



## Gary L. Sprague

June 10, 1939 - March 21, 2016

Exeter – Gary L. Sprague, 76, died Monday, March 21, 2016 at Langdon Place in Exeter.

Gary was born June 10, 1939 in Corning, NY, the son of the late Glenn and Charlotte (Brooks) Sprague.

He graduated from Hornell High School, Hornell, NY in 1957 and received his bachelor and master degrees from Fredonia State College in Fredonia, NY.

Gary and his wife Patricia “Patty” Sprague were married August 11, 1962 and shared 53 years of marriage.

Mr. Sprague resided in Collins, NY for 51 years before moving to Exeter in 2012 to be closer to family.

Mr. Sprague was an instrumental and choral director as well as music department head for the Gowanda Central School System in Gowanda, NY from 1961 until his retirement in 1996. He was a frequent guest conductor at the county level, as well as an adjudicator at solo festivals for decades. Gary also brought his family to Bristol Hills Music Camp for two weeks every summer from 1975 through 1991, where he directed the senior high concert band and helped coordinate the camp. He was a member of the Gowanda

Presbyterian Church where he was the choir director for 28 years. Gary was also a Brother Mason at Phoenix Lodge #262 in Gowanda.

Gary and his wife, Patty, enjoyed many years of raising English Springer Spaniels and English Cocker Spaniels. They enjoyed traveling to many dog shows around the country. Gary also loved showing his dogs and became a judge himself. He was an avid, very skilled golfer and was a member of the Gowanda Country Club for many years. Additionally, a favorite pastime for him in retirement was keeping up with the latest in technology, i.e. his computer and smart phone.

In addition to his wife, he leaves three children, Lindsey Mantell and her husband Michael of Exeter, Amy Patmore and her husband Barry of Spencerport, NY, Scott Sprague and his wife Nicole of Brentwood, six grandchildren, Megan, Brendan, Brett, Brian, Zachary, and Makayla, his sister, Suzanne Sweeney, and her husband Ron of Plymouth, MA, many nieces and nephews, and many dear colleagues and friends.

Services will be held on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. at Langdon Place of Exeter, 17 Hampton Road, Exeter. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The First Presbyterian Church, 64 E. Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070. Assistance with the arrangements was provided by the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton.

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 28. 10:00 AM (ET)

Langdon Place of Exeter  
17 Hampton Rd.  
Exeter, NH 03833

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary L. Sprague

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ Blessings to Gary's spirit, and his family...I must admit I was a total teacher's pet of Mr. SPRAGUE...he was a tremendous inspiration to me, and took my singing abilities to another level!! He taught Brenda Wolf and I how to sing with a vibrato!!! He wasn't perfect, but he was awesome, ND expected only the best from us. As a musical director, we were so fortunate to work on some of the top American musicals with him. He was quite something.. and will always be remembered fondly, briefcase, nasal spray, puppies, kids (Amy), and all!!!!!!

Rebecca Susan Samuelson - October 14, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ So many good memories of BAND, 5th and 6th grade, then Jr. high. All because of this man's devotion!

Christine Taylor - April 05, 2016 at 08:44 AM



“ We want to express our deepest sympathy to Gary's family from cousins Darlene and Jim Darrow and Aunt Martha Brooks.

Darlene Darrow - March 31, 2016 at 07:32 PM

PH

“ So sorry to hear this news.  
I have fond memories from my 87-88 exchange year, with chorus by Mr. Sprague.  
Lots of strength to the family...!!!

Peter de Haan - March 26, 2016 at 06:17 PM

SC

“ Sandy Schultz Campbell lit a candle in memory of Gary L. Sprague



Sandy Schultz Campbell - March 26, 2016 at 07:41 AM

AO

“ Mr. Sprague's enthusiasm and love for music.....his smile.....his patience..... Just a few things that come to mind when I heard that he had died. He left a true legacy with so many of us. I have read so many wonderful words and tributes here and on FB. I truly hope it will bring some comfort to his family. Rest in peace dear, sweet Mr. Sprague.

Angela Pais O'Connor - Class of 1983

Angela O'Connor - March 26, 2016 at 07:34 AM



“ Gary always smiled..Loves Patti loves puppies!!! God has plans... 🙌  
🙌 Love to Patti 💕💕

Kim Butler - March 26, 2016 at 12:14 AM

TC

“ *Patty and the entire Sprague family,  
My condolences on your loss. Gary dragooned me into theatre and  
into chorus, and they were two of the best experiences in my  
Gowanda years. My best to you in this difficult time.*

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**Tom Connolly** - March 25, 2016 at 11:25 PM

JS

“ *Patty and family,  
So very sorry to hear of Gary's passing. My sisters and I grew up as  
next door neighbors. Though Gary was several years older than us  
we remember him fondly. Whenever he came home from college he  
always had time for the little kids next door. I am happy that he and I  
had reconnected via Facebook a few years ago 😊  
Jennifer (Jeff) Hoy Steffen*

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**Jennifer Hoy Steffen** - March 25, 2016 at 10:51 PM

MO

“ *My condolences to the family of my former teacher and then later a  
neighbor. Many fond memories between church and school. - m  
ondus*

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**M Ondus** - March 25, 2016 at 10:26 PM

JC

“ *Gary was a joy to work with. His love for musc and his love for his  
students set the perfect example for young many young teachers  
over the years to model after. it was a privalage to seve along side  
him in those early days of my career.*

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**Joseph Dempsey, Gowanda CSD** - March 25, 2016 at 09:14 PM

NM

“ *Mr Sprague was my first band director and one of the best teachers I ever had. His enthusiasm for music was infectious. I looked forward to our practices every week. RIP, sir. The music in heaven is better now but the music on earth is a little less so with your passing.*

*Norm Minekime, GCS Class of 1972*

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**Norm Minekime** - March 25, 2016 at 08:29 PM

CP

“ *Carolyn Penharlow lit a candle in memory of Gary L. Sprague*



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**Carolyn Penharlow** - March 25, 2016 at 07:28 PM

PR

“ *Patti and Family,  
Our most sincere and deepest sympathy in the loss of our former neighbor. Gary. May he enjoy his first Easter in heaven with the Risen Lord.  
Jim & Pat Rebmann*

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**Pat Rebmann** - March 25, 2016 at 07:06 PM

MR

“ *Lindsey, Our condolences to you and your Family. My GOD watch over him in eternal life. Morgan & Denise Reid*



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**morgan reid** - March 25, 2016 at 06:59 PM

JD

“ He will always be Mr. Sprague to me. What a wonderful teacher. We have lost a great talent and a wonderful human being. Rest in peace sir.

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**Jean DeLong** - March 25, 2016 at 05:07 PM

GR

“ 2 files added to the album Memories



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**Greg Rudgers** - March 25, 2016 at 02:33 PM

GR

“ I met the Spragues at the Bristol Hills Music Camp in the mid seventies and they have been a part of my family's lives for over thirty years. Wonderful people who share joy and music every day. I will miss Gary and hope the memories of this wonderful man sustain his family and friends.

*Greg Rudgers*

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**Greg Rudgers** - March 25, 2016 at 02:32 PM

AW

“ As a neighbor, as a teacher and mentor, as a friend. ..Gary Sprague was such an inspiration. ..he had such passion and energy. My heart is hurting for his wonderful family and all of us whose lives he bettered  
.Heaven welcomes an enthusiastic angel

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**Annette Parish White** - March 25, 2016 at 02:26 PM

Jeff Hancock

“ Jeff Hancock lit a candle in memory of Gary L. Sprague



Jeff Hancock - March 25, 2016 at 01:47 PM

Wendy Wilson

“ To the Sprague family and all of Gary's friends I am so very sorry to hear of his passing. He was a big part of my life at Gowanda Central School and I will never forget all that he taught me and the joy he brought into my life thru music. Bless you all. Wendy Reid - Wilson, Class of '83



Wendy Wilson - March 25, 2016 at 12:32 PM

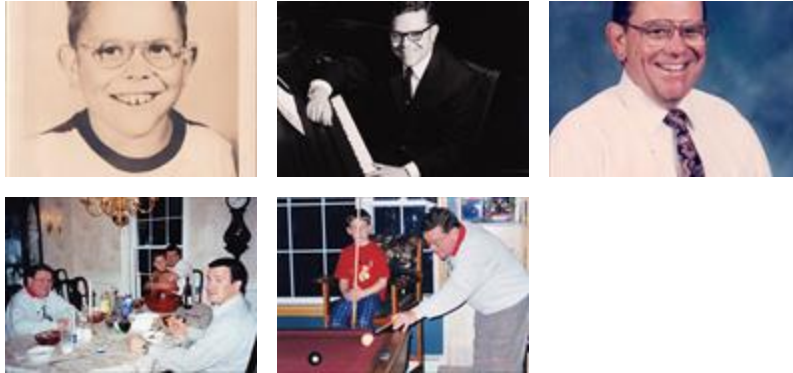
DB

“ I am so very sad to hear of Gary's (Mr Sprague's)...passing, he was so happy and full of life! Poor guy I was at Gowanda school and in the band when he first came, we missed our former teacher so much that we gave him a bit of a hard time. :( Gary told us that although he couldn't replace Mr Martinis (sp?) he would do his very best as our band leader and soon to be friend! He was just so full of enthusiasm and fun. He will be missed. My heart goes out to his family. He was a great guy! Diane Perl

Diane Perl ( Badurek) - March 25, 2016 at 11:51 AM

LI

“ 102 files added to the album Memories



Lindsey - March 25, 2016 at 10:20 AM

DM

“ So loved this man , was a fantastic music teacher and wonderful friend !!!

Deb (Tussing ) Mausteller - March 25, 2016 at 09:37 AM

MC

“ Patty and family'  
You are in our thoughts. Gary was one of the good guys.

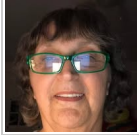
Mac and Audrey Crowe - March 25, 2016 at 09:15 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary L. Sprague.



March 25, 2016 at 08:36 AM



“ I will miss you Mr. Sprague.....my senior year you taught me so much about choral music and gave me a chance to shine. Thank you for that. I will miss you laugh, your up beat attitude, and your zest for life. Rest in Peace my friend. You will be missed on earth but the heavenly choirs gained an angel.

Carol Badurek  
Class of 1973 GCS

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**Carol Badurek** - March 25, 2016 at 08:34 AM



Merridy  
Knips

“ I will always remember Gary's smile and his kindness. He was a special teacher who cared for all of his students and colleagues. My prayers and thoughts are with you; I'm so sorry for your loss.  
Merridy Knips

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**Merridy Knips** - March 25, 2016 at 07:24 AM

DE

“ What an amazing man. I was with him at Bristol Hills my entire childhood and adult life. He was such an influence on me that I wanted to study music education. I am proud to say this is my 24th and it is because of people like him. God has truly gained another angel.

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**Dr. Michael C. Palermo, Ed.D** - March 25, 2016 at 06:05 AM



“ Gary was one of the first of the music educators in the amazing fraternity of ECMEA band directors I had grown up with the highest respect for - to make me feel like a member of that circle of comrades. His warm, friendly smile and marvelous sense of humor will be sorely missed by us all. My deepest sympathies to all of his family members. Our loss is heaven's gain.

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**Sherm Lyke** - March 24, 2016 at 10:02 PM

PE

“ My heart goes out to the family. I know that now Rudy will have a good friend in heaven, and they will have some great memories to share. *Pauline Emilson*

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**Pauline Emilson** - March 24, 2016 at 09:13 PM

SW

“ God bless Gary L. Sprague... The music will sound a little sweeter upstairs of that I'm sure. RIP Sir 🎵💜🎵💜🎵💜

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**Sonja Winship** - March 24, 2016 at 07:58 PM

AH

“ Patty and Family Please accept my deepest condolences on the loss of Gary. Gary was such a kind and gentle person and always had a smile for everyone. I always loved chatting with him at the dog shows and discussing our mutual passion, English Springer Spaniels. It has to be about 40 years ago when we first met. RIP Gary, you will be missed.

*Anne Hutchinson*

*Serenade English Springer Spaniels*

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**Anne Hutchinson** - March 24, 2016 at 06:47 PM

JW

“ *May you find peace in your memories. Sending love to Amy and her family.*

*Jill and Michael Wahl*

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**Jill Wahl** - March 24, 2016 at 12:49 PM