



Gary Eaton Conner

August 22, 1947 - December 25, 2020

Gary Eaton Conner, age 73, of Fayetteville passed away Friday December 25, 2020 in Fayetteville. He was born August 22, 1947 in Knoxville, Tennessee the son of M. O'Dell and Della Mae Smith Conner. He was preceded in death by his parents.

He graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1969 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He had a long career in Fayetteville as a paramedic at Central EMS and later at the Washington County Sheriff's Office, eventually retiring as a detective

He is survived by his brother M. O'Dell Conner, Jr.; a niece Kathy Conner; a nephew Mike Conner; cousin Karen Edwards of Friendsville, Tennessee and a host of friends in Northwest Arkansas and Gulf Shores, Alabama.

He was truly loved by many and will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 a.m. Wednesday January 13, 2021 at Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville. A live stream will be available at <https://my.gather.app/remember/gary-conner>

In lieu of flowers please send any donations to the Children's Safety Center of Washington County. 614 Emma Avenue, Springdale, AR 72764 (479) 872-6183

To leave an online condolence please visit <http://www.bernafuneralhomes.com>

Comments



“ I attended the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Paramedic Program with Gary in 1979. We ended up as roommates in the dormitory--he had completed several years with the U.S. Forest Service in California, with me being fresh out of high school. He amazed me with how he could study all night for an exam at the local IHOP (bottomless cup of coffee), then successfully complete an exam after an hour nap. I remember visiting him in Fayetteville while he was working at Central EMS after graduating. Rest in peace, Gary...and thank you for your service.

Larry Tan - January 18 at 11:06 AM



“ I worked the ER while Gary worked EMS. He was always calm in emergencies but he had a delightful sense of laid back humor and ready laugh. Years later while working for Washington County Sheriff, he would stop by our farm and check on us. He delighted with his plans to sail away through the Keys on his boat when he retired. He was a very good man.

Kristine Hall - January 13 at 10:52 PM



“ Thank you so much for a beautiful service. We all loved Gary and are glad he was surrounded with love by his friends. Gary was part of the reason I thought about the Peace Corps when I was younger, but eventually went on to teach in Japan after college. An amazing life lived by an amazing person.

Katey Smith - January 13 at 12:48 PM



“ I met Gary in 1993 when he was with the detective division of the Washington County Sheriff's Office. As a defense attorney I knew Gary to be a smart, fair and honest officer. Later Gary joined our happy hour group at the Grill. He was always interested in politics and current events. He was also very well read and quite a historian. Gary always had something interesting to contribute. When the Grill closed, Gary migrated with a few of us to Smoke and Barrell where he continued to entertain and impress with his knowledge and humor. A good man, through and through. Rest in Peace Gary Conner.

Kent McLemore - January 13 at 11:57 AM



“ Many years I worked alongside Gary. He will be missed.

Karen Y Blackstone - January 12 at 05:14 PM



“ In 1986, Gary and I spent some time together, and he came to be known by my children and me as the Squirrel Conquerer. My son was playing in the backyard of a friend's house on Old Wire Rd. across from Gulley Park, and he was bitten in the hand by a squirrel that atypically allowed the boys to get close enough to make a grab for it. Of course, the first concern was rabies. As a deputy, Gary was armed, and he sped to the scene to assess the damage and control the scene. He blasted the squirrel, and what was left of it was sent to Little Rock for testing. The verdict was not conclusive, so my son did the rounds of rabies shots as a precaution, but Gary's stature was still elevated due to his quick and decisive response. Gary was a solid, calm, careful man who ran deep. I'm truly sorry he is gone. I hope his family is okay and am sorry for their loss. May he Rest In Peace. —Nese Nemeč denisenemeč@me.com

Nese Nemeč - January 09 at 01:44 AM