



Mr. William Gary Conner

February 4, 1950 - December 17, 2014

William Gary Conner, 64, of Peoria passed away peacefully with his family at his side at 2:22 pm Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home.

Gary was born on February 4, 1950 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Claudius and Bernice (Drone) Conner. After graduating from Germantown High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he attended and graduated from Delaware State University. While attending graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he met Gloria Dean Mitchell whom he married on June 10, 1972.

Gary was an employee of Caterpillar Incorporated for 33 years. During that time, he had the opportunity to travel many places, meet many people and forge many friendships.

When he retired in 2009, he kept himself busy by continuing to be active in the community. He was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church for over 30 years and served on various committees during that time. Gary was also a very active member of Concerned African American Retirees (CAAR). In addition, he was a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated.

Despite all of his community commitments, Gary was a loving and devoted

son, brother, uncle, husband, father and grandfather. Family was one of his top priorities. He spent countless hours watching his children and grandchildren at sporting events, school events and recitals. While he was still able, one of his greatest joys was helping his grandchildren with their homework. He will definitely be missed but never forgotten.

Gary leaves to cherish his precious memories his devoted and loving wife of 42 years, Gloria Conner; his son, William Gary Conner II, PhD of Chicago, IL; his daughter Dr. Thembi (Ramon) Conner-Garcia, of Edwards, IL; two grandchildren, Izaak and Ayannah Garcia; two sisters, Claudia Darby and Emily Conner of Philadelphia, PA; and three brothers, Bernard Conner of Philadelphia, PA, Wilbert (Carol) Conner of Troy, MI and Daniel Conner of Philadelphia, PA and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 27, 2014 at Bethel United Methodist Church, with a visitation at 9 a.m. Rev. Gary Wilson will officiate. Interment will be held at Resurrection Cemetery. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Online tributes and condolences can be made at www.simonsmortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Mausoleum & Cemetery

7519 North Allen Road
Peoria, IL 61615
<http://www.ccapeo.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=156>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Bethel United Methodist Church
210 N. Richard Pryor Pl.
Peoria, IL 61605
http://www.peoriabethelumc.org/index.php?page=About_Us&ion=welcome

Funeral Service

DEC 27. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Bethel United Methodist Church
210 N. Richard Pryor Pl.
Peoria, IL 61605
http://www.peoriabethelumc.org/index.php?page=About_Us&ion=welcome

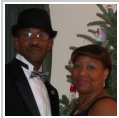
Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. William Gary Conner*



Simons Mortuary - December 26, 2014 at 12:33 PM



Sleep well my brother! My sympathy to the family!

John Anderson - December 27, 2014 at 09:55 AM



“ *Mr. William Gary Conner*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. William Gary Conner*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Diane Waples Little lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Gary Conner*



Diane Waples Little - December 30, 2014 at 08:45 PM

DL

Prayers and blessings to the family! May Gary always live in your hearts with great memories!

Diane Waples Little - December 30, 2014 at 08:47 PM

BG

“ *I grew up with Gary in Philly. He used to help me with geometry in jr. high school. We learned football on the neighborhood Pop Warner football team.... The Mt. Airy Jaguars! Saw him at our 45th high school reunion. It was a joy to see him. Great Guy.....*

Peace to his loved ones.

Bruce Goldman

bruce goldman - December 27, 2014 at 03:36 PM

BB

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Bern Barth - December 26, 2014 at 09:29 PM

SF

“ *Savannah McMahon and The Lewis Families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. William Gary Conner.*



Savannah McMahon and The Lewis Families - December 26, 2014 at 03:42 PM

BB

“ 1 file added to the album Cat photos



Bern Barth - December 26, 2014 at 02:18 PM

AJ

“ So sorry to hear that Gary is gone. I pray that you and the family will heal and begin to focus on the wonderful memories of him. One of the small things I remember of Gary when he was at DelState was this funky (cool) trench coat that he always wore to the dining hall. Gloria, I remember the first time Gary brought you home to meet the family-- it was my first time too and we shared one of the bedrooms. I'm glad that you and Gary were able to remain together all these years--such a blessing.

Amelia "Busy" Jackson

Amelia Jackson - December 26, 2014 at 11:54 AM

DA

“ Sorry to here about your lose Thembi and Ramon

Mr and mrs Dr Ali

Dr Ali - December 25, 2014 at 05:31 PM

LW

“ Deepest condolences for the passing of your father and your husband. He was a great and generous man. We will miss him. Sorry for your lost Gloria, Thembi , Ramon and rest of the Conner Family.
Lashunda and the Williams Family.



Lashunda Williams - December 25, 2014 at 09:29 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. William Gary Conner.



December 25, 2014 at 09:19 AM

DL

“ Gloria and Family,
Gary was one of the finest, brightest men that I've ever had the privilege to know. He was a devoted Fraternity Brother and will be missed by all. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.
Duane Livingston

Duane Livingston - December 24, 2014 at 05:34 PM

RH

“ I met Mr Conner when Jay played soccer for Concordia Lutheran. He assisted me with coaching. Mr Conner was always very supportive to me and he was a wonderful role model to the kids. I am so sorry for your loss.
Rob Hackett

Rob Hackett - December 24, 2014 at 12:47 PM



“ So very sad and sorry for your loss. Gary and I worked together many times during our Caterpillar careers. We really "clicked" and he was a great coworker and friend.

Gary Garman

Gary Garman - December 23, 2014 at 04:15 PM



“ Hi Gloria ,sorry to hear the passing of our cousin Gary, prayers sent

Linda Kaye Smith & Family
Gurnee,IL

LINDA - December 23, 2014 at 03:18 PM



“ Sorry to hear Gary passed. Gary was a good man. I worked with him at Caterpillar and have many good memories of him. I prayers to the family.

Shane Gilles - December 23, 2014 at 11:40 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. William Gary Conner.



December 23, 2014 at 09:10 AM

DW

“ We were so saddened to hear of Gary's passing and your loss. As one of his supplier's at Caterpillar, for over 7 years, we saw his intelligence, fairness, strength and compassion for his family and the community. A very special man!
God's Peace to all!
Diana Wozny of Crowe Horwath (Chizek)

Diana Wozny - December 23, 2014 at 05:21 AM

BB

“ I worked with Gary at Caterpillar for several years. He was a great boss and very fun to travel with. Our thoughts and prays are with his wife and family

Bern Barth - December 22, 2014 at 08:26 PM

G.

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are never alone. You can find much comfort in the Holy Scriptures which assures us at Psalms 34:18 that God is near to those broken at heart and crushed in spirit. Please accept my deepest sympathies.

G.FORD - December 22, 2014 at 04:31 PM

NL

“ Dear Gloria and family,
Sincere sympathy during this time. Gary and his family are gifts from God. May God be with you.
nelda

Nelda Conner Lewis - December 21, 2014 at 02:42 PM

CR

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Gary at Caterpillar. Gary was a wonderful person who was always there to listen and provide guidance and friendship. May God be with all of you during this difficult time. Please know that Gary will not be forgotten by those whose lives he touched at Caterpillar. God bless you all. Cindy Remley*

Cindy Remley - December 20, 2014 at 03:32 PM

DV

“ *My condolences, Gloria, Themb and Ramon.*

David Volk

David Volk - December 19, 2014 at 10:18 AM