



Gary A. Chapman

December 30, 1942 - June 2, 2024

Stratham- Lifelong seacoast NH resident Gary Adelbert Chapman, 81, passed away surrounded by family on Sunday, June 2, 2024 at Cornerstone at Hampton.

Born in Portsmouth, NH on December 30, 1942 to Earl and Selma (Tuttle) Chapman, he was the middle child of three siblings. Since the passing of his sister Karen Frye in 2011, Gary and his sister Roxy Hartman's bond strengthened to an unmatched love, often speaking on the phone multiple times a day.

Gary grew up surrounded by the beauty of the seacoast, developing a lifelong affinity for the beach, earning himself the nickname "King of the Beach". In the summer months, he could be found at Pirate's Cove in Rye, NH sunning himself and making conversation with anyone who was fortunate enough to walk by his beach chair. In the colder months, he was usually deer hunting with family and friends — and later in life with his son, Lindsay.

Gary graduated from Portsmouth High School in 1960 and was heavily involved in planning class reunions, most recently attending his 60-year reunion. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force and then went on to teach aviation lessons to students in Reno, NV. A proud Freemason since 1971 via St. John's Lodge, he earned his 50-year Veteran's

Medal in 2021. He later owned and operated Gary's Sandwich Shop in Kittery, ME for 25+ years, working alongside his sister Roxy and becoming a local fixture famous for his delicious subs and soups. During this time, he bought a new Corvette every two years...until 1979 when his first child was born. He hung onto the '79 Corvette until 2018. As a Rye resident, he was active in the community and served for many years on the Rye Budget Committee.

Gary was a man of profound love and devotion to his family. Although his marriage to Diane (Lynch) Chapman ended 10 years ago, they remained best friends who talked on the phone daily and visited each other regularly. Throughout their marriage, they visited Aruba annually, becoming beloved regulars at their favorite resort. Later, even after their divorce, Gary and Diane continued to vacation in Aruba together with their children and their families.

As a father, Gary was a source of wisdom, guidance, support, and unconditional love. He instilled in Kim and Lindsay the values of integrity, resilience, and compassion, shaping the individuals they are today. His granddaughters Addison and Elliott were the light of his life, and he simply adored them. Being a father and grandfather were his greatest joys.

Gary's circle of influence was immense. He was often referred to as "The Mayor", making everyone in his path feel special and heard — from the Little League, Seacoast United, and Plymouth State University fields, to the Rye beaches, road races, and everywhere in between.

His spirit, genuine interest in those around him, and unwavering kindness have left an indelible mark on the hearts of those who were fortunate to know him. He will be so deeply missed.

Visiting hours will be held at Remick and Gendron Funeral Home- Crematory in Hampton, NH on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.,

where family and friends are invited to gather and honor Gary's memory. A brief service will be held at the funeral home at noon. Immediate family will later gather at the NH State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH where Gary will be laid to rest with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be mailed to the Cornerstone at Hampton Associate Holiday Fund in his honor. Anyone wishing to donate can mail checks to 298 Exeter Road, Hampton, NH 03842 with "Associate Holiday Fund" or "Gary" in the note.

Rest in peace, Brother Gary. May you forever be on a beach working on your tan.

Cemetery Details

New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery

110 Daniel Webster Hwy
Boscawen, NH 03303
(603) 796-2026

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Service

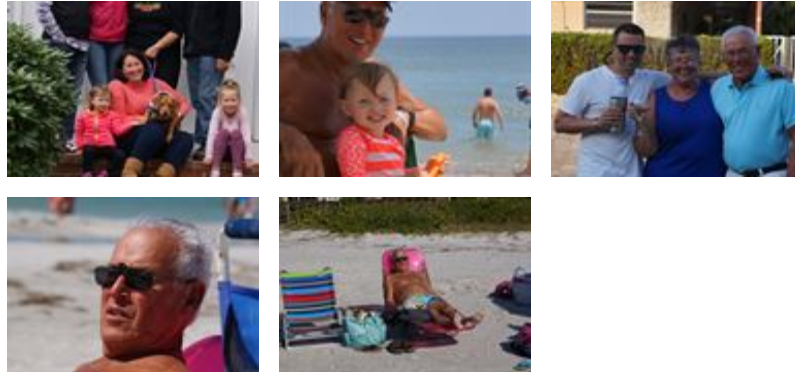
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Tribute Wall



“ 445 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - June 11, 2024 at 04:31 PM

TF

“ *The DeCoste and McClean Families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary A. Chapman.*



The DeCoste and McClean Families - June 10, 2024 at 09:49 AM

SS

“ *Gary's Sandwich shop was a life saver while working in the Shipyard on a very short lunch clock. Monday's broccoli soup from Diane was something to go to work for. Condolences to the family. Sheila Sullivan, Rye*

Sheila Sullivan - June 09, 2024 at 01:18 PM

FF

“ *from the Frye family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Gary A. Chapman.*



from the Frye family - June 09, 2024 at 09:48 AM

MF

“ *Dear Chapman Family,*

Our hearts are so sad for you all and for all whose lives were blessed by Gary and his kindness. He was always so positive, upbeat, and caring. All he did for so many of us will not be forgotten. The Fontaine family will always treasure Gary and our many shared times together. Sorry we will be on our way to visit Cate and family early next week and will miss hugging each of you and sharing time with you.

*Love,
Greg, Mary, Cate, and Michael*

Mary Fontaine - June 08, 2024 at 11:03 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gary A. Chapman.*



June 07, 2024 at 02:06 PM

GH

“ Our condolences to Gary's family. Our paths crossed through our long term residency in Rye and then in a shorter term at Meeting House Village in Kittery. Gary was always a happy person who made you fortunate and glad to meet. Maybe because of our common name he would call me "brother" which always stuck out as generous. I believe he made a difference in the lives of those who met him.

Gary and Pat Holmes - June 07, 2024 at 01:32 PM

LL

“ *Kim*
I was sorry to hear about your dad. I know you had a special bond with him. I hope all your wonderful memories help sustain you in this difficult time. He is smiling down on you and your family.

Lisa Laughton - June 07, 2024 at 12:44 PM

ML

“ *Kim, I am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing he was a wonderful man and I enjoyed our talks at the checkout counter. He was amazing. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Melissa Lockhart*

Melissa Lockhart - June 07, 2024 at 08:56 AM

RK

“ *Gary sold us our first home back in 1985 and over the years I have enjoyed seeing him and catching up especially at the beach. He loved that beach. My thoughts are with Gary's family, he was a wonderful man. A true gentleman* ❤️

Regina Kohlhase - June 06, 2024 at 08:02 PM

SS

“ Kim. I'm so very sorry to hear of Gary's passing. He was such a good man. I used to love the stories he told me at WW. He was a true gentleman.

Sandra Sheridan - June 06, 2024 at 04:05 PM

BF

“ Beth Rumul & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary A. Chapman.

Beth Rumul & Family - June 06, 2024 at 02:53 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Gary A. Chapman.



June 06, 2024 at 02:53 PM

JG

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Gary I always remember his beautiful smile. God Bless your family as you navigate this difficult time in your life
Janet & Jay Green

Janet Green - June 05, 2024 at 07:36 PM

TZ

So Sorry to hear of Gary's passing I was one of his Air Force buddies stationed at Stead Air Force Base near Reno Nevada We had good times there From Tony Zebrasky AKA. Tango Zulu

Tony Zebrasky - June 08, 2024 at 06:25 PM

SH

So sorry to hear of Gary's passing as we read burials at NH Veteran's Cemetery. Gary was best man for our mutual friend John Hobson and his bride Linda in Kennebunk back on June 23, 1990. I have had a picture of Gary, me, and John on my bureau ever since. We met Diane there also, and we did see Gary on and off as he and John both had Corvettes. All three of us were also pilots and flight instructors. Seems like yesterday and our sympathies go out to Diane and the rest of their family. We viewed all the pictures and he sure didn't let life pass him by, he lived it greatly. We shall visit him on our annual Memorial Day trip to Boscawen to remember former friends and family.

Stuart and Denise Harnden, Bedford, NH

Stuart and Denise Harnden - July 20, 2024 at 10:27 AM

BW

“ My Mom and I both worked for Gary at his sandwich shop in Kittery for many years! He and his family were family friends of my Mom and her family. Mom actually baby-sat for him when he was a kid. Working with Gary and the family and crew was a great place to be. We had many laughs and good times. We all attended his wedding, and even my infant son spent some time at the sandwich shop. Gary even attended my Mom's 80th Birthday party! When she worked with him, Gary always called her Ma! Every time I drive thru Wallingford Square I think of Gary with fond thoughts. He was a wonderful and caring man, and will certainly be missed by his friends and family. Bless you Gary! Bev and Derek Wentworth and family. With a hug from my Mom Betty Greene

Beverly Wentworth - June 05, 2024 at 04:05 PM

SC

“ I am so sad to hear of the passing of Mr. Chapman. I will always remember my childhood memories growing up around the Chapman Family. I never had an interaction with Mr. Chapman that didn't lead to a good laugh or provide a smile on my face. I know he is at the beach soaking up the sun and keeping an eye on his family. Until we meet again, much love Sara Clark

Sara Clark - June 05, 2024 at 02:57 PM

EP

“ Gary was a good friend. We shared many years hunting with the gang. There were many hours sharing the hunting stories together over the years. He will be greatly missed. Ernie Pouliot

Ernest Pouliot - June 05, 2024 at 01:24 PM

BM

“ I am a fortunate woman indeed to have known Gary. For many years now he has been my daughter's father-in-law and, of course, my son-in-law Lindsay's father. The first time I met him, he pulled me into a bear hug and confided, “We just love your daughter Kerri!” His warmth, compassion, and continual appreciation for life was always amazing, and his love for his family, especially for his son and daughter Kim, was an amazing gift to witness. Gary welcomed my husband and me into his family and we grew with each encounter to love him more dearly. We have been honored to have known him and humbled by his love.

Barbara Dingwall Mills - June 05, 2024 at 12:32 PM