, particularly the Chordial Celebration and Patent Pending. In addition, he was a past member of Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. And never losing his love of the outdoors and being active, he was a member of Ducks

Unlimited and Pheasants Forever, and he enjoyed racquetball, hunting, fishing, golfing, and bird watching as well. Survivors include his wife of 45 years; son Darin and his wife, Jenny, of Aurora, CO; daughter Dana Dee Johnson and her husband Mitch, of Aurora, CO; and grandchildren Colin and Mary Drown and Jady, Jennica, and Jeron Johnson, all of Aurora, CO. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Shirley.

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Drown

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ To The Gary Drown Family... My Deepest Sympathy...I so enjoyed knowing Gary...Hearing his Quartets...And also his "MC" work at Barbershop Shows..He will be missed by many chapters and the 1733 Chorus...Rod Heldenbrand, Council Bluffs, IA. Former Member of the Hays "High Plains" Chapter in Hays, KS and former member of the "Priarie Statesmen" Chapter in McCook, NE

Rod Heldenbrand - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM



“ We always loved seeing Gary [or hearing some whistling] comming to our shop. He had a way of making everyons day better. Sure going to miss him comming around.

Bob Schaefer/Eustis Body Shop - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

PW

“ Judy and members of the Drown family- You have all been in my thoughts and prayers the past week. I know Gary of course from Barbershoppers as well as his advertising business and work with KGFW-AM prior to my retirement. I have also shared many "old broadcaster" stories with him. can honestly say i have never met such a gentleman-such wit, humor and genuine compassion (and voice!!)-a REAL person whom everyone enjoyed being around. I am glad his pain and suffering are now over but I, along with you, feel he left us too soon. But, apparently, another GREAT TENOR VOICE was needed in Heaven!! May your and his faith sustain you during these difficult days.

Paul Wice - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

CL

“ Judy, Darin, Dana and Families, Our sincere sympathy to you. Gary will be remembered forever for his contributions to barbershopping and his expertise as a chorus and quartet member. Patent Pending won't be the same, but I pray that someone will do his best to take Gary's place. I will see you Monday. May the Lord sustain you in your loss and sorrow. -Cliff

Clifford Lowell - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

LM

“ Attending or participating in any of the barbershop harmony functions was made more enjoyable for me if Gary was present and especially if he was performing. He brought a special life to his quartets and chorus! I loved watching him direct and his love of the performance was contagious. He was a special person and I will miss him. I am sorry for your great loss. In Christ's love, Lee Martin Marshall

Lee Marshall - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DS

“ Judy and family, you have all been in our prayers; praying for comfort and strength for all. Gary is now at peace with his Lord and Savior and has already formed a barbershop chorus and is also blowing his pitch pipe. We wish we had known Gary longer than what we did. Love and hugs, Dave and Elaine Bella Vista, AR

Dave & Elaine Schurman - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JA

“ We send our sympathies to Gary's family. We will miss our friend who brought so much joy to us through his singing, his wit and his style. May the Lord bless and keep you in His hand.

Jim and Audrey - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

TF

“ We are thinking of all of you and keeping you in our prayers. What an amazing life Gary had and what an incredible family. Gary left so many with great memories of his laughter, music, and chilli :)

The Kelly Family - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

LB

“ Dana: I used to work with you at Jon Berlin's office many "moon ago!" Saw your Dad's obituary, and having recently loosing my own father, immediatly wanted to contact you and let you know how sorry I am for you and your family. Loosing your Dad is tough, but the memories will get you through the tough times. Take Care of each other! :)

Lynette Bogus - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DR

“ Judy and family, I'm so sorry to learn of Gary's death. When I lived in Kearney, Gary and I were friends. I was in the pizza business and Gary was a terrific idea man who helped us be successful through his talented ability to promote our business through television advertising. It was always a pleasure to visit with him, whether for business or just over a cup of coffee. What a vibrant and positive person he was. Gary graced our family with his musical talent when he sang at my mother's funeral. I feel privileged to have known Gary as a friend and colleague.

Dave Raymond - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

VV

“ Dear Mrs. Drown and Family, I was so sorry to learn of Gary's passing. I am a native of Ravenna and remember his family. My sympathies to all of you. He was a good man. Sincerely, Valerie Vierk

Valerie Nolda Vierk - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

PS

“ What a wonderful man Gary was. He was always there -- not once did he not know me. It is hard to believe that his smile will no longer be there to welcome me. I know that your faith in God will pull your family through this very challenging part of your lives. It is great that your family was always in great harmony - and it will be that way again. I just want to thank you for sharing him with everyone. He has touched many lives - mine being one of them.

Pat Schoone - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DR

“ Very sorry to hear of Gary's illness and passing. What a great guy, great broadcaster and faithful member of St. Agnes Church in Scottsbluff. To all of you my deepest sympathy. Please know you are all loved.

Dennis Ernest, KNEB Radio - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DK

“ To the Drown Family, I worked with Gary in the mid-70's at KOLT doing news, and he has always been among of the warm memories of that time period. I remember his infectious laugh, big smile and daily enthusiasim for life as we were living it. Since leaving the Bluffs we hadn't had contact, but I still considered him to be one of the friends I will someday cross paths with once again and with a brief "catching up" period, the friendship would resume. Please know that your loss is felt by all of us, and you are with us in our thoughts and prayers.

David King - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

BE

“ Darin & Jenny, You are in my heart and prayers. I pray for you to find joy in your dad's memories and strength in your faith. Love, Brenda

Brenda Elifrits - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

BR

“ We will miss that voice,singing, and twinkle in his eye. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Know that as you go thru this time you are surrounded by the support of many.

Brenda and Larry Rainwater - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

EW

“ To Gary's loving family, It is a grave sorrow to lose a loved one - and it is so for your larger Barbershop family as well. Gary was a shining light for all of us who knew him, and his terrific sense of humor will be missed here on earth, but I'm sure he will shine in heaven. Thank you for sharing him. With sympathy, Ed Watson and all the members of Barbershop Harmony Society.

Ed Watson - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

GC

“ Judy, Darin and Dana, Gary was a huge part of Ford's (my son) life. and also mine. He worked with Ford to be a lead singer and because of this, music is a big part of Ford's life. Gary came out to Amherst and talked me into singing with the 1733 chorus. It was a big part of my life as well. He was a teacher as well as all the other mentioned attributes. He will be missed but not forgotten.

Grant Clark - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

MS

“ Darrin & Family, Since I joined Barbershop in 1985, I have had the pleasure to listen to, learn from, sing with and have a great laugh with Gary's quartets (and Darrin's). I thank you for sharing such a wonderful talent with the rest of the world. We are very sorry for your loss and will keep you and the family in our thoughts and prayers. May God surround you with his Love and Peace and Strength. You are also surrounded by many friends (I'm sure).

Mike, Linda & Stacy Schumacher - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

VD

“ I was saddened to learn about Gary. I always admired him for his enthusiasm, sense of humor and, of course, his musical contributions. My condolences to Gary's entire family.

Vera Dulaney - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

TJ

“ Gary created lots of FUN memories for anyone that was around him. My memories are all based upon Barbershop singing with Gary at Scottsbluff in the Sugar Valley Singers. Garys easy smile will be missed.

Terry Jessen - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DW

“ I have known Gary for many years. I first met Gary in Scottsbluff at a barbershop meeting and I know that he will be sorely missed around the Barbershop Harmony Society. His, and the antics of other members of my favorite barbershop quartet, Chordial Celebration, will always be remembered. Darin, you had a special father that will long be remembered by many. God Bless the Drown family. David and Maryann Waddell

David Waddell - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

EA

“ Darin- So sorry to hear about the loss of your father. You and your family are in my prayers. Love, Erika

Erika (Strasser) Albin - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

GG

“ Judy, I played a lot of racquetball and enjoyed Gary, who stayed busy with so many interests. Not ordinarily a fan of barbershop, he made me appreciate it. He will be missed by all who knew him. Gary

Gary Gillaspy - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

BG

“ To Judy and the Drown Family, Gary was always larger than life... it is hard to believe he is gone. I will miss his confident strut and his whistling tune. His enthusiasm for life was contagious. He had more friends than he ever knew he had and I was proud to call him mine. He crammed more "life" into even the last 10 years than most people do in a lifetime. His life is certainly one to be celebrated!
Sincerely, Brian

Brian Gnuse - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

NB

“ Judy and family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I got to know Gary as I traveled with him when I sang with Patent Pending. He taught me much about barbershopping. He was good with people and always had a smile for them. He will be greatly missed.

Neil Berke - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

BM

“ Rest in peace Gary. I really enjoyed knowing you and I appreciated that you let me into your Friday afternoon golf outings. God Bless.

Bob Marr - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JF

“ My deepest sympathy to Gary's family. Jesus Christ promises a global resurrection. (John 5:28,29) His loving heavenly Father, Jehovah assures us that He will end death, pain, tears and mourning. God cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

Jimmie Ferguson - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

PO

“ Judy, my deepest sympathy. I always enjoyed the time I spent with Gary. We played a lot of raquetball together and although he was competitive he made sure we had fun. I will miss him and cant imagine your loss. God Bless you and your family. Paul

Paul O"Connell - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

BF

“ Gary had that rare combination of talent and humor that entertained literally thousands of people over the years. He leaves a wonderful legacy that will be carried on with his talented children. I will always be grateful that he was very complimentary and respectful to me. He will defininitely be missed.

Bill Foster - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

MS

“ Judy, Darin and Family - We lost a dear friend and share your sorrow at this difficult time. Gary was loved and admired by many. The Barbershop Harmony Society and Central States District will take a long time to recover from this one. He was one, cool man!
Mike Scott

Mike Scott - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DT

“ *The Barbershop world has lost a great friend. My heart has been heavy ever since I heard of Gary's passing. I have so enjoyed knowing him the past several years as his quartet sang on shows that I was also a part of here in South Dakota. He was always so gracious and fun to be with, and always greeted me as a friend. I know he loved to come up here to South Dakota to hunt as well. I will miss seeing him and singing with him whenever I attend Central States District events. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and dear friends. God Bless You, Gary, and thanks for sharing your love of life with me.*

Dean Trapp - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

BL

“ *Sympathy & prayers for the Drown Family. We only met Gary a couple of times when he and some of the other familie members were with Storm Front and enjoyed visiting with him. He was so proud of Darren and it showed in his eyes. Best wishes and blessings to the family.*

Bob Lile - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DO

“ *We are sincerely sorry for your loss. He was a great man and an incredible father, testified by his son and many achievements. He will be sorely missed. Our prayers and thoughts will be winging their way to you.*

David and Kristine Orr - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DS

“ Judy, Darin & Family; We are so sorry to learn of your loss. We have many great memories of Gary at many Barbrshop functions. He was a good friend and we will miss him greatly. The District and Society have lost a true gentleman and an extremely talented individual. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Dale & Sue Schulz - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

LE

“ We will miss Gary very much, I always enjoyed seeing him on stage with his quartet. "Patent Pending", many times they had me laughing so hard I almost cried. Our thoughts and prayers go to Judy and the rest of the family. Gary is now in the chorus of well loved barberhop brothers, including LaMar's dad Dwight Elliott-1955 International champs-Four Hearsmen

LaMar & Vonnita Elliott - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

GT

“ Darin, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. Let your fond memories with your father, and the support of loved ones get your through each day.

Greg Thiel - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

PW

“ Judy and family- Our thoughtsd and prayers are with you and your family during your time of loss. There must have been an urgent need for another voice in Heaven's Barbershpper Chorus and Garey was tapped to be that voice.

Paul and Dee Wice - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JK

“ Dear Judy, Jake and I just learned a week ago that Gary was ill. We are so very sorry for your loss. He was such a nice, happy-go-lucky kind of guy. He has been missed in Scottsbluff since you moved away....he will be missed by many more now. May he rest in peace and may God be with your and your family during this difficult time. Joanne and Jake Krieg, Scottsbluff

Joanne Krieg - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

TF

“ So sad to hear of Gary's passing. Valentine's just won't be the same without his wonderful singing. He will be missed! What a wonderful life he has lived and what wonderful children he has left us with to continue on in sharing his talents! You will be missed! Thank you for sharing your love of music with us all!

The Snider Family - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

MW

“ Judy and Family, My heart, love and prayers go out to you in this very difficult time. Gary is leading and singing with the angels. He will be greatly missed by many because he was so very loved by many. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything. Hugs and kisses to you all - Marci

Marci Walker - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

GC

“ Thanks Gary, for all you have done for Barbershop harmony. you will be greatly missed.

Glen Chingren - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

RS

“ Thank You for sharing this news. I trust those closest to you (family and friends) remain supportive and encouraging. Also know that your "barbershop family" is saddened with you for your loss and pray Almighty God will extend to you what is needed most. All the best.

Richard Schlaegel, SLD - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

RA

“ Sending our prayers. May God's love surround you. -Mark and Rachel (Wilson) Adams

Rachel Adams - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

CE

“ Keeping everyone in our thoughts and prayers.

Cindy and David Ellis - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

BB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Losing a parent is never easy but with family and friends we're sure with God's help you'll celebrate his life with great memories. Our prayers are with you and your family.

Bill and Cathie Billings - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JM

“ I'm very sorry for your loss, Darin. Your Dad was a wonderful man. Condolances from the Hays High Plains Chapter, Hays Ks.

James Michaelis - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JB

“ Dear Drown Family; So Sorry for your loss. Mr. Drown raised a wonderful son that has thrilled many with his musical talents and has fostered many others in the musical field. Godspeed in your healing knowing your father is in Glory now. Fellow barbershoppers from Florida; The Billings

Jim & Jodi Billings - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DO

“ Gary, rest in peace. Your mission of bringing happiness and pleasure to so many people through your unbelievable talent of singing and sharing your musical gifts in your lifetime has come to an end. But rest assured, the memories will last forever. How sorely we will miss you--just know that the tears we shed will be tears of love. Your dedication and inspiration will always be locked in our hearts. Jan and Don Blank

DonBlank - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

KO

“ In my 27 years of BHS membership, I have had the pleasure of meeting and associating with many wonderful guys. Not one was finer than Gary. Learning of his passing brought tears to my eyes. He cannot be replaced and will be greatly missed by many people. God bless him and his family. - keith owen, Cody Choraliers

Keith Owen - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

RM

“ We both had the privilege of interacting with Gary in barbershopping over many years. He epitomized the term "a class act". He freely shared his God-given musical...and comedic...talent with all and encouraged others in bringing joy to others as well. The barbershopping community has had a great loss with his passing. Godspeed, Gary!

Ron and Jayne Morden - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

RW

“ Darin, I know you know this but the world is a little less bright without your dad in it! Thinking of you and your family! Randy

Randy Weir - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

GW

“ Judy, our deepest sympathies to you and your family. We hope that the many wonderful memories of Gary will be a treasure and comfort to you in the coming years. Praying for God's blessings for you and your family. Gary and Maria weddel

Gary and Maria Wedel - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

CS

“ Drowns: I am so sorry to learn of your loss. Please know that I am thinking about you all and praying for you and your comfort in your time of grief. Rest assured I will send my warmest thoughts to you on the day of the funeral. Know that you are loved and being thought of.

Cindy Schlicht - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM