



## Gary Wallace

February 21, 1951 - July 25, 2014

Gary Wayne Wallace, born in Green Bay, WI, on February 21, 1951, died July 25, 2014, at Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff, WI, with his family by his side.

He was the son of Neil and Vivian (née Fry) Wallace and he spent his adult life living in Presque Isle, WI. Gary was married to Sue Wallace (née Otzelberger) for 37 years. He was a proud father of Neil (Courtney), Max (Christine), Joe, and Charlie, and a doting grandfather to Ruby Christine. Gary was the older brother to Dale, Keith, Kaye (Buc Schimmel), Diane (Doug Watermolen). Gary was a beloved uncle, in law, and friend to many.

He was a dedicated community member who worked tirelessly to create opportunities for its children to participate in all the Northwoods activities that he loved. He was a board member and coach of North Lakeland Youth Hockey. He started and coached the Presque Isle Youth Baseball Club. He coached the North Lakeland Bears Football team. He was a charter member and sat on the board of directors for the World Championship Musky Classic. He spent time as the Presque Isle Assistant Fire Chief, and served on the Presque Isle Parks Board. He was the founding father of Team Retreat and spent a lot of time building fish cribs, stocking area lakes and promoting the sport with area youth.

Gary was an avid sports fan and loved all things Packers, Brewers, and Badgers, as well as Bucks, Hawks, and T-Birds. He attended every sporting event he could. We didn't need goal lights to tell us if the puck went in the net.

We could tell by Gary's body language that our team had scored.

Gary was the owner and operator of the Retreat Bar since 1984. His ability to remember names and faces made everyone feel like a friend. He will be missed by all who stepped foot in the Retreat.

A celebration of Gary's life has been planned for Friday, August 1, at the Retreat Bar in Presque Isle.

Contributions in his name can be made towards North Lakeland Ice, Inc.

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ We remember Gary from a time before you owned the original Retreat bar. He was in negotiations to purchase the place and were new to Presque Isle. He made us feel at home sitting with us on the customer side of the bar. I believe we share the same Wedding Anniversary date of June 18th. We always loved to see Sue and then the boys. Miss those days walking down Katinka Rd to the Retreat. Peace And love Sue and family. Mary and Bill Kroll.

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**Mary Kroll** - September 09, 2014 at 08:16 PM

JB

“ I remember a little league game about 20 years ago, when our Boulder Junction player got a hit to drive in the winning run in a game against Presque Isle. Of course, all the players were schoolmates, friends, probably relatives, so it was never a life-or-death kind of rivalry. Gary came off the bench stomping and shouting about batting order and other ways the hit should have been excluded. But, as he passed the player who got the hit, he reached out, patted her on the back, and told her it was a nice hit. I always remember that while he may have objected to a technical issue, he was always ready to give recognition to the kids. That's the measure of a person: the ability to give credit, even in the blur of a competitive moment. I will never forget that, and I will always appreciate his gesture.

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**Janet Blair** - August 27, 2014 at 10:50 AM

SG

“ Gary and I go back to the earliest Sunday school/confirmation class days, through Boy Scouts, an undefeated high school football season, our hippie awakening, and more recently Buddy's funeral and then five years ago he and I finished our 40th class reunion at 5:25 am at my house. After a couple of hours rest I drove Gary back to his hotel so he and his son could get to a hockey tournament. He and we definitely always made the best of the now much too limited time we had together. Sometimes that carefree approach got us into trouble, but it was always pure unadulterated fun. Our adult family lives took place far away from each other. But he is one of a few childhood friends I can honestly say that no matter how long we were apart; when we came together it was like we hadn't been apart and we were always ready for another adventure, I will always think of Gary as one of my most honest, respected, great fun loving friends. Steve Gillis

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**Steve Gillis** - August 08, 2014 at 03:57 PM

JK

“ *The Retreat and Gary Wallace are Presque Isle, where ever you traveled across this state and people asked where you go up north, you proudly answered Presque Isle and replied, have you ever gone to the Retreat Bar and met Gary Wallace? A majority of these people would answer yes, and the conversation began.*

*Knowing Gary, our true up north friend, could never be matched. We are truly grateful for the outstanding times over the years, watching over, putting up, and helping us over the years.*

*We will miss the Packer games when we were up, the late night/early morning sport talks and trying to keep Murr in line. We have extremely fond memories of the Classic victories at the old Retreat and going out for the steak dinners after the celebration.*

*We will miss you Gary, you have been a wonderful friend to the Kleiner Klan, appreciate your patience as the Kingpin aged and called you every week just to talk, thank you!*

*Our sincere condolences to Sue and the boys, Gary was a king to our group of guys from South Milwaukee who planned their lives for over 30 years to go up north to Presque Isle and visit Wallace and have a blast!*

*God's Blessing and Peace be with your family.*

*George & Jeff Kleiner*



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**Jeff Kleiner** - July 31, 2014 at 11:20 PM

SF

“ *To the Wallace Family,  
I knew Gary from 1960 as he grew up in Green Bay, Boy Scouts,  
Swim team and baby sitting my three. The last time I saw Gary was  
the year after his father died when We (Sharon (Kepner) and  
Hadley Faulker) brought his mother, Vivian, up for a week end. We  
loved the house Gary built, and were happy Sue earned her Nursing  
degree. Hockey was the sport for the then "little" boys and the  
Packers always on the front burner.  
I will always remember Gary, boy and man.  
In sincere sympathy "Aunt" Sharon*

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**Sharon Keper Faulkner** - July 30, 2014 at 04:37 PM

 Karen  
Baker

“ *To the Wallace Family: Gary was Bigger Than  
Life to myself as well as my children. There  
has never been a more dedicated person who  
selfishly gave of his time and his life to  
the lives of so many North Lakeland youth!  
Gary and Sue's boys (men) are a tribute to both Gary and Sue and  
they will continue to shine as Gary did. I fondly remember the many  
hockey practices and games, the cold weather at the outdoor rink,  
the priceless memories of hotel stays, and spending time with  
hockey families. It was with sadness that I shared Gary's passing  
with my children - each with a reaction of "Oh No". Blessing to Sue,  
Neil, Max, Joe, and Charlie..may your memories bring you joy and  
lighten the burden that is upon each of your hearts. When the fist  
snowflake falls, let us remember that Gary is once again "watching  
the puck" and he, indeed, shines on within each of you. Good Bless.  
With love Karen (Kost) Baker, Ryan (Ryno), Ashley, and Michael.*



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**Karen Baker** - July 30, 2014 at 10:27 AM

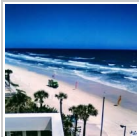
JR

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Gary for over 30 years. As a loyal member of the "Kleiner Klan", I have vacationed in Presque Isle for many years and attended the both Retreat Bars for all of my visits. Gary was a true friend who I enjoyed visiting, talking to, and of course watch Packer games and Brewer games with!. He served an awesome bowl of Chili, cheeseburger, and many appetizers. He put up with a lot of ridiculous behavior from me and many of his patrons, which goes to show what a kind person he was. I will never forget the time when Gary came down to Milwaukee with his sons and we went to the Brewer game in the afternoon. Gary was shown on the "Big Screen at Miller Park! Awesome!!! Coming to Presque Isle will never be the same without Gary! I will always think of him upon my future trips to the area. I will miss him tremendously; as will the entire "Kleiner Klan"! God Bless Sue and the entire Wallace family for your loss. Peace be with you all and think of the good times and what a blessing it has been to have Gary as a part of your lives!!

Peace,  
John Riggins

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**John Riggins** - July 30, 2014 at 08:02 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss, Sue, Charlie, Joe, Max & Neil. Although I didn't know Gary and his family for long, I feel a great loss...my experience working at the Retreat Bar has been one of the best memories of my life & I wouldn't trade anything in my life for those times! Thank you Gary & Sue for my surprise 40th birthday party! I will miss you & think of you often Gary....

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**Sherri McGraw** - July 30, 2014 at 12:09 AM

EK

“ Our most heartfelt sympathy for this family, friends and neighbors. What I remember most was the boys sneaking out to the bar to get their goodnight hugs from daddy. Gary was a great dad and he did so much for this town. I will truly miss him and his great smile. Of course I'll never forget the only time I was kicked out of a tavern.... We were having so much fun and Gary came over to me and said Elaine, you only live 4 doors from here, can you continue this another time, it's 4am. He was laughing so hard that I stayed out that late. To a sue and the boys and beautiful little ruby, he will remain one of the favorite characters in my life. Our love and sympathy, Elaine and Jim Kuehnl

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**elaine kuehnl** - July 29, 2014 at 09:29 PM

JM

“ Went to the Retreat many times in the late 80s and early 90s, especially when I lived up there with my brother Duke. Gary was always welcoming to me and even though he didn't know it those were some tough times for us. He was obviously the same to many and meant a lot to the community. He will be remembered and missed. Somewhere Gary is pouring Duke a Sprite and they are looking out over a sunny, peaceful Northwoods lake. Bless you all. - John "Marty" Martin

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**John Martin** - July 29, 2014 at 12:44 PM

BN

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**Bruce Nelson** - July 29, 2014 at 12:07 PM

BN

“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



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**Bruce Nelson** - July 29, 2014 at 12:00 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to the Wallace Family.  
Clyde & Tina Truttmann

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**Tina Truttmann** - July 29, 2014 at 09:49 AM

BW

“ I couldn't have asked for a better Brother-In-Law than Gary. He had a warm wonderful laugh and smile that I will carry with me forever. My twin sister always referred to Gary affectionately as "Mountain Man." He was very special to her too. I have many fond memories of Gary and Sue, and the boys. The first time I walked on 'frozen water' was at Gary and Sue's. Thanksgiving at the Retreat Bar with the biggest turkey I have ever seen! Lots of love and laughter shared. Gary's nephew Tommy and I would both like to send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to Sue, Neil, Max, Charlie and Joey. We love you all very much.

Barbara Wallace - July 28, 2014 at 03:23 PM

JC

“ Few people have touched as many lives as Gary. I loved the times I spent with him and appreciate the influence he had on Sam. He helped so many kids learn about life through his coaching and everyday mentoring. He knew people everywhere we went and I can't recall anyone who didn't like him and enjoy his company. Jay and Joan Christgau.

Jay and Joan Christgau - July 27, 2014 at 09:14 AM

W(

“ Visits to the Retreat Bar will not be the same without the smiling face of Gary. Have so many memories of all the years heading north to visit Mom and Dad Kuehnl. Our nightly run "for ice" up the road to the Retreat was always a ritual!! Hearing the oldies on the jukebox and dancing with Gary will always be a great memory of mine!! Whether summer or winter--we had a great time seeing Sue, Gary and the boys grow up. Thankful for happy memories and sending hugs to the family!!



Wanda Schnetzer (Kuehnl) - July 27, 2014 at 08:38 AM

LE

“ *This is Linda again, You have our sympathy. Take care*

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**Linda Eckert** - July 26, 2014 at 11:14 PM

LE

“ *Sue, Neal, Max, Charley and Joey, We are so sorry for your loss. Gary has been such a large part of our memories up here. Lots of softball when Jon could still run, fishing for Team Retreat, and Gary was my favorite person to watch Packer games with, Your have our sympathy and God bless you all. Linda Eckert and Jon Oehrlein*

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**Linda Eckert** - July 26, 2014 at 11:05 PM

KB

“ *We are thinking of and praying for all of you. We were so saddened to hear the news. Our hearts are with you.*

*Scott and Kathy Berg (Christine's cousins)*

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**kathy berg** - July 26, 2014 at 09:45 PM

LV

*"As the founding father of Team Retreat, Gary, came to North Lakeland School several years to donate money to the library for the books on fishing. This was another way that he made a difference in the lives of our youth. With sympathy to the family and especially Sue and the boys, he will be missed but remain our hearts for all he did to help our community." The Vinall Family*

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**Lynn Vinall** - July 28, 2014 at 10:03 PM