



Ray Eugene Gardner

March 12, 1940 - October 29, 2023

Heaven gained a farmer today. Ray Eugene Gardner, age 83, of Albia, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at the Monroe Care Center in Albia.

Ray was born on March 12, 1940, at home on the family farm in Monroe County, to Walter Sr. and Mildred (Stewart) Gardner. He grew up attending Pleasant Point country school, a one room schoolhouse, until school buses were put in place, when he came to Albia to school and graduated from the Albia High School with the class of 1958. On December 29, 1958, he married Carol Mullinix in Albia and to this union, 3 children, Tim, Maggie, and Annie were born. Ray and Carol later divorced. On March 1, 1991, he joined Patricia Hoelzel and they spent 32 loving years together.

In his younger years, Ray enjoyed playing softball and participating in 4-H. He worked at the Albia Sale Barn where he often rode horses to move cattle in and out of the showring. He enjoyed being outdoors, deer hunting, and gardening. He was a talented bowler and golfer. Ray was a lifelong farmer, raising Angus cattle and row cropping., as well as sheering many sheep. He received many awards for farming over the years and won the yield contest in Monroe County multiple times. He and Pat owned a home in Florida where they enjoyed wintering and also loved traveling and taking cruises to places including Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Vallarta, and Las Vegas.

Ray loved to socialize with neighbors and friends and loved to play 4-point pitch. Above all else, he loved his family and cherished all of the time he spent with them, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Ray is survived by Pat Hoelzel; his children, Tim (Jody) Gardner, Maggie Popson, and Annie Gardner; 5 grandchildren, Sarah (Kris) Popson, Katie (Chris) Adams, Emily (Travis) Patton, Kyle (Katie) Popson, and Elizabeth (Slater) Poe; 12 great grandchildren, Sophia, Emery, Clay, Cal, Ross, Kole, Gabriella, Logun, Bella, Nova, Thatcher, and Rocky; and a sister, Dalene Bateman. Ray is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins and good friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Mildred; 2 brothers, Clyde and Junior Gardner; a nephew, Leslie Bateman Sr.; and his dogs, Zipper and Scout.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 3, 2023, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Ray's family present to greet family and friends. A Time of Remembrance will be held at 6:00 p.m. with Pastor Brad Gray officiating. Per Ray's wishes, his body will be cremated following services and a private family burial will be held at a later date.

Memorials have been established to Monroe County 4-H and Lake Miami Park.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Time of Remembrance

NOV 3. 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

SH

“ *Shelly Hanes lit a candle in memory of Ray Eugene Gardner*



Shelly Hanes - November 03, 2023 at 05:45 PM

TS

“ *Ray what can I say! I will truly miss your drop in visits to the office after appointments or after your trip to the canteen to get your sandwich. It has been a gift getting to know you over the last few years. I know you are doing a lot of catching up with loved ones & friend that went before you. Rest easy you will be missed. Most of all send us signals you are still around, your family will need them now and again.*



Tami Sawyer - November 02, 2023 at 03:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ray Eugene Gardner.*



November 02, 2023 at 03:26 PM

YC

“ Your Kosmach cousins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ray Eugene Gardner.



Your Kosmach cousins - November 02, 2023 at 03:00 PM

YC

“ Your Kosmach cousins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ray Eugene Gardner.

Your Kosmach cousins - November 02, 2023 at 03:00 PM

KE

“ It was a special day when Ray showed up at the Country Mill..it meant an afternoon of playing pitch! RIP my friend. Kathy Elliott

Kathy Elliott - November 02, 2023 at 06:04 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray Eugene Gardner.



October 31, 2023 at 09:27 PM

HA

“ Holly A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ray Eugene Gardner.

Holly A. - October 31, 2023 at 05:29 PM