



Gary W. Foster

MAY 21, 1946 - OCT 12, 2022



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Gary W. Foster

MAY 21, 1946 - OCT 12, 2022

Gary W. Foster, 76, of Camanche passed away, Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at the Alverno.

Memorial Services are being planned for the spring of 2023. The Camanche Chapel Snell-Zornig Funeral Homes & Crematory is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be expressed by visiting his obituary at www.snellzornig.com.

Gary Wayne Foster was born on May 21, 1946 in Rego Park, New York, the son of Griffith and Mina (Gross) Foster. He was a graduate of Half Hollow Hills High School Dix Hills, New York excelling in athletics; wrestling, track and tennis. College brought him to Iowa. He graduated from Parsons College in 1967 and received his Masters from Northwest Missouri State. While attending Parsons he earned his varsity letters in both tennis and wrestling. His teammates also chose him as their tennis team captain. He married his high school sweetheart, Linda Gottschalk in 1965. After getting his masters, they were offered numerous jobs, but when they arrived in Camanche and saw the beautiful tennis courts they knew they were home.

Gary was the guidance counselor at Camanche High School for 31 years from 1971 until his retirement in 2001. What he may be most remembered for was his tennis team's long running successes. He proudly coached varsity boy's tennis for 32 years with Jeff Marsh as his assistant. In 1971 he took over the community's summer tennis program, spending long days teaching both boys and girls. The program blossomed to the point where it got national recognition in USA TODAY magazine called Camanche "Tennis Town USA". In the book "Bernie Saggau & the Iowa Boys, The Centennial History of the Iowa High School Athletic Association", Gary was only one of two tennis coaches highlighted. His teams had a remarkable winning percentage of 85%, compiling a mark of 913-164. His teams earned nine state team championships, three state singles champions, five state doubles champions and numerous runner-ups. Gary was honored in Camanche's inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame, as the Midwest Region Tennis Coach of the Year, several years and in 2003 was named the National High School Athletic Association's National Tennis Coach of the Year. He and Linda were honored late in life as the City's Grand Marshalls, a



Obituary

Gary W. Foster

MAY 21, 1946 - OCT 12, 2022

recognition he greatly cherished and was humbled by. He loved coaching, his players and was thankful for the years of support he received from his students, their parents and the community as a whole.

Gary is survived by his wife: Linda of Camanche, three sons: Greg (Catherine) Foster of Massachusetts, and Gary (Colleen) Foster of Colorado and Russell Polner of Florida; four grandchildren; his sister: Judy (Rich) Enners of Tennessee and a brother-in-law: Robert Fitch of Virginia. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister: Sandy, and a granddaughter: 2Lt. Cailin Foster.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the Parkinson's Foundation.



Tribute Wall

Gary W. Foster

MAY 21, 1946 - OCT 12, 2022



Jay Fett lit a candle in honor of Gary.

Coach you will be missed. I know you are in a better place. Rest in peace. To Linda, Greg, and Gary, my condolences. When I think back on my tennis career, know that Coach is the person who inspired me and gave me a chance, believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. I will always remember him.



May 12 at 4:43 AM



Marc Thomsen lit a candle in honor of Gary.



October 27 at 5:58 AM



Michael Campie posted:

Will always remember him as a great coach and mentor. Prayers with the Foster family. Rest in peace coach - you left a lasting legacy in all of our lives Mike Campie class of 1996

October 16 at 5:04 PM



Maggie Jensen-Klaes lit a candle in honor of Gary.



October 14 at 8:05 PM

MK **Maggie Jensen-Klaes** August 30 at 6:07 PM

Thanks for giving so much time to all the kids. Whether it was in tennis or as a counselor directing us to different colleges! You always gave your best to all of us!



Michael And Christy Low posted:

Linda and family, we are so sorry for your loss and offer our condolences and prayers. Gary was indeed a special person, as a neighbor and as a mentor and coach for our sons. I will miss our "over the fence" chats. God bless.

October 14 at 10:40 AM



Tribute Wall

Gary W. Foster

MAY 21, 1946 - OCT 12, 2022

BW

Bob Weber posted:

I had him as my wrestling coach, what a great man he will be missed.

October 14 at 5:47 AM

LT

Lisa Hope Tate lit a candle in honor of Gary.



October 13 at 5:06 AM

MK

Maggie Jensen-Klaes October 14 at 8:12 PM

RIP

MK

Maggie Jensen-Klaes October 14 at 8:11 PM

He had me join a tennis team that got to play in quad cities for just a good experience! I was only in 6th grade, but it made a profound difference in my life! Thanks again Mr. Foster.

MK

Maggie Jensen-Klaes October 14 at 8:04 PM

So veery difficult to lose a great man like Gary! My heartfelt condolences for you Linda and your whole family!



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit