



Garrett Cowenhoven

April 10, 1948 - July 22, 2013

After a six-year battle with multiple sclerosis, Gary passed away on July 22, 2013. He was 65 years old. Gary was born on April 10, 1948 in Brooklyn, New York and was a resident of Fremont, CA since 1973. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, MaryAnn; two sons, Spencer (Tracie) and Russell Cowenhoven.

Gary spent several years in the financial world of Silicon Valley and he most recently provided financial consulting for various start-up companies. After successfully quitting smoking in 1998, Gary became a smoking cessation facilitator for Kaiser and enjoyed helping others break their habit. He was passionate about this program and became dedicated to mentoring others.

Gary enjoyed a variety of activities with family and friends. In his earlier years, Gary was active with boating, water skiing and camping. He was a member of the Fremont Jaycees for several years and he played softball on a Fremont team for over twenty years. Gary was a member of the 19th Holers and Washington Township Men's Club. He especially enjoyed competing in a Fantasy Football League during football season. Gary was also a very active participant as a volunteer for the Candle Lighters Ghost House.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the staff at Emeritus at Atherton Court for the loving care Gary received during his battle with multiple sclerosis. Also, the family would like to extend their appreciation to

the members of Vitas Hospice who provided him with the care required, especially during the final days.

Gary's warmth and laughter will be deeply missed and his memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

A Memorial Service will be held for Gary on Sunday, August 25, 2pm at Fremont Memorial Chapel, 3723 Peralta Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536.

Tribute Wall

RG

“ We have some incredible memories of that man flying across the water on his water skis.....all done with the greatest of ease. Can't forget those many Friday nights walking in to the front room watching him and MaryAnn rocking out to Bob Seger and Fleetwood Mac. Good times. Gary was a loving father and husband and a great mentor to Spencer, Russ and me growing up. You will truly be missed but those incredible memories together will always be etched in my mind. We love you Gary. See you again someday.

Rob Gregg - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ So sorry for your loss. He is in pain no more! Praise the Lord!! Our thoughts and prayers go out to Garys'family.

Ann(Darden) Harrison - August 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Gary was kind and he was funny. He had a laugh that made you want to laugh with him. It felt good just watching him take joy in his life, in his games, and his family and friends. MaryAnn, Spencer, and Russ gave him amazing happiness. Over the years he shared his feelings about his family with us. Gary was a pleasure to have known and continues to be missed.

Bernadette Avery - August 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ I will miss Gary. He has always been such a sweet friend to me. I will miss his smile and his goofiness. My thoughts and prayers go to his lovely wife and family. Until we meet again?

Rachael Combs - August 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Such a wonderful man and so full of energy We will miss his spirit.*

Don and Pat Boddy - August 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Since I consider Gary to be one of my many "dads" (just like I have many moms), I have countless memories of him starting from my earliest years. He was part of my life for as long as I can remember - birthdays, holidays, pool parties, boating, Club Christmas, Labor Day. Him winning big in Tahoe when we were staying at the Keys and me getting woken up as he came home from the casinos since I was sleeping on a couch in the front room. I miss his laugh, his smile. His sense of humor. You are missed dearly Gary. Sending so much love to your family, which I consider my extended family.*
Love,
Christine

Christine Bradley - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *MaryAnn & family, Jim and I send our deepest sympathy to you for this great loss. Gary was a wonderful person who made all of us smile. He will be greatly missed.*

Jim & Carol McFeely - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

Gina Markou - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ We're sorry to hear of your loss. Gary was a great person and wonderful neighbor. The world will truly miss him. The wonder of a person is reflected in the people he leaves behind - his family. You and the boys are proof of his goodness.

Ted & Mary Blumenstein - August 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Larry and I only knew Gary for a few years before he became ill but he made such a wonderful lasting impression on both of us. We know how difficult this time is for you and the family and will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Larry & Angie Schmidt - July 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ MaryAnn, so very sorry to hear of Gary's passing. I miss the Gary that was always there when you needed him any job during Ghost House - security for one. Our prayers are with you and your family.

Marguerite Meyer - July 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ I am so sorry to hear the news of Gary's passing. I'll always remember the Mexico cruise and Gary's taste for good vodka!! It still brings a smile to my face when I think of that. God bless.

Wayne & Maggie Cook - July 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ We are so incredibly saddened to hear this news. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Gary was such a warm, funny and caring man. We are so sorry and wish you all strength through this time. Hopefully you'll find yourself laughing (and crying) as you reflect on the last 45 years, that's amazing!

Sarah Dawkins Rodriguez - July 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear MaryAnn, I am so sorry for your loss. His beautiful smile will always be in my heart. You and your sons will certainly be in my prayers. May he rest in peace.

Jeff & MaryAnn Bryant - July 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ MaryAnn, we are so sorry about Gary's passing but we feel so lucky to have met him and gotten to know what a warm and loving person he was. I will always remember the first time we met him was to learn to play Mexican train and he was a great teacher and a lot of fun to be with! Love and prayers go out to you and your family.

Derek & Mary Lou Kroes - July 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Mary Ann and family, Gary will be missed by many and also remembered by many. We remember how he loved setting up the ramp at the Ghost House and his competitive spirit with Fantasy Football. But most of all we remember his great smile and his love for life.

Paul and Sue Parhiala - July 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Buzz and I are happy for Gary as we believe that now he is in a better place. We are very sad for Gary because he is not here, in good health, to be with all of you enjoying life. We have wonderful memories with Gary and MaryAnn of all the fun things we have done and places we have traveled to and we will always cherish them. Gary will not be forgotten and will continue to be in all our conversations forever. Our thoughts are with each of you.

Buzz & Marilyn Barker - July 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ It was with deep sadness that Dave and I read the paper this morning and saw that Gary had passed away. While we know he was sick for a long time the news of his death comes as a shock as I'm sure it does for you and the boys. The picture in the paper is exactly as I remember him with a big smile. I hope that you can find comfort during this very sad and difficult time knowing that so many many people love and care about you and share your sadness and remember Gary with fond memories. With love and deepest sympathy.

David & Carol Nishihara - July 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ I am saddened by this news. I remember Gary fondly as he was fun and kind and caring. He was one of my favorite people that Rena introduced to me from that time a while back. I am glad that I knew him during some of his good years where he was well and full of character. My deepest sympathy to all of you who knew and loved him.

Karen Preston - July 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ We are so sorry, Gary was a great boss and friend. Always kind and thoughtful.

Charlotte & Frank Autrey - July 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Dear MaryAnn and Family- We were sorry to hear of your loss but it's been a long hard road you have been walking down for a long, long time. Rest In Peace!

Mike & Nancy Legan - July 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ MaryAnn, Spencer (Tracie) and Russ,
Our thoughts are with all of you at this time. Gary was such a wonderful person to get to know and we will cherish the times we have spent together.

Phil and Pat Keller - July 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ MaryAnn, Spencer, Tracie, and Russ,
I am so sorry for your loss. This has been a great loss for our family. I loved Gary as much as I love you and the boys. Gary was like my son, the same as Jimmy and Robert. I love you all very much,

Emma Garner - July 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ It was our pleasure to know Gary. His smile and joy of life will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Richard & Mary Hammock - July 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ *Mary Ann, my thoughts and prayers are with you and the boys. I know after 45 years, you have many happy memories with Gary. Be comforted with them. Remember the good times. Peace.*

David Gerity - July 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *MaryAnn,
I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. He will always be remembered!!! I remember when I first meet you and Gary. You lived in an apartment in Arkadelphia and went to college. Jimmy said he wanted me to meet his cousin and her husband and that her husband was a yankee. lol I fell in love with both of you. You were so welcoming and sweet. I had never met anyone like Gary. He always did everything you asked him to do with a smile on his face. He loved Jr. too. He would make every step Jr. made. I can just see them dressed up like women in their dresses and heels at the stock car races. They were there to hand out the trophies to the men. The cars were going around the track and Jr. bent over the deck and Gary used the flag to cover up Jr. underwear with the flag. lol That was the best night! They had so much fun!!!! There are so many good memories! Love you and my prayers are with you!!!*

Phoebe - July 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *My deepest sympathy at this sad time.
Your family is in my prayers.*

Karen Jacinto - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ Dear MaryAnn,
May comfort and peace be with you at this most difficult time. May each day find you one step closer to a place of gentle peace and warm remembrances. With Deepest Sympathy & Love.

Nancy Lee LaBarr Sibley - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Gary added so much fun to every gathering. Always teasing the kids, and adults for that matter. Fond memories.

Kerri Negaard Wade - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ MaryAnn, Spencer and Russ,
I am so sorry of the loss of Gary. He was the best son-in-law that I could have ever had and I really did love him. There will never be another Gary. My heart is broken. Thinking and praying for you all during this time. Love you, Mother/Mammaw

Maxine Darden - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NN

“ MaryAnn,
Our thoughts are with you and your family. We will always remember the great sorority camping trips we shared and the fun times with Gary. His smile and laughter was his gift to everyone. He was a gem.

Nick and Debra Nixon - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *Mary Ann, my love, prayers and thoughts are with you and your sons. I had no idea Gary was a fellow Brooklynier but I knew there was something special about him. He is resting peacefully now and smiling down at the rest of us. Regina Weir*

Regina Weir - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *MaryAnn.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this sad time, Gary's great smile is shining down on all of us.

Jon and Brigitte Wilkerson - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *We share so many happy memories of fun times when we were all young and through the years since then. Gary has always been and will always be a big part of our lives. He was a caring happy loving smart person who enriched our lives. We have missed him so much. We'll always remember that stormy night and "against the wind".*

Bill and Judy Sable - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Deepest condolences from the Clevenger/Gole family. Gary will be remembered as funny, kind and deeply committed to his family and friends.*

Joni Clevenger - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ We fondly remember Gary during those camping trips when we had no kids and he was up early making the coffee and being such a great dad and husband. Gary was always kind and helpful with so many things, such a nice man to everyone. We will miss him. Our sincere condolences to MaryAnn, Spencer, Russell, and family.

Tim & Renee Tomei - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Sending love to MaryAnn, Spencer and Russ. I remember when I was a kid Gary always used to tease me and steal my favorite blanket and make me chase him around for it :) As I got older, it was always fun to talk to him at get togethers. He was such a funny, positive and genuine person. He will be greatly missed. XOXO
Maggie Sable

Maggie Sable - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Gary and MaryAnn came into our lives when I joined Sorority 33 years ago. We had crazy and fun times with Gary and MaryAnn. So many memories. Camping-Gary was the best campfire builder, he was up early, had the coffee going. He was always ready for a hike. We then progressed to cruising; Gary loved to gamble, play cards, the best dinner partner. Mexican Train Dominoes- Gary loved that game; he even had his own engineer hat to wear. I am going to miss that mischievous smile of his, his special hello hug and dancing; he loved to dance with all of his special ladies. Thank you for all the memories and your friendship

Andy and Mary Lang - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ We are saddened due to the passing of "uncle" Gary. He was such a great guy and always made us laugh. He would have enjoyed watching these 2 boys play baseball. He will be greatly missed. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. We love you all.
Lee, Shannon, Austin, and Ethan

Lee, Shannon, Austin and Ethan Ledbetter - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ We would like to extend our deepest sympathies and to let you to know that he will be greatly missed. If everyone strived to have the kindness and compassion Gary had the world would be a better place. Love, the Barker's

Kyle, Holly, Emma & Hannah Barker - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ MaryAnn, as you know, Gary and I first met in the JC's back in the early 70's. Through that friendship you and Rita became friends and then we became camping buddies with our kids and our various friends. We had some very wonderful camp outs together and created a lot of great memories. Gary will be sorely missed by all those who knew him on a personal level. Words cannot begin to express our sorrow for you and your family's loss. You know we are here for you if you need us. God bless.

Mike & Rita Rosen - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I am really sad to hear about Gary passing away...I knew he was sick for years...I will always remember him as a friend full of joy and happiness. He is part of my wonderful memories in Fremont. I wish all the best to Maryann, Spencer and Russell for the future. Your French friend.

Jean-François Rey - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MC

“*MaryAnn & family - we were so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. We thoroughly enjoyed being a small part of your lives these years and Gary will always be in our hearts as the best Candle Lighter popcorn salesman ever!! God's peace to you all.*

Mike & Norma Cutter - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RT

“*Dear Maryann, Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Gary was always such a delight to be around. His humor and infectious smile will always come to mind when we think of him.*

Riki and Mark Twist - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

“*MaryAnn,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your wonderful family. So enjoyed the times spent with you and Gary when I visited. You are in my heart at this difficult time.*

Joan Chesshir - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“*My heartfelt condolences to MaryAnn, the boys, and family. Gary was most definitely one of the Good Guys. He could brighten up any room with his wit, play a mean game of golf, and solve nearly any problem. I am honored to call him my friend.*

Bob Marshall - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ My heart is very heavy with the passing of Gary. The memories from my time at Siltec with Gary will be with me forever. The laughter, his smile, and all the girly things we used to tell Gary that used to make him blush. Oh, and the two peanut butter sandwiches he would eat faithfully everyday. Those memories are priceless. Hope the many family memories will help you all heal.

Deanna Reed - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ For Mary Ann and her sons. You have our deepest sympathy in the loss of husband and father. My nephew Gary was a dear boy and adored by us all. He was a part of our close family until he went away to college and it grieves me that I never got to share in his later years. These were his happiest times with you MaryAnn and Spencer and Russ. By the beautiful thoughts his friends have written, I know he was every bit the fine man we knew him to be.
Your loving Aunt Lee

Lee and David Smith - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ MaryAnn, Spencer, Tracie, Russ,
I am really glad I got to know Gary. He was funny and kind to everyone. Our family has really lost the "life of the party". We will all miss him dearly.
Love to all, Beverly

Beverly Patterson Hamaker - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ MaryAnn
I'm sorry for your loss. There are no words of comfort, but having your family near will help.

Chris Norwood - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ We are saddened with Gary's passing, but will hold fond memories in our hearts. He truly was one of a kind! Love and prayers to you all.

Jimmy and Leigh Anne Garner - July 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Mary Ann and family - all of you are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. I'm glad I got to know Gary, he was such a great man! He will really be missed by everyone. A friend - Jackie

Jackie DeLaTorre - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Our hearts are saddened today. We have lost a wonderful neighbor who was always there to help us. May the Lord bless us and our memories of our dear friend Gary and provide MaryAnn, Spencer and Russ with His grace and peace during this challenging time.

Ed and Liz Hugo - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ So sorry for your loss. Praying for you all during this time.

The Flen Family - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Ted and Mary Blumenstein has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

Ted and Mary Blumenstein - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Gary was a very smart, witty and fun guy who will be greatly missed by us all. We are deeply saddened by his passing but will fondly remember his bright personality and warm smile forever.

Larry & Roberta Gonzales - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ MaryAnn, Spence, Tracie, and Russ;
My heart is heavily burdened by sadness due to the loss of our loved one. Gary was more than just a cousin, he was my brother-in-law. I don't think anyone else could have fit into our family as well as Gary did. We all have so many fond memories of him. He always made me laugh. I love you all very much. Martha

Martha May - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Thinking of you and your family. Prayers to all during this sad time. I know he will be missed.

Cinda Harris Funderburg - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Whenever I think of Gary I smile, he was so much fun to work for and with.

Jamile McConnell - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Knowing Gary through our young married years until now has been a journey of friendship and fun. He was a unique soul that brought a different life experience to us and gave of who he was so sincerely. We have missed him in our lives since he first became ill and will always feel his loss. We will keep him in our hearts always.

Rena and Larry Weed - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *MaryAnn,
So sorry to hear of Gary's passing. I extend my sincere sympathy to
you and yours in this time of sorrow.*

Janet Johnson - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM