



Gary Hendricks

October 9, 1929 - July 17, 2018

Gary Chesterfield Hendricks, much loved father, grandfather, great grandfather, great-great grandfather, uncle and friend went to be with his Lord Jesus Christ (and his beloved Elsie) on Tuesday, July 17, 2018. He was hospitalized at Samaritan that morning and passed away at 10:30 p.m. that same day. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 8., 2018 at the Moses Lake Presbyterian Church. Sign online guestbook at www.kayserschapel.com Arrangements in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

Gary was born in Chelan, Washington on October 9, 1929 to parents Clifford and Josephine (Smith) Hendricks. He spent his early childhood in Chelan, then the family moved to Okanogan, where a sister, Glenna, was added to the household, and Gary enrolled in elementary school as a 5th grader. In the first few days of that school year, Dad met his future wife, Elsie Hamilton, when she tackled him during a recess football game.

While father Cliff ranched and worked for Washington Water Power as an electrician, and mother Josephine operated a popular ice cream parlor in town, Gary embarked on his career in education, as a student and athlete. He starred in football, basketball and track and managed to pass all his classes. He also continued his relationship with Elsie Hamilton. At the end of their high school careers, they both decided to enroll at Eastern Washington State College, Gary as a basketball player on scholarship, and Elsie as an education major.

Before the beginning of their sophomore year, they decided that school would be a lot more fun if they were married and living together. It was! Elsie continued to excel in her classes and Gary became a standout player on the basketball team. Then, son Chris arrived on May 21, 1950. Even more fun!

Although Gary had to give up basketball before his junior year because of medical concerns, both persevered and graduated with teaching degrees. They moved to tiny Riverside (just north of Omak) and began life long careers in education at the start of the 1951-52 school year. After 2 years, Dad was hired to teach in Coulee Dam, and more

importantly, coach his beloved basketball for the Beavers.

Gary was an excellent teacher and basketball coach. Elsie stayed home with Chris, and in September, 1954, daughter Janice joined the family. We spent 4 great years in Coulee Dam, and during those summers, Dad worked and went to school to earn his principal's credential.

In 1958, Gary was offered a principals position in Twisp, Washington. The lure of a higher salary persuaded him to give up coaching and take the job. The family spent just 2 years in Twisp, with the highlight of our time there being the arrival of son Don in 1959.

In 1960, another, better paying job opportunity came up for Gary in Ephrata, and the family moved again. Gary was principal of Parkway Elementary and the district Special Education school for three years, from 1960 to 1963.

Dad liked the challenge of moving and taking on new assignments, so when the Moses Lake school district offered the principals position at Lakeview Elementary to him just before the start of the 1963-64 school year, he jumped at the chance. The family moved to 1111 Skyline Drive and we finally settled. Gary and Elsie spent the next 50+ years in that home and Chris, Janice and Don all went through Moses Lake schools and graduated from Moses Lake High School.

Gary was an outstanding principal. After 4 very good years at Lakeview, Gary was asked to take charge of elementary education for the district, a position he held for the next 17 years. He retired in 1981 after 30 years in education.

During those same years, Gary was also a very active sportsman and golfer. He harvested innumerable pheasants, ducks, and geese all over Grant county, and numbers of deer and elk in the northwest and in Canada. He won the Moses Lake country club championship on 3 occasions, and made quite a bit of money from friendly matches with his buddies.

After Gary and Elsie both retired, they spent the rest of their lives being wonderful parents and grandparents, traveled all over the United States, and had a retirement that lasted longer than their working years. They loved each other deeply, became pillars of the Moses Lake Presbyterian Church, and maintained strong friendships with many in the community.

Gary's heart was broken when his beloved wife Elsie passed in 2015. He lived alone at

1111 Skyline until 2017, when a combination of a severe illness and loneliness persuaded him to accept daughter Janice's offer to come and live with her at her new home in Stratford Estates, Moses Lake. Late that year, Dad's heart was broken again when son Don died. The close support of family and friends was very important and appreciated so much by him. In 2018 Gary was signed up for Hospice Care to better support his battle with kidney disease and a blood disorder. He enjoyed many special days in Janice's home and visiting with other family and friends, until his kidneys finally gave out.

In our last conversation, our father whispered his confession of having "done some bad things" and of "not being ready to be a father". He was assured that God had forgiven his sins and loved him, and that all of his family and friends loved him too. And those were the last words we shared.

Gary Chesterfield Hendricks was an imperfect, but good man, who Christ made perfect. He is very much missed by all who knew him and loved him.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Cliff and Josephine Hendricks, his mother and father in law, Laura (Graves) and Earl Hamilton, brother and sister in law George and Norma Hamilton, brother in law Dick Laughbon, and son Don Hendricks.

Gary is survived by beloved sister Glenna Laughbon, son Chris (Lori) Hendricks, daughter Janice (Duane) Rooker, grandchildren Scott (Nikki) Mackey, Maren (Mac) Hoglund, Pam Mackey, Jennifer (Jesse) Martin, Shawn Hendricks, Sarah Hendricks, Shai Hendricks, Samantha (Darren) Stubbs, Madeline Hendricks, and great grandchildren Cassidy (Erick), Emeri, Devon, MacKenna, Henry, Faye, Finn, Rowan, Posie, and David, great-great grandchild Jaxynn, and by Hamilton, Rubstello, and Laughbon family brothers and sisters in law, nieces and nephews.

Cemetery

Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.

Moses Lake, WA, 98837

Events

SEP	Service	11:00AM
8	<hr/>	
	Moses Lake Presbyterian Church	
	1142 W. Ivy, Moses Lake, WA, US	

Comments



“ Gary Hendricks was a good friend, confidante, and exemplary man. I first saw Gary playing football for the Okanogan Bulldogs in the Okanogan County league as he played against my brother, Ernie Caviness at Coulee Dam in 1946-7. Gary was one of the best athletes in the league in all sports. My first teaching job was at the Coulee Dam Grade School where he taught the 8th grade and I taught the fifth. He was the HS basketball coach and I enjoyed many wintery nights on the roads with Bud Wright, the elementary school principal. Bud was a good friend of Gary's and we loved to see Gary's Beavers play. I was a single guy and Gary, Bud and Frank Pierce were kind enough to invite me to play golf with them at several of the area golf courses. Elsie and Gary also were very nice to me, a single guy with nowhere to go, they took me in.

One of the funniest moments in golf for Gary and Frank Pierce was at the Spokane Country Club golf course. The golf tee box was set back in a narrow group of pine trees. Out in front of was a long down hill, ideal place to hit a big, long drive off the tee. Frank was a big, strong guy and very competitive. It seemed as if he wanted to always hit the ball the farthest. On this drive off the tee Frank let it all out wanting to go far. Frank's ball hit a pine tree at the front left and ricocheted over to a tree on the right. The ball caromed off that tree straight back to roll right in front of Frank standing on the tee box. Gary and I, standing behind Frank looked at each other and tried to keep from laughing. We didn't dare utter a sound in fear or Frank may have killed us. When Frank turned around we had to keep a straight face and act as if it was on big deal, and that was very hard.

Many great memories of this wonderful, talented, husband, teacher and coach. I had the privilege of having Chris, Gary's son, as a student teacher at Ferris High School in Spokane. Chris was just a mirror of his dad. Smart, friendly and a exceptional teacher.

It was great to see that Chris was such a great example of Gary and Elsie's family. I am glad that I had the opportunity to be with Gary that year. A year I will always treasure.

Herm Caviness

Herm Caviness - August 01, 2018 at 11:15 PM



“ I would like to extend my condolences to the extended Hendricks family as you mourn the loss of your amazing patriarch. Mr. Hendricks was my principal at Lakeview Elementary and I will always remember him as a kind, compassionate man who saw the best in every student. His encouragement and confidence in me fueled my life-long passion for education which resulted in an undergrad degree, a masters degree, and ultimately, a PhD. I believe Gary Hendricks was an angel walking among us on this earth and I am so very blessed that our paths crossed.

Sincerely,
Dr. Alma Alvarez-Smith

Alma Alvarez-Smith - July 31, 2018 at 01:52 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Gary. He was such a nice man. My prayers go out to the family.

Mary Ann Dress (Hopperstad)

Bill Dress - July 28, 2018 at 05:13 PM



“ Janice, Chris, and family: Our condolences to you all. What a beautiful tribute to your family with the obituary you wrote. Thank you for sharing your mom and dad with us, and being friends of our family.

Larry & Katie Rigsby
Kennewick, WA

LARRY W RIGSBY - July 24, 2018 at 10:12 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Mr. Hendricks passing. I had the pleasure of knowing him through my dad, Ken Yancey, a fellow principal. Many year later, he would visit his friend, Mr. Ackley and we were blessed to live across the street. He would always take the time to say hello and ask how my folks were doing. Such a sweet and caring man.

Our love and prayers to the family.

Kathy Carpenter

Kathy Carpenter - July 24, 2018 at 03:54 PM



“ My prayers are with your family in the passing of Gary. But he is out of pain & reunited with Elsie - his fondest desire. They were such wonderful people- never will be forgotten.

Sally Goodwin - July 24, 2018 at 03:44 PM



“ So sad when hearing of the loss of one of Moses Lake's finest!! Was always a treat when Gary pulled into the station!!
Dave Hopkins

David Hopkins - July 24, 2018 at 10:07 AM



“ So sorry you lost Gary. I have always appreciated him. Gary was a consummate gentleman.

Bob Trask Jr.

Robert Trask - July 23, 2018 at 12:57 PM



“ We just wanted to offer our sympathies at the loss of Gary. We did not know Gary very well but we really liked him. We had the pleasure of meeting him on a number of Saturday mornings over coffee at Frank's Market. It was always a joy to see him and he was always charming and complimentary and nice to chat with.

Debbie and Yusuke Nakajo

Yusuke Nakajo - July 22, 2018 at 01:43 PM



“ We were blessed to be neighbors of the Hendricks for over 20 years. Mr. & Mrs. Hendricks lead their lives by exemplary example. They strengthened the lives of many in the Moses Lake community through their lifetime of service in education. Mr. Hendricks was most understanding and kind. Patience came naturally to him. He chose to see the good in people, His faith was his strong foundation. Serving the Lord was a joy and lit the way for others along life's way. During my weekly dinner or breakfast "dates", Gary often related stories of his hunting and fishing experiences and his fond memory of his retriever "Sally".

We share your sadness in his passing. Please be comforted by the love and beautiful and cherished memories he left for us to treasure.

Bill & Gracie Breneman

William Breneman - July 21, 2018 at 01:20 AM



“ Mr. Hendricks was my elementary principal in grade school. Sorry to hear of his passing, my Condolences to his family.



Denise Hancock - July 20, 2018 at 12:00 PM