



Gary Martin Robinson

August 28, 1946 - November 6, 2025

Gary Martin Robinson, age 79, of Knoxville, IA, passed away on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at his home.

Gary was born on August 28, 1946, in Great Lakes, IL, to Robert L. and Therese Barrett Robinson. As the eldest of eight siblings, Gary spent his early years moving between Illinois, San Diego, Charleston, and Cocoli, Panama, because his father served in the Navy. After his father retired, the family settled on their farm in Iowa, arriving on Gary's 13th birthday in 1959.

Gary attended Lovilia School through his freshman year of high school before transferring to Albia High School, where he graduated with the Class of 1965. He joined the Army that December and served in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division- a life-changing experience, as described by his family.

After his military service, Gary earned a degree in sociology from UNI and held various jobs, eventually retiring from the VA Hospital in Knoxville. Though he never married, he cherished his two dogs: Buzzy, a boxer, and Serendipity (Sara), a terrier-chihuahua mix.

He owned his home in Knoxville and treasured family gatherings. Sports were a lifelong passion- he especially loved the New York Yankees in the 1960s and remained devoted to all sports, particularly cheering for the Iowa

Hawkeyes.

Gary enjoyed photography, watching sports, and spending time outdoors. He took pride in his farming background and fondly remembered both working in the fields and socializing with friends in Lovilia. In his later years he loved antiques and frequenting secondhand stores.

During his time in California, Gary worked as a newspaper boy and liked to recount a story in which actor Glenn Ford offered him an autograph in exchange for a paper, but Gary insisted on getting the dime instead- unaware of Ford's fame until others explained.

Gary is survived by his sisters, Mary (Richard) Barnard, Karen (Jerry) Fontinel, Linda (Douglas) Yates, and Janet Robinson; brothers, Ray (Nenette), Carl (Pam), and Mark (Amy) Robinson; nephews, Derek and Darin Barnard, Tony Fontinel, Ian & Caelan Robinson, Cory, Blake & Brandon Billings; nieces, Angela Coe, Denise Barnard, April Delaney, Macenzie Summers, Mollie Sances, Kimberly Yates, Emilee Robinson; as well as many great and great-great nieces and nephews who mourn his passing.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Therese; his grandparents, Maurice and Isabel Barrett and Morgan and Bertha Robinson; and a sister-in-law, Katherine True Robinson.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2025, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Gary's family present to greet family and friends. Military honors provided by the American Legion of Albia, Melrose, and Lovilia, will be held at 4:00 p.m. outside the Tharp Funeral Home. A memorial service will immediately follow with Christian Summers officiating. Burial will be held at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Adel, IA, at a later date.

A memorial has been established to the Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 10. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Military Honors

NOV 10. 4:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Memorial Service

NOV 10. 4:20 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Tribute Wall

PR

“ Gary was my cousin and lots of people thought we were brothers when we were younger. See the photo.
Sorry to hear of his passing.
May God rest your soul, Gary.
Philip Robinson
Pwrobin1947@sbcglobal.net



Philip Robinson - November 12, 2025 at 02:27 PM



Nice to hear from you Phil! Gary enjoyed his time with you and you are right, I was often asked if you were a brother! Karen

Karen Fontinel - November 12, 2025 at 04:01 PM

MB

So glad to hear from you bro. Take care of your family. Love to all.

Mary Barnard - November 13, 2025 at 10:21 AM

RJ

“ Gary was a classmate and friend of mine. We spent a lot of time together after we got out of the Army. Good times.
Richard Jones

Richard Jones - November 07, 2025 at 11:21 PM



Gary was always happy to see his Lovilia friends! He considered all of you friends for life!

Karen Fontinel - November 12, 2025 at 04:02 PM

DL

“ I know Gary as a customer of Hy-Vee. I am very sad to hear of his passing and to be honest I was worried about him this summer. I could see a decline in him 😞 I think he came to the store 6 or 7 days in a row bring us some of his favorite celebrity tomatoes. I will miss seeing him and visiting with him 😞 Thoughts and prayers to all of your family. Please know he will be missed!!



Deb Linsley - November 07, 2025 at 10:54 PM

MB

Deb, thanks for taking the time to post. Gary loved "working the ground" growing things. So glad that his work was appreciated by you and the others at Hy-Vee. His shy smile and unassuming personality will be missed by us all.

Mary Barnard - November 08, 2025 at 12:40 PM

GR

Dear Mary and Karen, please accept my deepest condolences. May your many memories bring your family comfort during this grief. Sending hugs.

Giovanna Richardson - November 08, 2025 at 01:15 PM



Thank you, Giovanna!

Karen Fontinel - November 12, 2025 at 04:03 PM

GG

“ I enjoyed my time with Gary when I would come to the farm. Always had chores to do but it was fun working with him. Always piled that hay wagon too high. RIP Gary....

George Goeppner - November 07, 2025 at 09:44 PM

MB

George, our family always enjoyed the time when your family came to the farm. Since Gary and you were so close in age, I'm sure there were fun times that we have no knowledge of. Thanks cousin and may we all be together in heaven one day.

Mary Barnard - November 08, 2025 at 12:42 PM



Chip - the Robinson clan always enjoyed when the Goepner's visited. Gary & I visited about some of the antics when you stayed on the farm! He had some very fond memories of those times.

Karen Fontinel - November 12, 2025 at 04:05 PM

RP

“ Gary was one of my best friends growing up in Lovilia. We did many things together ♦♦ baling hay, cruising the town, playing basketball/softball, drinking an occasional beer. Gary was a groomsman in our wedding. I'll miss you Sugar Ray! Praying for the repose of your soul! Ron Plum

Ron Plum - November 07, 2025 at 09:41 PM



Thank you. He often spoke fondly of you too.

Karen Fontinel - November 12, 2025 at 04:06 PM

MC

Sorry to hear of Gary's Passing . My Dad(Don Clark) and Gary where neighbors the past 30 plus years (dad still lives at 906 W Marion he's 98 this year) Gary would bring over his home grown tomatoes' for dad and in the past Gary's little Dog shara would come over and sit on the front porch with dad. Mike Clark

Mike Clark - November 14, 2025 at 09:06 AM