



Gary Douglas Hess

August 28, 1950 - September 11, 2018

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made out to Anne Arundel Medical Center DeCasaris Cancer Institute, 2001 Medical Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401 443-481-1000.

GARY DOUGLAS HESS

August 28, 1950 – September 11, 2018

Gary Hess was a very special man. He died on September 11, 2018 in the arms of his devoted wife, Toni. Cancer ended Gary's life after a 3½ - year fight.

Gary loved life itself, a great steak and a really cold martini. He loved "Topper" his buddy and four-legged guardian. He loved to watch old movies, rodeos, car auctions, boxing, and even movies that made his wife cry. He loved the lakes region in New England and he and his wife spent most of their vacations in this area. He treasured time with his friends and family from the west coast to Maryland, at Kezar Lake in Maine, Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire, and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. He adored his wife of 31 years. Not necessarily in that order. He hated vegetables, people who lied, a lawn not edged, and dirty cars. Not necessarily in that order.

Gary was born in Long Beach, California where he graduated from Millikan High School and was a computer scientist major at Long Beach City College. In 1970, he enlisted in the United States Army Reserves, was decorated as Specialist 5 and Sharpshooter, and awarded Honorable Discharge in 1976. Gary graduated from the Los Angeles Police Academy and became a Los Angeles Police Officer in 1972. Gary received numerous commendations as a police officer and recognition for his, "Outstanding application of police tactics, personal courage and perseverance in a high stress situation"; "Excellent investigative techniques"; and "Outstanding appearance and physical ability." It wasn't long before an elite investigative team named "CRASH" recruited Gary where he was involved in hundreds of criminal, gang-related homicides, intelligence gathering and task

force surveillance in Southwest Los Angeles. In addition to his investigations, Gary led neighborhood watch programs and conducted public speaking events to help those living in dangerous areas. He was at the heart of danger many times, including the SLA shootout with the L.A.P.D. in 1974, bullets whizzing by him. It was this training that made meeting Toni's dad many years later a piece of cake. After his time on the police force, Gary evolved into being a business owner, and a return to the computer industry. A software company in Maryland recruited Gary and moved he and his wife to Maryland in 1996. Gary was the Eastern Regional Manager for Group1 Software, where he managed multi-million dollar development projects. He was a teacher, coach and mentor to many throughout his career. Gary retired from the federal government in 2017.

Known affectionately as Doogs by his sister, she and Gary's brother all shared wonderful memories of childhood summers spent on their family's ranches in Eastern Oregon. This was a very special place for Gary that brought him comfort during his life. His love and genuine respect for his aunt and uncle shined in his eyes whenever he reminisced about the values he learned through his experiences on a working ranch. Recent visits from his sister from Montana, and his brother and his wife from Southern California are in Gary and Toni's hearts forever. Gary has two daughters and his one grandson who also live in Southern California.

Gary was an honest, loving and generous man. He was strong in his character but kind, always knew who he was, and a romantic and a gentleman. Always exquisitely dressed, he was the first to open a door for a lady, child or elderly person. He was a man's man too. And, he loved to get dirty. He loved his cars and truck, and all looked like they just came off the showroom floor. Gary could fix just about everything, was the ultimate landscaper, raced motorcycles back in the day along the Pacific Ocean in Baja California, loved to sail with dear friends, and his barbeque was amazing. To one friend, he and his wife were also known as Nick & Nora Charles for the obvious love that they shared and for Gary's raw humor. Many will miss the joy of him, but no one will miss him as much as his loving wife, Toni.

Who loves you baby? You do. (9/11/2018)

Tribute Wall

CP

“ Gary will always be remembered as a warm loving man. He formed half of the awesome couple that was Mr. & Mrs. Hess. I have had the pleasure of knowing him for more than 20 years. Even though he and Toni lived on the East Coast we were still able to share great times and build memories. My first grateful memory is when Gary opened his home and heart to me in 1996. I was able to stay in their home with my friend from South America. And his dog, Harpo was allowed to come in the room and lick my face! The second beloved memory is the one that rendered my nickname! On my second trip to Maryland I called to ask Gary for directions he said take the road to Bowie. I looked and looked for Tabouie! I never found it and was doing circles, literally. From then on, Gary would address me as follows: “Hi Tabouie how are you.” Gary will be tremendously missed and I was blessed for having known such a gentleman. RIP my friend. Love - Yvette & Mark Ernst

Candle of Peace - September 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Toni: Sending you love and support from me and the FMS Plan Development family. This life journey is not always easy, however, please know that I'm praying for comfort and strength during this time. ~Janza

September 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Hi Toni, Please accept our deepest condolences for your loss. May you be comforted by the outpouring of love surrounding you. Remember that you are not alone... We are always here for you. Tommy, Adnan, Bryan, John, Angie, Victor and Matt.

September 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Gary Douglas Hess

Peaceful White Lilies Basket - September 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ There are so many memories of Gary as we joined he and Toni. Some examples include:. Enjoying cocktails at the Hilton in Huntington Beach and watching the sunset. Eating fresh sea food as we walked around Annapolis. Watching Gary cook dinner as we had dinner at their home and we got to play with Topper. We are so sad at the passing of our friend. Our prayers are coming your way Toni. Big hugs, Mark and Yvette.

September 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ We knew Gary only for a brief time but what an impression he makes. You feel as if you have always known him. He is a man that men should emulate . We so enjoyed the time we spent together and the joy of friendship and confidence in conversation. Toni, you and Gary have a love that shines as a model for many other couples.... unconditional and eternal. We love you. Light a Candle

September 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Gary Douglas Hess

Fall Fantasia - September 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ To know Gary, was to love him. He was a good and generous neighbor, ready to help out where needed, open to drop-by visits and ready with an offer for a glass of wine. Gary was an important part of our new Severn Manor neighborhood 20 years ago, serving on the HOA Board, several committees, and initiating a neighborhood watch program. The sign at the Severn Manor entrance, discouraging solicitors and warning of surveillance, is a reminder of Gary's true love, law enforcement from his days with the LAPD. We will miss his police stories and seeing he and Toni holding hands and walking Topper through the neighborhood. RIP my friend, your struggle is over. Love to you dear Toni.

Candle of Warmth - September 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

FN

“ Gary Hess was a loving, generous and kind man who I was so honored to call my friend for 21 years. We spent wonderful times together which I will always cherish in my heart. Such a caring soul. Love to his family, especially to his loving and ever devoted partner in life, wife Toni.

Lynn Sallitt

Forget Me Nots - September 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM