



Gary John Heil

August 1, 1962 - January 22, 2023

Gary John Heil, age 60, of Bear, DE went home to the Lord on January 22, 2023 after a heroic battle with pancreatic cancer. Throughout his fight, Gary consistently lived out his Christian faith and shared his trust in God with others. His courage and examples of strength will be forever treasured. Gary was born in Cuyahoga Falls, OH to the late Evelyn and John J. Heil. He was raised with three special sisters in Massillon, OH. Gary graduated from Jackson High School and Houghton College. In 1985, he met the love of his life, Kathryn Savopoulos, the younger sister of his best friend in college. They were wed in 1988 and over the years, welcomed a daughter and son.

Gary had a career in banking for many years before shifting gears to become a trusted realtor with the Keller Williams Group. He was a devoted family man and was widely known as a caring person who was quick to lend a hand to those in need. He lovingly assisted with his father-in-law's care for many years. Gary's gifts included being very hospitable and an excellent cook, even perfecting many Greek dishes, to the delight of his wife's family. Gary and his wife hosted many gatherings in their home. He had a great sense of humor and spread laughter and joy wherever he went. His family held annual New Year's Eve parties and ushered in the new year with great food, funny skits, and karaoke.

Gary was a very handy do-it-yourselfer and instilled that drive in his children

as well. He always enjoyed time with his family, doing home projects, and working in his yard and garden where many of his loving touches remain. While the list of his accomplishments is long, there's no way to quantify the personal impact Gary made in the lives of others. He and his wife were always active in the churches they attended and served as youth group leaders for many years. He felt blessed to also be a deacon to his beloved LifeHouse Church family. His family and friends and the many teens he reached are better because of the example he set.

Gary had a rare and special bond with a group of likeminded men. Based on the principles of "Iron sharpening Iron" in Proverbs 27:17, they worked together to mentor and disciple each other to become men of excellence. Over the years, Gary invested in these relationships by his willingness to help others and serve as a mentor. He was blessed to be on the receiving end of those special bonds as a multitude of friends reached out in a variety of ways during his battle with cancer. The Heil family felt humbled, overwhelmed, and grateful for the outpouring of love and support from their family and friends. Gary's serving heart and legacy of laughter, love, and caring will be carried forward in the lives of those closest to him.

Gary is survived by his wife of 34 years, Kathie Heil; his daughter and son-in-law, Sarah Katina Rosecky and Michael Rosecky; his son and daughter-in-law, Nathanael Gary Heil and Melissa Heil; his sisters: Janet Stegen and husband Rich, Margaret Heil, and Karen Heil Borchert and husband Mark; his mother-in-law, Della Savopoulos; his brother-in-law, Sotiere E. Savopoulos and his wife Susan; his sister-in-law, Deborah Sartin and husband Frank; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and friends. Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Evelyn and John; his father-in-law, Basil S. Savopoulos; and his nephew, Joshua Gibbs.

Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation on Saturday, February 4,

2023 from 2:30-4 PM at LifeHouse Church, 101 Karins Blvd., Townsend, DE 19734 where a service in celebration of Gary's life will follow at 4 PM. The service may be viewed via a livestream link through the church at <https://boxcast.tv/view/gary-heil-celebration-service-february-4-4pm-esxkwjmrnvnhhcylucas>

This will also broadcast on lifehousemot.com from 3:30-6:30 PM on Saturday, February 4 via: <http://lifehousemot.com/watch/live-stream>

Burial will take place at 10 AM on Monday, February 6 at the Hickory Grove Cemetery, Port Penn Road, Middletown, DE 19709. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to AMG International, c/o Panagiotis and Stamatia Vasilopoulos, 6815 Shallowford Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421 Another charity that was dear to Gary's heart was the International Missionary Fellowship (IMF) <https://haitihospital.org/get-involved/> a mission hospital established 50 years ago in Haiti that is dedicated to a population of over 60,000. Donations in his memory may be sent via <https://donorbox.org/haitihospital> For directions or to send an online condolence please visit www.stranofeeley.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 4. 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

LifeHouse Church
101 Karins Blvd.
Townsend, DE 19734

Service

FEB 4. 4:00 PM (ET)

LifeHouse Church
101 Karins Blvd.
Townsend, DE 19734

Webcast Link

FEB 4. 4:00 PM (ET)

LifeHouse Church
101 Karins Blvd.
Townsend, DE 19734

<https://boxcast.tv/view/gary-heil-celebration-service-february-4-4pm-esxkwjmrnvnhhcylucas>

Burial

FEB 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

Hickory Grove Cemetery
Port Penn Road
Middletown, DE

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.*



February 04, 2023 at 09:50 AM



“ *We miss our Uncle Gary. Besides having many fond memories of him when I was kid we have new memories that we will cherish of him playing with our oldest son Anthony (Sonny). We are so happy that we have a couple of these on video so we can look back on them.*

Alexia, Vincent, Sonny, Vicky, and Vinny

Alexia and Vincent Coppola - February 04, 2023 at 08:56 AM



“ *Tim & Linda Deeks purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gary John Heil.*



Tim & Linda Deeks - February 03, 2023 at 07:14 PM

PP

“ *Paul & Sue Palmer purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Gary John Heil.*



Paul & Sue Palmer - February 02, 2023 at 02:09 PM

NA

“ 2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

Sweet Gary my brother,

I didn't know you for very long,

But your illumination of Jesus was very strong.

The legacy you left, the love for our Lord every day,

"Good and faithful servant" I hear Jesus say.

You will be missed by a plethora of people , including me.

But praise be to our God you are set free.

Dance dear friend, with our amazing Creator.

I hate earthly good-byes but I know it's c-ya later.

Much Love: Nancy

Nancy - February 02, 2023 at 09:33 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose* was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.



January 31, 2023 at 10:15 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray* was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.



January 31, 2023 at 12:55 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.



January 31, 2023 at 11:38 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray* was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.



January 30, 2023 at 02:43 PM

UD

“ Uncle Carlton and Aunt Dyonne purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary John Heil.



Uncle Carlton and Aunt Dyonne - January 28, 2023 at 04:41 PM

AL

“ It has been said, “Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories,” and Davis and I have so many wonderful memories with Gary as we enjoyed Christian life together with him at LHC, Lifegroups, and service in ministry together. Gary gave us so much to remember as he was an example of Christ-like compassion, kindness, and self sacrifice. He taught people by his life example how to treat others. He was humble and gentle and constantly watching to see how he could serve others selflessly. He touched so many lives of which ours are included. His influence upon our lives goes on through our lives and the ones he touched. His passing leaves a heartache that cannot be healed and his memory will live on in our hearts. Someone as special as Gary will never be forgotten by those who knew him and loved him. What an amazing person and life and we treasure every memory of him.

Love,
Davis and Ann Landry

Ann Landry - January 26, 2023 at 05:34 PM

TC

“ When I think of Gary, I remember how we met. We were on the same floor at Houghton College. What struck me first was what a kind person he was and how he always had time for people. He seemed always to be the same caring person no matter what decade I ran into him. As dorm mates, we lonely bachelors used to shave together, hang out, go to the gym, eat together, or just talk. We bonded also because both our families lived in Ohio. Sometimes we would travel home together on holiday breaks. The last time I saw him, probably ten years ago, we picked up just where we had left off. Both of us commented on that. I got to meet his kids and see what his life was like in Delaware. The last time I'd been to Delaware was for his wedding. Since then we've Skyped, texted, and emailed to keep in touch.

It broke my heart when Gary called me to tell me about his diagnosis. Gary and his family showed incredible faith and courage throughout this fight. I know we will all see Gary again in Heaven.

I recently ran across the following description of grief: "Grief is love with nowhere to go." Here's the full context: Grief, I've learned, is really just love. It's all the love you want to give, but cannot. All that unspent love gathers up in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and in that hollow part of your chest. Grief is just love with no place to go." This is especially meaningful in Gary's case because I know how much he was loved.

Tim Curry

Tim Curry - January 26, 2023 at 04:18 PM

TM

“ Gary Heil's life connects me with the Gospel passage where Jesus Christ describes who among us is truly the greatest.

Christ said the greatest is the one who welcomes others in His name. The greatest is the servant who ministers to others in God's holy name..

Gary's own walk as devoted husband, father, minister and intercessor led me into a closer relationship with my Lord and Savior.

Whenever I read Christ's teaching on the "greatest" I thank God for the way He pursued me and saved me. And, I thank God for the servant leaders, Like Gary Heil, that He sent to minister to me.

Tom McCarthy

Tom McCarthy - January 26, 2023 at 12:56 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.



January 26, 2023 at 09:58 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.



January 26, 2023 at 06:40 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.



January 26, 2023 at 01:52 AM



“ *I so treasure my friendship with Gary. Although lives drifted to different places, our bond was from our college days. One of my favorite stories to tell was about shared meals in the dining hall at Houghton. We would get our trays and efficiently gather in something from the salad bar, our supper drinks or whatever we needed and eat our meal. Gary would place his tray at the table and wander to talk with people while he got his drink, salad, etc. (well, really he got his salad and drink while he talked with people). Often he would finally sit down and astonishingly note that his food was now cold (and sometimes also had "surprises" from his "friends" left in or around his food). To Gary, the friendships at the table, and around the cafeteria were much more important than eating. I treasure our meaningful and deep talks about our lives, and especially our spiritual lives. I don't think the importance of relationships ever lessened for him, and that is part of how Gary's life impacted mine. While my eyes fill with tears now at the passing of a good friend, however many years we have left on this earth will be but a short time compared to the eternity we will have to spend with him in worship and service to, and in the presence of, our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

Timothy Deeks - January 25, 2023 at 08:33 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.*



January 25, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.*

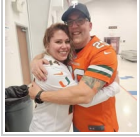


January 25, 2023 at 12:49 PM



“ *Gary was a very special part of our family . He’s affectionately known as ‘Uncle Gary,’ to my kids . I know Scott was part of his welcoming committee in heaven and that they are having the time of their lives . I will miss all of our fun times & comparing recipes in the kitchen . I’m grateful for the wonderful memories our families shared throughout the years . I feel so blessed to have had you in my life . So this is just a short goodbye for now .*

Judy Springer - January 25, 2023 at 07:10 AM



“ When I went through a divorce years ago a lot of great families including the Palmers, Dekkers and Adams opened their homes and lives to me. The Heils were among them and beings we lived so close I felt I was there as much as I was home and I always felt like a member of the family. We shared a lot of love and laughter. Mr. Heil was always quick witted and brought me to laughter quite often. I remember we were having a conversation about marriage and the challenges it brings....Mrs. Heil interjected and stated "being married to me is a walk in the park". With a straight face Mr. Heil looked at me and said "yeah, Jurassic Park". I laughed so hard and will never forget that, I am smiling as I type this. I know he is now in the presence of our Lord Jesus and I look forward to the chats we will have when I am called home.

Joseph Fittos III - January 24, 2023 at 07:36 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary John Heil.



January 24, 2023 at 07:30 PM