



Dr. Gari Lee Lynn

February 7, 1948 - September 8, 2020

Dr. Gari Lee Lynn of Pulaski passed away Tuesday morning, September 8, 2020, at his home in Giles County. He was born on February 7, 1948 in South Bend, Indiana and was 72 years old.

Gary received his Bachelor's Degree in Government and History from Indiana University in 1969 and his Doctorate in Adult Supervision from Tennessee State University in 1992. He taught 41 years in the Lawrence County School System. He made many good friends and associates and wanted to thank everyone who worked with him to help the students succeed.

Gari was a member of the Second Street Church of Christ, former President of the Lawrenceburg Lions Club, former President of the Lawrence County Retired Teachers and a member of the Lawrence County Historical Society. Along with Juanita Henson and John Sledge they started the Knowledge Bowl in Lawrenceburg in which is still an important part of the Lawrence County School System after 36 years. He was an avid ballroom dancer displaying his skills in many competitions including Vienna, Austria in February of 2020. He was also an avid sports fan where he followed the Cubs, Titans, UT Vols, and the Preds. But above all his favorite teams were any team that his grandkids played on. Those were his favorite athletes. Words from Gari, "I want to give many thanks to friends and family of Giles and Lawrence County that have made my life so enjoyable and richly rewarding".

Visitation will be 11:00am to 1:00pm Thursday, September 10, 2020, at

Bennett-May & Pierce Funeral Home.

The funeral service will follow at 1:00pm in the chapel of Bennett-May & Pierce with Bro. Jeff Jenkins officiating.

The burial will follow in the Lynnwood Cemetery.

Memorial donations are suggested to any of the following; Lawrence County Knowledge Bowl, Lawrence County Retired Teachers Scholarship Fund, Lawrence County Lions Club Scholarship Fund, or the Lawrence County Historical Society.

He was preceded in death by his parents Wayne Donald Lynn, Sr. and Betti Ulbricht Phillips along with his loving wife Brenda Ervin Lynn.

He is survived by:

Son, Robert Holt "Rob" (Sherry) McNeese of Pulaski.

Daughter, Erin McNeese (Brian) McGinnis of Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Brother, Wayne Donald (Kate) Lynn, Jr. of Vienna, Virginia. Brother, Rick (Deowatha) Lynn of Stone Mountain, Georgia. Sister, Debbie Jo (Paul) Evans of Vienna, Virginia. Sister, Jodi (Jermaine) Phillips of Vienna, Virginia.

Seven grandchildren, Lindsey Adams, Mary Avery McNeese, Camden McNeese, Charlee Kate Nichols, Addison Nichols, Aubrey McGinnis, and Connor McGinnis.

Two great-grandchildren, Jayden Adams and Lila Adams.

Several nieces and nephews also survive.

Tribute Wall

DE

“ *Dr. Gari Lee Lynn*

Debby Evans - September 23, 2020 at 11:49 AM

DA

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Gari's passing. I met him playing trivia, and the man was a wealth of knowledge. Funny thing, we leaned to him on almost all basketball questions. :) He was a fierce competitor and a great friend to us all. He will forever be missed! My condolences to his family.*

Deanna Archer - September 19, 2020 at 10:20 PM

LB

“ *Gari was such a kind and gentle guy. We had education/administration in common and shared many stories. He always gave his full attention and made you feel valued.*

Lisa Baker - September 12, 2020 at 06:32 PM

ML

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss he was principal at LPS from when I was in 2nd grade to 5th grade he was always nice to me I'm sad he's gone*

Matthew Leighton - September 11, 2020 at 05:47 PM

CD

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. We are both retired educators and in recent years have spent time with Gari at the retired teacher's meetings. He was one of my husband's teachers. He was a special man. Jeff and Cary Durham*

Cary Durham - September 11, 2020 at 04:01 PM

SB

“ *Gari was a great guy and friend as we shared some good ole days of PTO basketball with NewProspect School. Sorry to here of his passing. God bless!* ”

Shelby Bonner - September 11, 2020 at 08:02 AM

RL

“Gari Lynn A kind, loving, gentle soul. My beloved brother. I've heard others tell how difficult it was to grow up with an older brother. Constantly being picked on or belittled. That wasn't Gari. He was always loving and protective. As young kids we loved Big Time Wrestling. I was Dick the Bruiser. He was the Sheik. He would lay in wait between the mattress and the wall of the top bunk. When I came in the room he would leap down on me and the battle began. Even though he was 6 years older I always seemed to win. He seemed destined to be a Teacher. He loved school. Early to rise he would hurry to school each morning. At Lincoln Elementary if you arrived before the school opened you formed a line at the front door. He was first in-line each day. Our mother was concerned that it was becoming an obsession. Gari said she tied him to a chair with some old clothes line to make him wait. When she released him he ran all the way with every ounce of his strength. It was just under a mile. He was heartbroken to be second that day. Our mother taught him how to drive in her light blue 1959 Olds 98 convertible. This car was massive. What people use to call a boat. At 16 he could hardly see over the dashboard. I rode along many times. One day he was making a left turn and whipped in front of an oncoming car. Our mother screamed and braced for impact. The next light was red and he shot into the middle lane between two cars leaving only a couple inches of clearance on both sides. Mother screamed again. I rolled on the back seat laughing. They both yelled at me. We lived in Wayland Springs, TN when he got his first Teaching job. Still racing to school each day he drove 30 miles to the other end of the county. He enjoyed the winding roads and would often tell me how he put his Olds Cutlass through its paces using his cat like reflexes to navigate each curve. One morning he left for school. My Step Father and I soon followed headed to the store. As we rounded a curve we saw a car with the front down in the ditch and the back end up in the air. You guessed it. It was Gari. There was only minor damage. We pulled him from the ditch and he was on his way. Later that evening he told me how his cat like reflexes were just too quick. He loved being a Teacher and Coach. Over the years told me about his many students and the teams he coached. He loved to tell of

how his students grew and excelled. He agonized over students that faced challenges at home. It broke his heart when he had to discipline one of them. From time to time when I would visit him we would run into one of his old students. It amazed me how among the hundreds of students he had over the years he would not only remember their name, but would ask them about their parent or job. He cared about them and their life. He was fearless and always sought to challenge himself to grow. Not just dream, but actually try. He took up white water canoeing. Starting on Shoal Creek just down the road he later would travel across the Southeast canoeing down infamous rivers like the Nantahala and the Chattooga where the movie Deliverance was filmed. He went through class 4 rapids in his canoe on multiple occasions. Our Step Father loved horses and was known as one that could train the worst of the worst. At one time we had a horse named Handy Bando. She was ill tempered and once she was tired of being ridden, without warning, she would start bucking. She really belonged with rodeo stock. One day our step father saddled her and said it was time to teach her a thing or two. He called my name. Gari jumped up and said. "I'll straighten her out." When he got in the saddle he slapped her hard with both heels. She went across the front yard like the rodeo gate was just opened. We had a large tree in our front yard. Handy Bando threw Gari so high that he went into the tree limbs and was stuck. Our Step Father had to ride over and help him out of the tree. The ole boy from Tennessee, the only man to be thrown by a horse so high he never hit the ground. He always wan

Rick Lynn - September 10, 2020 at 11:53 AM

CP

“ A close long time friend and trivia buddy! So sad to see him go. We have traveled several miles together over the years. He loved kids and volunteered at the “Old Jail Museum” for the Lawrence County Historical Society. Lawrence & Giles County will miss you. - Curtis Peters -

Curtis Peters - September 10, 2020 at 10:32 AM

VM

“ Gari was very smart and knowledgeable. I played on a trivia team with him. He was always fun and great to be around. He always carried these spearmint candies in his vehicle to share. Really enjoyed being around him.

Vickie McDougal - September 10, 2020 at 09:13 AM

BM

“ Gari took Butch’s place as principal of LPS when Butch was elected school superintendent in 1992, and he did a fantastic job. Gari was always so complimentary of Butch’s mentoring, but Gari was a very apt and able participant. No one can ever replace Gari - his knowledge, brilliance, and uniqueness will remain unequaled. He was also our fellow lions club member, so we both have many fond memories of him. We will miss Gari and remember him Forever. — Anne Morrow

Butch Morrow - September 09, 2020 at 03:27 PM

RR

“ Gari and I took great trips together. My prayers are with both you guys! Ron Randolph!

Ron Randolph - September 09, 2020 at 11:04 AM

GV

“ Dr. Lynn taught my 2 girls at Ingram Sowell Elementary, and was my son’s principal at Lawrenceburg Public School. He was a wonderful, kind hearted man! Everytime he saw me he would call my 3 kids by name and asked how they were. He will be missed! May the Lord comfort his family! 🙏

Genese Vernon - September 09, 2020 at 12:30 AM

LE

“ He was one of my all time favorite teachers. He had a smile on his face every time I saw him. He made this world a better place and will be missed by many. Thank you for being such a great influence, Dr. Lynn!

Lori Egly - September 08, 2020 at 11:38 PM

SJ

“ Goodbye friend and colleague. You will be dearly missed.

Sid and Carol James - September 08, 2020 at 08:59 PM

BP

“ This man was so good to me in my Real Estate career. He was always so kind and I had so much respect for him. My prayers go out to all the family. Bobby Patterson

Bobby Patterson - September 08, 2020 at 08:56 PM

GG

“ Dr. Lynn was one of my teachers at DCES. After so many years he remembered me and always had a kind word when I would see him at trivia or about town.

Ginger Long Gobble - September 08, 2020 at 08:20 PM

SS

“ He was my teacher at Summertown. Always was so nice to his students. Always willing to help. He will be missed

Sheila Springer - September 08, 2020 at 08:05 PM

MB

“ Dr Lynn is the one that got me so interested in History. He was a great basketball coach, he always had us in the best physical shape possible. One of the nicest most patient teachers I ever had. Even my kids had the privelege of learning under him. Hod bless you Dr Lynn for your years of service to provide so many kids a chance to learn the way school was intended to be and thank you for all you taught me over the years . You were such a blessing..

Michael Bailey - September 08, 2020 at 07:58 PM

SB

“ Truly an amazing man. He never forgot a person's name from the time he met them as far as I knew. He did his best to treat all of his students fairly from what I always saw over many years with him. He was my teacher and my children's principal. A great loss to the educational community and to us in general.

Sherry Belew - September 08, 2020 at 07:40 PM

GM

“ one of the best teachers i had, a real educator in the best sense of the word. Greg Miller New Prospect School class of 1975

Greg Miller - September 08, 2020 at 07:35 PM

TO

“ So sorry for your loss.

Toby - September 08, 2020 at 06:40 PM