



## Gary Dean Sears

December 23, 1947 - September 2, 2023

Gary Dean Sears, age 75, of Grand Island, passed away peacefully at home September 2, 2023.

Visitation will be Monday, September 11th from 5-7pm at All Faiths Funeral Home.

A Celebration of Life, led by Dan Naranjo, will take place at All Faiths on Tuesday, September 12th at 11am. A gathering of friends will be at the Alda Community Center immediately following. The service will be livestreamed on the funeral home website. Please drive your favorite car and wear your favorite attire.

Memorials are suggested to Voice for Companion Animals. Condolences may be left at [www.giallfaiths.com](http://www.giallfaiths.com).

Dean was born December 23, 1947 in Stockton, CA, to John Beauford and Christine Pauline (Hauf) Sears. When he was a toddler, the family moved to Grand Island, where Dean spent the rest of his life. He attended Howard Elementary, Walnut Junior High and graduated from Northwest High School in 1966.

On May 3, 1969, he was united in marriage to Connie Embrey at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island. They were blessed with three children. Family life included memory-filled adventures camping and Griswold-like summer vacations, a mile-long list of automobiles (you never knew what you would be driving) and many beloved pets. Dean bought his very first car at age 9 and recruited his buddies to help him push it home. Without much effort, that first car was up and running and the legacy began.

Dean dedicated his 45-year career to Chief Industries, retiring in 2012. He began in drafting and ended as General Manager of Chief Construction, leaving a much beloved work family.

In their later years, Dean and Connie spent many Friday nights with the “Rusty Bottoms” hot rod car club, but Dean’s greatest joy was time with family. Gathering around the table, enjoying great food, solving world problems, sharing memories and tons of laughter were blessings frequently experienced. Because of him, we’ve all perfected the art of quick-wit, sarcasm, bad dad joke generation and being ‘punny’. If you don’t get it or can’t finish the punchline, keep trying. In the meantime, we’ll be laughing and enjoying the next joke or story. Every family should be so lucky to spill over with laughter each time they gather. Dean’s love of cars was a very close second (actually it was probably a tie). From faster-than-fast sprint cars to Eagles that couldn’t make it over a golf-ball-sized rock, to muscle (he loved to go fast) or classic cars; he either owned, drove, helped with, repaired, serviced or just bought and sold at least one of everything. He always had multiple projects in process and was blessed to enjoy his hobbies to the end.

Dean is survived by his beloved wife, Connie; children; Carrie Sears (Duane) Kohles of Grand Island, John (Jenny) Sears of Westcliffe, CO, and Collette (Albert) VanBorkum of Lake McConaughy; eleven grandchildren; Grant, Wyatt, Ava, Brendan, Karsen, Marshall, Hudson, Madilyn, Grace, Emily and

John.

He was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws and numerous aunts and uncles.

“I got this idea . . .”

“It was a good deal.”

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **11.** 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/>

## Memorial Service

SEP **12.** 11:00 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



“ *All Faiths Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Gary Dean Sears*



All Faiths Funeral Home - September 07, 2023 at 10:06 AM

KF

*Our sadness deepens with the passing of Dean. He taught me a lot as I started out at Chief, and was very patient with me. His nickname for me was Crash Fandry, and I well deserved it. Lol I will forever behold him as a friend and confidant.*

kim fandry - September 12, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *Gary Dean Sears*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM

JM

“ *Lyle and I remember Dean from the Chief trips Lyle used to direct. The children all attended Newell Elementary School where I was their library teacher. Our condolences to all the family. We are so sorry for your loss.  
Sincerely, Lyle and Jean McMIndes*

Jean McMIndes - September 24, 2023 at 04:34 PM

GK

“ Sorry to hear about Gary he loved Coney Island, God Bless.

George Katrouzos - September 08, 2023 at 04:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Sears.



September 08, 2023 at 02:50 PM

DP

“ To Connie, Carrie and the rest of the family. May the Lord give great comfort and peace.

Deacon Dixon Powers - September 08, 2023 at 07:32 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Sears.



September 07, 2023 at 09:34 PM

ML

“ I was sad to learn of Dean's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you as you miss his earthly presence. Our family has many, many memories to cherish of Dean.

Margaret Lind - September 07, 2023 at 05:20 PM

FC

“ From Elliott Graham and Cindy Conley purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Dean Sears.



---

**From Elliott Graham and Cindy Conley** - September 07, 2023 at 02:42 PM

-A

“ -Levander's Automotive purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gary Dean Sears.



---

**-Levander's Automotive** - September 07, 2023 at 12:39 PM

-A

“ -Levander's Automotive planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Dean Sears.

---

**-Levander's Automotive** - September 07, 2023 at 12:39 PM

BR

“ Dear Connie and family. Connie and I are so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Gary and I grew up together when he lived on 11th Street and I lived on 10th Street. Gary and I and the other children of our three block area had a wonderful childhood. Gary and I were buddies. Gary's parents were very nice people. I remember once when my sister Mary Virginia was getting ready to drive back to Omaha her 1954 Ford it was overheating. It was Sunday and no repair shop was open. I told Gary and he came right over and fixed Mary's car so she could get back to Omaha and work on Monday. Gary was so kind to do this. Even at a young age he loved working on vehicles. Again Connie and I are so sorry for your loss. Connie and I said prayers for you and your family this morning. Love and Prayers.

Bill and Connie Ryan - September 07, 2023 at 11:40 AM

MS

“ Our deepest Sympathy in the loss of Dean... We will miss him at our supper get togethers. with other classic car friends. Hugs and prayers to you Connie and your family.

Marlene Schmidt - September 06, 2023 at 05:53 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Sears.



September 06, 2023 at 05:38 AM