



## Gary D. Meistrall

January 3, 1937 - October 6, 2013

Gary D. Meistrell, age 76, died Sunday, October 6th at home from cancer.

Gary is the first born son of John and Lillian (Schelbitzki) Meistrell. He was born in Lincoln, NE on January 2nd, just missing being named the New Year's Baby but managing to come into this world during a huge snow storm in which the Doctor himself drove all to the hospital.

As a State Patrolman, Gary's father, John Meistrell was transferred periodically.

Gary started his education in O'Neill. In fourth grade they moved to Columbus, where he went to school until his freshman year when the family then moved to Fremont. Upon graduating from Fremont High he moved to California.

In California, Gary worked for Western Electric in installation before military duty. He served in the 48th Medical Battalion, 2nd Armored Division, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas two years active duty. He then completed two years Reserve, and two years Standby in California. With his six year obligation complete he received an Honorable Discharge and returned to Western Electric.

Gary married his eighth grade sweetheart, Loretta Williams of Columbus, NE in California. After several years they moved back to Columbus and Gary started his restaurant career with the purchase of The Diner on Hwy 81. A few years later his father-in-law took over the business and Gary moved to Saunders County. In Inglewood he started the Wooden Windmill from a half empty, burnt-out building. With Gary's hard work, great employees, and loyal customers, the restaurant was a success.

An avid antique collector for years, it was no surprise when he moved a Dutch mill built in 1900's from Silver Creek to the front of the Wooden Windmill or that he stopped the destruction of a Victorian house built in the late 1870's, moved it from Military Ave to Broad St. in Fremont and took on the task of a complete "house restoration".

As Gary's health declined he sold Wooden Windmill and bought a motorhome. He and

Loretta enjoyed great trips, usually with a group of their old California friends, and every January and February was spent with them in Quartzite, AZ.

His pride and joy in life was raising his daughter, Jessica. And later, that extended to his two grandchildren, Flynn and Hadley, whom he loved spending time with. Gary always, always committed random acts of kindness, from the time he only had an extra dollar to share to being very generous. He never told anyone, he just enjoyed doing it.

Survivors include: his wife of 56 years, Loretta, daughter Jessica (Matt) Fickbohm, grandchildren Flynn and Hadley Fickbohm all of Fremont, sister Sondra(Phil) Upham of Scottsdale AZ, brother-in-law, Jim(Pat) Williams of Irmo, SC and Craig Williams of Columbus, NE, nephews Jeremy Williams of Lincoln, NE, Nowell (Evelyn) Upham of Dallas TX, Britton (Alex) Upham of Austin TX, Tory (Connie) Upham of Palm Beach Gardens, FL; nieces, Trisha (Shane) Williams of Charleston, SC, Mindy (Jeff) Linden of Gardner, KS and Chris Wiese of Columbus; and nine great nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were: his parents, John and Lillian, an infant brother John Jr. , father-in-law and mother-in-law Dean and Vera Williams, sister-in-law Marilyn Williams, and brother-in-law John Ekberg. Also meeting him at the Pearly Gates with tails wagging will be Ralph, Freddie and Peyton.

Funeral Services will be held Wednesday October 9 at 10:00 A.M. at the First United Methodist Church. Rev. Michael McGregor officiating. Visitation will be Tuesday from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. with the family present from 6:00 to 8:00. Memorials may be directed to the Dodge County Humane Society or please strongly consider committing a Random Act of Kindness in Gary's Honor. Condolences may be left at <http://www.dugan Chapel.com>.

Burial will be in Green Mound Cemetery in Saunders County.

Dugan Funeral Chapel  
402-721-2880

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# Comments

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“ Dear Loretta & family, Thinking of you, Your in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless!

**Donna Murray** - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ we cannot tell you how sorry we are for your loss. bob & gary go back a long ways, we will always remember your visit here and again our visit last year at your beautiful home. keep in touch, loretta

**bob & carolyn schneider** - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ It was with great sadness that we just learned of Gary's passing. He was a great friend to us in good times and bad. We enjoyed antique-hunting with him when we lived in Fremont in the late 70's, and always made a point to visit and catch up on old times and have a lot of laughs, whenever we returned to Fremont. Too bad those visits were few and far between.

Our sincerest condolences to Loretta, Jessica, and the rest of Gary's family. He will be missed.

Paul & Maureen Serbu

**Paul & Maureen Serbu** - October 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Sorry Jessica for your loss.

**L Verner** - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Words cannot express how sorry we are for your loss. We enjoyed listening to Gary's stories and his humor. His woodworking was exceptional, and love of famiy unsurpassed. He will be missed.

**Georgia/Richard Felt** - October 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Jess and Loretta,

What a beautiful obituary tribute to Gary and I love the photo--handsome man in black. Gary had such a way of making you feel like you were the only person in the room. He did truly care about people and was a wonderful man.

Thinking and praying for you!

Love, Kristina and Max and Family

**Kristina Milinkovich** - October 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Loretta and family.I am so sorry for your loss.I remember you and Gary from school,,him from 3rd ward and you from jr high and high school. I have been through this sadness too,as lost the love of my life almost 4 years ago.We were married 56 years too. Keep all the memories in your daily thoughts and it will help get you through this time.Been years since I last seen you two but wanted to let you know I am thinking of you. God bless.

**D'Anna McDaniel Schreiber** - October 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ I worked for Gary and Loretta in the late 80s/early 90s, part-time in the liquor store. I got to know both, and especially Gary, during that time. He was a fine man, of good character, and I learned several valuable life lessons from Gary. I've the utmost respect for him and wish to offer my condolences to Loretta and Jessica.

Growing up in Silver Creek, and having worked in the original Dutch Mill as the office of a filling station, it was especially fitting I came to know and respect Gary and Loretta. RIP, Gary.

**David Powers** - October 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ It is said that if you go through life and have 1 or 2 true friends that you can always count on, you are lucky. Well I am lucky, because Gary was one of those friends. I want to Thank him, Loretta and Jessica for making me feel like part of the family. Gary was the most intelligent person I have known and could talk about anything and we did. That was matched with his incredible sense of humor. I will miss his booming laugh. He was the most fair and honest person you could ever meet, and without a doubt the most stand up guy there was. He was my best friend and I will miss him everyday.

**Jim Birkel** - October 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM