



## Lynn Franklin Garst

February 24, 1941 - September 25, 2021

Lynn Franklin Garst, a proud veteran of the United States Navy, peacefully went into the arms of Jesus on Saturday, September 25, 2021, with his wife of 56 years by his side.

Lynn is the son of Ben Franklin and Dortha (Stansell) Garst and stepmother Ruth (Jacobson) Garst. He was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on February 24, 1941, and graduated from Central High School in 1958 during the historic desegregation crisis. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the United States Naval Academy, a Master's in Physical Education and an Educational Specialist Degree, both from the University of Missouri.

At the age of 17, Lynn enlisted in the United States Navy and after three years was competitively selected to attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Bainbridge, MD. Following this, he attended the United States Naval Academy graduating in 1965. Upon graduation, he attended Flight Training and went on to serve in Vietnam flying the OP-2E aircraft with The Ghost Squadron (VO-67). In honor of service in Vietnam, his unit earned the Navy Commendation Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation among other honors and medals. Following Vietnam, Lynn was assigned to Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Florida where he flew the P-3 Orion on ASW (anti-submarine warfare) missions. After this assignment, he taught Naval ROTC at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. During the NROTC service, he discovered his passion for education as well as his desire to be with his family full-time and left the military pursuing a career in teaching and coaching. He taught upper-level math, coached girls' basketball, baseball, soccer, football and golf, and ultimately went into middle school administration. Lynn, Georgiann and their three children (Mark, David and Karen) made Columbia their home for 15 years. After Mark and David left for college, Lynn, Georgiann and Karen moved to Rogers, Arkansas where they found a "home" at Fellowship Bible Church and Northwest Arkansas. It was during this time that his faith grew exponentially, and he truly learned what it meant to follow the Lord. Lynn served as Elder and Shepherding Elder at Fellowship as well as assisting in the Elementary Ministry and Community Ministry shaping lives of so many. He also had a love for the Razorbacks (Go Hogs!), Navy (beat Army!) and the St. Louis Cardinals. A favorite family memory was attending the historic Game Six of the 2011 World Series. His love for sports has spread to his family and grandchildren as well.

Lynn is survived by his wife Georgiann of Rogers, Arkansas; sister Barbara Kindron of Santa Barbara, California; sons Mark (Karen) Garst of Lebanon, Illinois, David Garst of Memphis, Tennessee and daughter Karen (Tom) Olsen of Rogers, Arkansas. His proud legacy also includes his grandchildren Miranda (Brad) O'Bryant, Kaila (Nathan) Gillespie, Crist (Whitney) Olsen, Alec (Liz) Garst, Destin Garst, Dane (Claire) Olsen, Steth Garst, Ty Olsen, Elliot Garst, and Addy Olsen. Lynn was also blessed to have five great grandchildren and wonderful nieces and nephews. His family and friends are what brought him great joy.

Lynn, Dad or Grandpa will always be remembered for fighting the good fight and keeping the faith (2 Timothy 4:7), his loyalty, contagious laugh and huge smile, his stories, his love for outdoors and golf, his zest for life, adventure and vacations, and being the biggest fan of his children's and grandchildren's varied activities. A memorial service honoring his life will be held on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2021 at Fellowship Bible Church in Rogers, Arkansas with future details to be provided. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent in his honor to Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas, 1051 W Pleasant Grove Road, Rogers, AR 72758.

# Comments

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Georgiann,

I was Lynn's classmate at the Naval Academy Prep School (61 yrs ago!) and at the Naval Academy but pretty much lost contact after we all graduated. Lynn was a very kind, intelligent, and thoughtful individual. I know he will meet again with his beautiful earthly family and live happily forever thereafter. May the Father and the Son watch over you all now and forevermore!

Ernie Ambort

**Glenn Ambort** - November 04 at 07:00 PM

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I was saddened to hear of Lynn's death. Lynn and I served together in the Navy squadron VO-67. We crossed paths several times after VO-67 and always managed to stay in contact through the years from Christmas cards and occasional visits. Lynn had a contagious smile and seemed to produce a positive effect on all his associates. Our condolences to Georgiann and family.

Herb & Darlene Ganner

**Herb Ganner** - October 04 at 09:52 PM

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Mr. Garst was always kind and supportive as principal at my first teaching job at West Fork Middle School. Prayers for the Garst family.

**Marci Tate** - October 02 at 02:58 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of Lynn's passing. I met Lynn at the Naval Academy Prep School where we were assigned to the same company. His magnetic personality led to an instant friendship. Lynn was always there with a smile and a laugh to brighten even the darkest day--especially during some of our more trying times during our plebe year at the academy. Our service took us on different paths after graduation and we never crossed paths thereafter but my memory of Lynn on that day remains as fresh as if it were today. He was a man among men, one to look up to and respect. Ron Claussen

**Ron Claussen** - October 01 at 01:51 PM



“ Thank you, Ron, for your kind words! He was one of a kind!

**Georgiann Garst** - October 01 at 04:09 PM

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“ Georgian, we were so sorry to hear of your great loss. Both of you have always great friends. We always enjoyed seeing you at the '65 reunions and getting an update on the family each Christmas. Lynn set a strong Christian example for all of us. We mourn your loss and send your our love. Dave and Pat

**Dave and Pat Miller** - September 30 at 05:43 PM



“ Thank you! It has been hard—so many years and so many memories! Love y'all!

**Georgiann Garst** - October 01 at 08:56 AM

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“ We often laugh at Lynn explaining that Donovan wasn't calling a boy names when he said he was very astute. Our years as your neighbors are some of our best memories. He was a wonderful guy!!

**Londa Chandler** - September 29 at 11:03 PM



“ Some of our best memories, too, Londa! I had almost 57 years with him and it wasn't enough! Love you guys!

**Georgiann Garst** - September 30 at 09:32 AM



“ I met Lynn at the Naval Academy. He was a great guy and a fine classmate.

**Doyle** - September 30 at 05:36 PM



“ Thanks, Doyle!

**Georgiann Garst** - October 01 at 08:57 AM

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“ Dear Garst Family:

I am very sorry for your loss. Karen, I don't think any father loved his daughter and watching her cheer on the Hogs more than your dad. Always a gentleman with an easy smile and laugh. Your daddy was wonderful man. Praying for you all. Love,  
Josie (Ware) Gustafson

**Josie Ware Gustafson** - September 29 at 03:42 PM



“ Thank you, Josie! He had a great time following all of you!

**Georgiann Garst** - September 30 at 09:33 AM



“ Oh wow Josie, this brings me to tears... he was the biggest "cheerleader". Grateful for your kind words!

**Karen Olsen** - October 01 at 09:30 AM

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“ I'm so very sorry to hear about Lynn's death. I taught third grade at Ambassadors for Christ Academy and was blessed to have known him. I remember he always had a smile and was so encouraging to everyone. His faith showed through loud and clear and it was obvious he had a deep love for our Lord.  
God bless your family and may He give you an extra measure of His love and peace during this time.  
Mary McCall

**Mary McCall** - September 29 at 02:01 PM



“ Thank you, Mary! He had only kind words to say about you and your dedication to ACA and your students.

**Georgiann Garst** - September 30 at 09:36 AM

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“ While serving (and yes he was the greatest of all servants and encouragers) at Ramay Jr. High as my Assistant Principal back in the 80's we became close friends. We golfed every course in Bella Vista several times one summer. That same summer he took me over to Oklahoma City at Oak Tree Country Club to watch a PGA golf tournament. Good times! Later, when my dad retired and moved to Bella Vista, Lynn and my dad became regular golfing buddies. Both he and Georgiann were sweet friends to my mom and dad (Lewis and Patsy). Lynn was a strong believer in Christ with a gentle spirit. He spoke the truth and lived the truth. He no doubt will be missed by friends and family during this short life on earth, but we look forward to the great gathering of saints with our King on the other side.....forever! Praying for the family as they hold the memories close.

**S. Lewis Clark, Jr.** - September 29 at 10:56 AM



“ Lynn loved those times with you, Lewis! I remember your being worried about your folks when they moved to BV. We met them and never looked back. He and your dad became the closest friends and I am that way with your mom! That was all due to your worry. Thank you for your kind words!

**Georgiann Garst** - September 30 at 09:43 AM

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“ Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. Lynn will be missed by many.

Janie Darr

**Janie Darr** - September 29 at 08:29 AM



“ Thank you, Janie! He appreciated so much the way you supported all Rogers athletics—wearing the appropriate color for the school or a neutral color if Rogers and Heritage played each other.

**Georgiann Garst** - September 30 at 09:47 AM



“ Lynn will be missed so very much by so many. It was a blessing to know him. We wish you peace and love to the whole family. With Sympathy, Susan and the Erker family.

**Susan Erker** - September 30 at 01:43 PM



“ I served with LTJG Garst in "The Ghost Squadron " a secret naval combat unit in 1967-68.known as VO-67.during the Vietnam conflict. He was always very nice to the enlisted men. He was a true American Hero.

" Wings of Gold to Angel Wings "

Bob Reynolds

**Bob Reynolds** - October 25 at 06:21 PM