



Gary Lee Ruzek

June 15, 1956 - November 5, 2019

Gary Lee Ruzek, beloved father, brother, uncle and friend passed away in his home in Austin, Texas. Born June 15, 1956 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Gary graduated from Western Illinois University and Southern Illinois University, finishing with a masters in Computer Science.

Gary lived in Austin for over 30 years. In addition to his 30 + years with IBM, he enjoyed many other interests and pursuits. Gary loved music and building guitars was one of his passions. Additionally, he could discuss politics every minute of every day. The other mission in Gary's life, was to rescue and support greyhounds.

Gary is survived by his son, Kevyn Taylor of Austin; sisters, Patti Sealls of Austin and Linda Boor of Great Bend, Kansas; brother, Bill Leichsenring of Springfield, Illinois; stepsister, Anna Gowen; nephews, Nick Sealls of Austin, Texas and Travis Sealls of Indianapolis, Indiana; Ryan and Nathan Deberry of Hutchinson, Kansas; Eric and Scott Leichsenring of Springfield, Illinois and niece, Courtney San Filippo of Sicily.

Gary wanted a green burial. There will be a graveside service at Eloise Woods Natural Burial Park Thursday, November 14th at 11:00 am.

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Lee Ruzek

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ I just found out about this and am so sorry to hear. Gary was a good friend and one of the best people I know. We loved to talk about all sorts of subjects but politics was always a favorite. He was always a good thinker and philosophy was another subject we loved to discuss.

I met Gary when I worked for IBM. he was a great mentor. Gary was always willing to help with anything I asked for.

The thing I remember most was his passion for life. He loved his greyhounds and music and comedy. We spent countless hours talking politics and the state of the world. I will miss you, Gary!

Ray Schafer - April 28, 2020 at 01:13 AM



“ Just found out about this sad news. I have known Gary for over 20 years at IBM. He was a great guy to work with and always helpful. What I remember most about Gary are his wit, the fun conversations we had over the years, and most of all his hearty laugh. Gary, you will be missed.

Uma Mandava - January 03, 2020 at 06:27 PM



“ I met Gary on my first day at IBM. He always had a great sense of humor and was willing to help out when I needed help. His extensive knowledge of AIX was invaluable. As a friend we would talk about a range of topics from his favorite sports teams, politics, and dogs. I will miss his wit and laughter.

Jim Allen - November 14, 2019 at 07:44 AM

“ Gary and I were opposites in almost every way. But we were also the best of friends. I worked with Gary at IBM for about 25 years and we went out for lunch almost every day during that time. Gary was quite the talker and I was a listener which might have had a lot to do with why we got along so well. He loved to flirt with the waitresses and he could strike up a conversation with complete strangers about any subject. He would often share stories about when he was younger or about his family. He loved his family and especially loved his son Kevyn.

Most know about Gary's love for his greyhounds. But Gary and I shared an interest in tropical fish too. We spent a whole Saturday visiting every tropical fish store in the Austin area. Then we had to follow up with a trip to San Antonio to see what the fish stores were like there. There were a lot more fish stores back in the 1990's than there are now! He kept discus fish in an aquarium he had made himself. He was very good with his hands and built a very nice aquarium stand out of wood. Being good at making things had a lot to do with him building guitars. He made beautiful instruments. And this went well with his love for music. His love for music was made apparent on a trip we made to Wurstfest in New Braunfels. While listening to a polka he told me "that's Myron Floren". Who? "Myron Floren, the accordion player from the Lawrence Welk Show." At the end of his set, Myron walked through the audience shaking hands. Gary got to shake his hand and I've never seen anyone so thrilled! Gary also loved his sports and seeing his Cubbies win the world series was a highlight of his life.

We recently talked about his illness and accomplishments and regrets in life. No one can ever be happy with being diagnosed with such an illness but he said he was okay and had had a fulfilling life. I feel a great sense of loss in losing my friend. But I thank God that he has been spared from the hell his illness would have put him through. Gary I miss you but I know I will see you again someday.

Chris Schwendiman - November 13, 2019 at 04:55 PM

RS

“ I was Gary's manager at IBM during the last 3 years of his career. He was easy going and always willing to help. He was one of those unique individuals that didn't let himself get caught up in the PC mentality at work which was truly refreshing. He would talk about everything and he spent his 1:1 time sharing life stories with me (after our initial business conversations) and would take his full time allotment almost every time.

When he became ill, I worked the internal IBM systems with him to get him lined up for proper care. Gary was a standup guy and walked away from IBM with dignity and respect from all those around him. He was a giving guy, and very good at what he did for us during his 38+ years with IBM. I'm sorry that Gary was taken so soon.

We will miss you Gary, may you Rest in Peace.

Rick Sutton - November 13, 2019 at 02:44 PM

MC

“ I’ve worked with Gary on various projects at IBM throughout the years, but several years ago, I was relocated to an office adjacent to his. With that came casual greetings, which became conversations, and the occasionally entertaining animated discussions with third parties that could be heard through the thin office walls. Soon we had a routine where he would come to my office each morning when I arrived and using my electric teapot, he would make himself a cup of tea. These things quickly developed into a friendship that transcended the workplace.

Gary was an intelligent man with a sharp wit and a big heart, and it was easy to witness these qualities on an almost daily basis. We collaborated on design and code projects, he punctuated many online conversations with appropriate, if not occasionally indelicate, animated GIFs, but his kindness and generosity is what I’ll always remember him for.

Adopting greyhounds, sending Christmas cards with a donation for an organization that improved the lives of dogs and prison inmates by bringing them together, and once a year, a neighborhood hero by handing out full size candy bars: these are a few examples of how big his heart was.

Our time spent together since his diagnosis was precious. We enjoyed shared lunches, lively conversations around politics, technology, dogs, and more. When it was time for me to leave, we both made a point of heartfelt goodbyes at the end of each visit, and I wish we could do it once more.

I feel very lucky to have known Gary as a friend, and my heart is saddened for his family and friends.



Matt Cronk - November 13, 2019 at 11:04 AM

PH

“ I met Gary toward the end of his industrious career at IBM. We’re from the same hometown, Cedar Rapids IA, I know the Kenwood area and the elementary school that Gary attended.

We had a chuckle regarding CRST (Cedar Rapids Steel Transport) trucks that seem to be everywhere but unnoticed by most. Gary had a great sense of humor.

Paul Hernandez - November 13, 2019 at 10:24 AM

GD

“ I worked with Gary for several years. He was always happy to help out, happy to share his knowledge whenever I had questions about his areas of expertise. But when I think of Gary, I most remember 2016, the year his beloved Chicago Cubs won the World Series. As a fellow Cubs fan, throughout that season he and I regularly discussed how they were doing and wondered if it was finally "our year". Having those discussions and hearing his insight and witnessing his passion during the season made it all more enjoyable for me too.

Gary Domrow - November 12, 2019 at 01:01 PM

VG

“ I had worked closely with Gary at IBM. It was a great pleasure knowing and working with him. He was very knowledgeable and I learnt a lot from him. He had a good sense of humor and will really miss him.

Veena Ganti - November 12, 2019 at 12:32 PM

TD

“ I began at IBM in Austin out of college in June of 1990 and met Gary on my first day of work. Over the next 25+ years I got to spend considerable time with Gary. Over the years, Gary became a trusted friend, someone I would regularly go to for advice on all sorts of matters, work related and otherwise. Gary was a wise man with deep insights that spanned a vast range of subjects. I benefited greatly for having spent all those years working alongside him. I will miss him greatly.

Tim Damron - November 11, 2019 at 08:25 PM

TO

“ Gary was a dear friend. We desperately miss him already. one thing that Gary did with us for many years was to get together and hang out with our dogs in our back yard. We have lots of photos of he and his babies.



Terry Owings - November 11, 2019 at 04:42 PM