



Gary DeWitt

April 20, 1952 - December 5, 2019

Gary DeWitt, 67, of Oskaloosa passed away, Thursday, December 5, 2019, at his home in Virginia Beach, Virginia after a brief battle with heart disease.

Gary Dean DeWitt, son of Cleo Franklin and Velma Jean (Christophel) DeWitt, was born April 20, 1952, in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He was a 1970 graduate of Oskaloosa High School and worked for a brief time at Pella Corp. before he was drafted into the military. He began his active duty service on May 11, 1972, when he attended CS "A" school in San Diego, California. Throughout his naval career, Gary serviced in Exmouth, Western Australia; Alameda, California; Meridian, Mississippi; Mayport, Florida; Yokosuka, Japan; Washington, DC; and Norfolk, Virginia and aboard the USS Hancock, the USS Oriskany, the USS Paul, the USS Midway, the USS Cochrane, the USS Moosbrugger and the USS Guam. He retired as a Mess Management Specialist Master Chief in 1998. He was awarded numerous accolades including the Navy Commendation Medal (2 awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal (2 awards), the Combat Action Ribbon and various campaign awards.

After retirement from the Navy, Gary settled in Virginia Beach, Virginia with his family. He served in the Merchant Marines for five years after his naval career, retiring a second time in 2004. In his free time, he enjoyed watching the Washington Redskins football and all things NASCAR.

His family includes his wife, Myrna of Virginia Beach, Virginia; his sons: Scott (Shari) DeWitt and James (Joy) DeWitt both of Wheatland, Wyoming; his

daughter, Christina Ramirez of Virginia Beach, VA; five grandchildren; a sister, Bonnie Richards of Oskaloosa, and a brother, Dennis DeWitt also of Oskaloosa.

In addition to his parents, Gary was preceded in death by two sisters: Cindy DeWitt and Tammy Hootman.

As was his wish, Gary's body will be cremated, and his ashes will be scattered at sea.

Tribute Wall



“ Gary DeWitt

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM

JM

Gary and I go way back in the Navy. We sailed the World together. I am seeing this obituary for the first time today, June 13, 2025. I went out to the Ohio Western Reserve veterans national Cemetery to visit my late wife's grave. And for some reason, I thought of Gary and thought I need to look that boy up when I get home. My wife died November 13, 2019 when I found Gary's obituary today I noticed he passed a few short weeks after My wife. He was a sailor's sailor! He loved the sea, and he was a great leader. Fair winds and following seas shipmate. Until we meet again, God bless your soul. Joe McDonald Retired USN (99)

Joe McDonald - June 13, 2025 at 09:01 PM



“ I served with Gary when he was at BUPERS. I first met him personally when he made a detailer trip to NAS Meridian in 1989. It was because of Gary that I was the first E6 ever assigned to the Management Assistance Inspection Team (MAIT) in DC. I had many cups of coffee with Gary in the cafeteria and I respected him for doing the right thing every time. Fair winds and following seas shipmate, we have the watch.



Kelly Knowland - December 11, 2019 at 10:18 AM

DM

“ *Til we meet again on Fiddlers Green Shipmate, rest assured we have assumed your duties so you can rest easy. Joss Sticks burning as you transit to your new existence. The Asia Sailor's are gonna miss you but will long remember you when we gather each year. Mac-OUT*

David McAllister - December 11, 2019 at 07:54 AM

KP

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



ken pintar - December 11, 2019 at 06:23 AM

GD

“ *Shipmate... I wish for you fair winds and following seas, deep green water under your bow, your main rifles trained in the posture of peace and a gentle breeze at your stern.*

I extend the deepest condolences of the Asia Sailor Westpac's Association to Gary's family. There will be an emptiness at our next reunion.

Garland Davis - December 11, 2019 at 12:04 AM

MH

“ MSCS(AW) Marion (Mick) Hersey lit a candle
in memory of Gary DeWitt



MSCS(AW) Marion (Mick) Hersey - December 10, 2019 at 11:48 PM

MH

Served with Gary on Oriskany and Midway. He also convinced me to become a Navy Recruiter. This allowed me to put on my Khakis in recruiting and get my star on returning to sea duty. Rest in Peace Gary, we have the watch.

MSCS(AW) Marion (Mick) Hersey - December 10, 2019 at 11:51 PM



“ Bonnie we are so sorry for your loss!! Our thoughts and prayers are
with you! Love Jim n Cathy McGrew

Cathy McGrew - December 06, 2019 at 08:25 PM

AG

“ We became instant Friends from day one, Many Laughs and
Memories we shared. You will be Dearly Missed and Loved by
many.
Prayers to your Family. R.I.P. My Friend. Mike and Angel Gilbert.

Angel Gilbert - December 06, 2019 at 08:00 PM

DM

“ Dick & Cindy Mott-Brown lit a candle in
memory of Gary DeWitt



Dick & Cindy Mott-Brown - December 06, 2019 at 12:04 PM

CW

“ Bonnie so sorry for your loss. May you find comfort.



Cindy Williams - December 05, 2019 at 06:34 PM

BT

“ Brenda Todd lit a candle in memory of Gary DeWitt



Brenda Todd - December 05, 2019 at 06:34 PM

BT

Bonnie sorry for your loss

Brenda Todd - December 05, 2019 at 06:35 PM

MW

My oldest nephew: you will be missed: RIP, Loved YOU GARY,

Marilyn Witter - December 06, 2019 at 09:03 PM

RR

One of the finest ! Met him Detailing at BUPERS

Robert Willis PRCM Ret - April 27, 2024 at 06:02 PM