



Gary Louis Mathis

July 4, 1939 - October 23, 2023

Gary Louis Mathis, age 84, of Chapman, Nebraska passed away unexpectedly on Monday, October 23, 2023, at CHI St. Francis Medical Center.

Gary was born July 4, 1939, in Grand Island and grew up on the family farm in St. Libory. He attended St. Libory Catholic School through the eighth grade and graduated from Grand Island Senior High in 1956. He attended Kearney State College (now the University of Nebraska-Kearney) for two years, before leaving to help with the family after his father's death. Gary later enlisted in the Army National Guard and served for 6 years.

Early in his professional career, Gary worked for the City of Grand Island Building Department. In April 1972, he became the Building and Zoning Administrator for Merrick County, a position he held for over 32 years until his retirement in August of 2004.

In his free time, Gary enjoyed remodeling houses, camping and fishing with friends, and dancing. He was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Gary also had an affinity for fixing and repairing bicycles, operating a bike repair shop for many years. When he was younger, Gary enjoyed boxing. He was a two-time Golden Gloves champion in 1960 and 1963, and later trained youth for several years.

Gary had a strong personal belief in public and community service. Reflective of this, he was actively involved in numerous organizations throughout his life. Professionally, Gary was a leading member of the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association (NPZA), serving as its president in the late 1990s. He was also influential in setting statewide policy, serving as a long-time member of NPZA's Planning and Zoning Legislative Committee that guided legislative policy on planning and zoning in Nebraska. Gary was also an active member of the Nebraska Association of County Officials, serving as the Central District Programming Official. He also regularly presented at conferences to educate others about planning and zoning issues across the state. In recognition of his lifelong contributions, Gary was the 2005 recipient of the NPZA President's Award of Special Recognition for his outstanding service to the organization and planning and zoning in the state, and for his mentorship of members.

Gary was an active member of Parents Without Partners and headed the local chapter for several years. He also served as the Zone Administrator from 1987 to 1988. In recognition of his contribution, he received an Outstanding Service Award in 1988. Later in life, Gary found enjoyment volunteering with the Orphan Grain Train, a non-profit organization that gathers and shares donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid with those in need across America and around the world. Gary could often be found in the Grand Island facility boxing up goods for shipment to those in need in lands near and far.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Genevieve (Roepker) Mathis; infant sister, Bonita Mathis; brother, Leon Mathis; sister-in-law, Janice Mathis; nephew, Tim Mathis; very dear friend, Virginia "Ginny" Stevens. He is survived by his brother, Dean Mathis, and sister, Sharon Mathis, both of Grand Island; son Greg Mathis of Minneapolis, Minnesota, daughter Jill Mathis of Englewood, Colorado, and daughter Kyla Lilienthal and husband

Ryan of Grand Island; grandchildren, Presley, Taylan, and Cash Lilienthal; and nieces and nephews, Mike (Linda) Mathis and Lisa (Daron) Bean.

Visitation is on Friday, October 27, 2023, at 5:00—7:00 p.m. at All Faiths Funeral Home, 2929 South Locust Street in Grand Island. Funeral services are Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., also at the funeral home.

Following the burial, a reception is being held at the Chapman Community Center in Chapman.

In lieu of plants, memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences and memories shared with the family at www.giallfaiths.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **27**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT **28**. 10:00 AM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Gary Louis Mathis.



October 27, 2023 at 12:53 PM



“ *Dan Niebaum & Family* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Gary Louis Mathis.



Dan Niebaum & Family - October 26, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance* was purchased for the family of Gary Louis Mathis.



October 26, 2023 at 04:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Louis Mathis.

October 26, 2023 at 04:58 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Louis Mathis.*



October 26, 2023 at 11:38 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Louis Mathis.

October 26, 2023 at 11:38 AM



“ *Gary will forever be in our hearts. We always enjoyed all the holidays and time spent with him. He will be so missed <3. Daron and Lisa Bean*

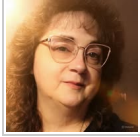


Daron and Lisa Bean - October 26, 2023 at 10:43 AM



“ *I enjoyed visiting with Gary from time to time. He was proud of his children, his grandchildren and spoke of them often. He will be missed. Condolences to his family.*

Dennis Mudloff - October 26, 2023 at 09:25 AM



“ Christine Vaughn lit a candle in memory of Gary Mathis



Christine Vaughn - October 26, 2023 at 01:20 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Louis Mathis.



October 25, 2023 at 09:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Louis Mathis.

October 25, 2023 at 09:20 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Gary Louis Mathis.



October 25, 2023 at 12:22 AM