



## Gary J. Gibbs

September 28, 1954 - February 13, 2017

Gary J. Gibbs, 62, of Oma, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully in his home, family at his side after a battle with cancer on February 13, 2017. Gary was born on September 28th, 1954 in Racine, Wisconsin, to John and Darlene (Matkus) Gibbs. He attended Racine area schools and graduated from Washington Park High School, class of 1972. The family moved to Mercer in 1973. Gary met Susan Hildebrandt in Mercer where they married on June 7, 1980. Gary worked a variety of jobs in the area before receiving his associates degree from WITC in Ashland in the field of Information Technologies. He was later employed with Burton Industries where he worked for almost 22 years. Gary was a member of Elks Youth Drum and Bugle Corps and later an active member of Marty's Goldenaires. Gary was an avid sportsman who enjoyed downhill skiing, windsurfing, hunting, fishing, and archery.

He is survived by his daughter Erika (Matt) Roeder of Park Falls; his mother Darlene Gibbs of Mercer; his sister Theresa (Deen) Palmquist of Mercer; his nieces Karen Palmquist and Heather Palmquist and nephew Eric Palmquist of Mercer; brothers-in-law Earl Hildebrandt of Mercer and Russ (Diane) Hildebrandt of Middleton, Wisconsin; and his sister-in-law Ruth (Hildebrandt) Marino of Lincoln, California.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife Susan (Hildebrandt) Gibbs; his

father John P. Gibbs; his father and mother-in-law Frank and Laurine Hildebrandt.

Cremation has taken place.

A funeral mass will be held on Friday, February 17, 2017 at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church in Mercer, Wisconsin at 11am, with visitation one hour prior to mass.

Memorials are preferred to the UW – Madison McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research c/o Dr. Paul F. Lambert, Director University of Wisconsin-Madison Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research, 1111 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-2275 or online at <http://mcardle.wisc.edu/donations.html>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church  
5214 W. Lake View Avenue  
Mercer, WI 54547

## Funeral Mass

FEB 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church  
5214 W. Lake View Avenue  
Mercer, WI 54547

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ Gary is a true friend. We started our trek together playing music in Marty's Goldenaires when I was a young man. We shared many great years traveling and bringing drum corp music to thousands of people. Gary was always willing to help the newest members gain the basic knowledge about marching and playing. No task was too small for him. That's the way he shared his life with all that knew him and his wonderful family. We did spend a fair amount of time hunting and fishing in the Northwoods from Wisconsin and Michigan to Ontario and back. His lovely wife Sue and daughter Erica were our dear friends also. Summers with Marty's meant picnics, boating, sailboarding and fishing with many people who really became a big family. Gary and Sue were always organizing the outings and making sure everyone was invited and made welcome. The best meals we had were at Gary and Sues Mercer home out in the backyard. Sue was always the best host making sure everyone had plenty of great food to eat. We still have many recipes from Sue that we use today. There was always something cooking on the grill. My favorite was Gary's pepper stuffed, bacon wrapped quail breasts. Yum. Yes Mark, this was the only time you could cook bacon without a screen. We travelled to a few Junior Drum Corp competitions over the years, once renting a motor home so we could relax in style with Gary cooking on the grill again. The steaks were about 3 pounds apiece. Great memories. The best times were spent in Canada with Gary's friends and family fishing Lac Seul Ontario. I met his cousin Mark Mutchler there and made a friend for life with him also. Gary, myself, my brother Rich and Mark spent many hours fishing, laughing and playing cribbage. Mark and I were talking at Gary's funeral about the great times we had. Gary was of course smiling as we were talking. He knew how valuable it was to put people together and share a sport or an event. Bonds were formed that can never be broken. Gods speed to Gary and Sue who are now together again.

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Robert Ahnen - February 19, 2017 at 05:00 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary J. Gibbs.* ”



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February 16, 2017 at 05:24 PM

MM

“ Gary means everything to me. Many years ago, our mothers Darlene and Beverly shared their friendship as cousins to bring together two boys who have enjoyed each other for over 60 years since. While I can't remember the early childhood years, when afterward as a an adult Gary and all 5'6" of his feisty self would jokingly talk about beating me up all of the time LOL, what I do remember is everything after that. No matter the distance in miles, somehow mostly because of Gary we built a friendship that will stand the test of time. As teenagers, Gary and I traveled in his AMC Gremlin to hunt small game in New Munster, WI. Later, when he stepped up to his sporty 1974 orange Porsche 914, a car in which he would turn 90 degree corners going 40 MPH (!), he brought me up to Big Powderhorn where he taught me how to ski. He was a terrific downhill skier that was into doing "360's" and moguls and he built a fanatic out of me. As youngsters, we won the draw from the adults to be the "lucky" ones to drive the tamarack swamps near the Dells for whitetail deer. The biggest thing that we had in common was our love of the outdoors. We loved to bow hunt and went on adventures in Galena, IL as well as to Harpole Lodge in famous Pike County, IL. We fished many times at Lac Seul in Ontario. I remember catching the largest walleye of my life within the first hour of my first trip there, thinking that maybe THAT ONE was for the wall. Gary convinced me that I'd catch many more like that, but I never did. I can still see the grin on his face as we ate it that night. I was also lucky enough to have Gary invite me to hunt with him in the Mercer area. He shared his wonderful family and home with me. I enjoyed the time spent with his beautiful and gracious wife Sue, and how sweet little Erika would get kicked out of her bed at their home on County J so that I had a place to sleep. Later, at the house on County G, Gary would stack a pyramid of Labatt Blue, our beer of choice, by his mailbox so that I would know where to turn upon my arrival. Each morning, we would get up at about 4:30 AM and were out the door by a few minutes after 5AM. We hunted the same big woods where Gary and his Dad hunted so many years before. In 2000, Gary was there when I shot my largest deer ever. I was there in 2001, along with Erika, when he shot a Booner that I think he said

*measured over 157 points. I remember when I first saw Gary after taking that deer; he was in such shock and awe that he just stood in place shaking, unable to speak anything comprehensible. For anyone that hunts and fishes together, there is no way to really describe the incredible heritage, kinship and bond that forms between people and their respect for nature and the outdoors. So, these are the epic fun-filled adventures that I can carry with me all of my life. I am so grateful to Gary and how we were able to bring our families together. I admire the principles that he had and which guided him in his life. Only two summers ago, I called Gary to say Hi. Of course, we talked about old stories and our next adventures on the horizon. That was exciting because he was at the stage to contemplate retirement. What stands out to me was that for some reason on that evening he told me that he considered me his brother which is the same way I feel about him. What an honor! On New Year's Eve '16, we watched the Packers. We had dinner, just like so many times we did before. Saying goodbye to him the next day was very difficult but at least I got to tell him how important he was to me and that I loved him. A huge piece of my heart travels with him now. I. Love. Gary. Gibbs. Erika (and Matt), you two are wonderful people. Your Dad leaves behind a great legacy in you. You are in our hearts, you will always remain in our family, and we share in your sorrow but we rejoice that your Dad lives in God's Glory. God Bless you and all of those you hold dear. Mark, Mary Jo and the Mutchler family*

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**Mark Mutchler** - February 16, 2017 at 03:35 PM

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“ *The Butternut Basketball Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Gary J. Gibbs.*



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**The Butternut Basketball Family** - February 16, 2017 at 03:29 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gary J. Gibbs.*



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February 16, 2017 at 02:33 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary J. Gibbs.*



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February 16, 2017 at 10:22 AM



“ *I'm so very sorry for your loss and send my most heartfelt condolences. Gary was one of my dads (Mark Mutchler) favorite people and I know he will be missed greatly.*

*Love and prayers sent your way,*

*Miranda (Randi) Mutchler Vorwald*

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**Miranda Vorwald** - February 15, 2017 at 03:17 PM