



## Gary A. Van Winkle

November 23, 2020

Gary A. Van Winkle, 73, of Woodbridge, VA, died peacefully November 23, 2020 at Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center.

Born and raised in Belleville, IL, Gary briefly lived in Gulfport, MS, attended Virginia Tech, and called Lake Ridge home for the past 44 years. He was a teacher at Gar-Field High School from 1973 until he moved to Hylton High School in 1991 where he worked until his retirement in 2000.

Gary was a very active dad, including coaching his sons' youth sports teams, playing games with their friends on Deepford Drive, going boating on the Occoquan River during the summers, and helping with homework and school projects. An Eagle Scout in his youth, he had a lifelong passion for the outdoors, frequently hiking trails around Virginia with his beloved dog, Zoe, traveling all over the US to explore the natural beauty of our National Parks, making annual trips to Myrtle Beach, Williamsburg, and Key West with his wife Margaret and family and friends, and visiting his many aunts, uncles, cousins, and their families, whom he remained close to for his entire life.

Growing up in the St. Louis area, Gary was fan of Cardinals baseball, passed along his love of the Washington Redskins to his sons, and spent the last 15 years of his life as a diehard Washington Nationals fan. He rarely missed a game on TV, loved going to Nats Park with his family, and was overjoyed to

see them win the 2019 World Series.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Troy R. Van Winkle and Marion Van Winkle Case, stepfather Lloyd Case, brothers-in-law Jose Soria and Fred Heigl, and niece Kayla Heigl.

Gary is survived by his loving and dedicated wife of 50 years, Margaret, and sons Troy and Bryan, daughter-in-law Edda, granddaughters Emi, Maryann, and Kate, sister Joyce Soria, stepsister Karen Heigl, stepbrother John Case, and numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Information about services will be shared at a later time. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in his honor to the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation to support others living with spinal cord injuries as Gary did for 13 years. [www.christopherreeve.org](http://www.christopherreeve.org)

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary A. Van Winkle

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January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ Gary and I taught together at Garfield high school for a number of years. Our children were about the same age. We had lots of fun getting together with friends and playing bridge or just with our families having dinner and letting the children play. Gary had the best personality and was always a caring and giving person.

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**Kathy Scott** - December 29, 2020 at 06:22 PM



“ Gary was a warm, caring Cousin with a zest for life and loved his Traveling Adventures  
As a child we were close with family gatherings in Belleville and Jacksonville, Il. Then  
years later, we shared great moments when we moved to Virginia.  
The Families would  
visit several times a year. Gary was always fun to be with. He loved Family, his dog, sports, History, politics and the great outdoors. I will always remember the times we  
shared!!! I will miss you, Gary Jay Stever

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**Jay C Stever** - December 20, 2020 at 09:24 AM

EC

“ Gary has been a wonderful friend of mine for 44 years since he, M.A with a Brian bump, and Troy came to visit Toni, Shannon, Sean and me in Nova Scotia on one of their numerous vacations. As Margaret and Toni are sister-cousins and he and M.A. lived in the most interesting and historic location (to us) in the USA, we darkened their door more often than we were able to reciprocate but we had many great get togethers in various locations across North America 🍷. They were always most welcoming and entertaining and he and I enjoyed many long walks with our dogs around the Virginia countryside. Baseball was a shared passion and his encyclopedic knowledge of all aspects of the Washington Nationals led to many wonderful one way conversations on Skype over the years. We will miss him very much but we are relieved he is at last at rest and are sure he will be enjoying walking with Zoe with his pipe in hand !

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**Errol Collinson** - December 09, 2020 at 08:21 PM

JS

“ Gary was my big brother. He always took care of me. When I was born, Gary (all of 4 years old) didn't want anyone else besides him and my parents to hold me, because he was afraid that they might drop me. Growing up, he made sure that I got to play wiffle ball with the big kids by making sure I got to go chase down wild pitches for both teams. I never did get to play an actual position. Later when we had grown up, my husband and I would go camping at Indian Acres with him and Margaret, his wife. As we both started families, we took them on road trips, just like our parents had taken us, visiting friends and relatives back in Illinois and on two memorable trips from Virginia all the way to the West Coast. I am so thankful for the memories of those trips along with shorter excursions to nearby outdoors wooded areas with Gary, his dog Zoe, and my dog Kestrel. I learned to appreciate baseball as a great sport, both physically and psychologically, because of hanging around my brother. It is still my favorite sport to watch (even though I never actually played), and I cheered on the St. Louis Cardinals as a kid and later the Washington Nationals became my team too. We had so many good years together, on annual trips to Nags Head, family get-togethers and more. I miss him very much, and find myself often thinking, "I want to talk to Gary about that." I am sad that he is gone, but so grateful that I had such a great big brother.

Joyce Van Winkle Soria

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Joyce VanWinkle Soria - December 08, 2020 at 08:26 PM