



## Gary Dean Filipi

January 27, 1952 - February 7, 2021

Gary Dean Filipi was born on January 27, 1952 to Lumir and Alice (Placek) Filipi in Crete, Nebraska. Gary was the oldest of 4 children. He married Judy Hromadka on December 12, 1968. Together they had 3 sons: Gene, Dan and Nate. Gary passed away after a hard-fought battle with cancer on February 7, 2021 at the age of 69 years and 11 days.

Gary grew up on a farm north and east of Tobias. He attended Opossum Hill School through the 6th grade and then attended Milligan Public School, graduating in 1970. Gary was a standout athlete throughout high school, earning All State, All Tribland, the Cochnar Award and All Conference honors. His 31 rebounds in one game during his senior year, still holds a place in the NSAA records.

He received a full ride scholarship to Hastings College to play football. Nicknamed "The Horse" at Hastings College, he continued his love for the sport receiving all conference awards. After graduating from Hastings College in 1974, he had the opportunity to continue playing football at the next level in the NFL.

In 1976, he received an offer to be a teacher and head football coach at Shickley High School. Gary was honored to fill the position at Shickley....Milligan's biggest rival. Gary's teaching assignments included junior

high health, all classes of physical education, and driver's ed. Gary was head football coach from 1976 to 2001. Gary's teams included competing in 11 man, 8 man, and 6 man divisions. During his coaching tenure, his teams qualified for many State Football Playoffs. He also coached basketball and the 1984 and 1987 boy's basketball teams he coached qualified for the state tournament. He coached several post season all-star basketball and football teams. Coaching his sons in football had their moments, but they were also his most rewarding memories in all of his coaching career. Gary earned his 100th victory in basketball in 1988 and his 100th victory in football in 1993. In 1990, Gary was offered the head coach position for girl's basketball. Having coached only boy's basketball and football teams, he was up for the challenge. This was a new world for Gary, including tears, hairspray and bathroom stops during the trips home from away games. In 1991, Gary lead the Shickley girl's basketball team to the state tournament finals earning runner up honors. This team had a special place in Gary's heart. In 2001, Gary was honored through the Nebraska Coaching Association for 25 years of coaching. Gary retired from teaching in May of 2014 after 38 years at Shickley Public School.

Everyone knew Gary for his green thumb and sprawling garden. He loved planting each season and even bought extra lots in Shickley to expand his gardens and to try his luck in planting fruit trees. During the summer, Gary could be found mowing lawns with Dawg, canning salsa and tomato juice, and stuffing peppers. You could find his produce at the Shickley Farmer's market and Fillmore County Fair. Occasional trips to the NHRA races in Denver and trips to San Francisco to go sailing were always on the summer 'To Do' list.

In 2016, Gary entered a new phase of life when his first granddaughter was born and he assumed the role of Grandpa Gary. He enjoyed attending recitals, grandparent's day at school, babysitting, pictures on face time and communicating thru Skype. Teaching Reese how to plant a garden had high

priority. It was pure satisfaction helping Reese pack the trunk full of pumpkins, apples and veggies from the fall harvest that she helped plant in the spring.

In 2020, Gary along with his teammates from the 1970 Hastings College Football Team, would be inducted into the Hastings College Hall of Fame. Another proud moment for Gary in 2020 was locating and purchasing his dad's 1952 Farmall M tractor that was sold on Lumir's farm sale in 1990.

He fought hard and strong over the enemy since last summer, in which he had little defense or offense against. There were no trick plays. A small victory was accomplished when he went into a short-term remission in November. Even though there was no turning back, he enjoyed one more anniversary, one more Christmas and one last birthday.

Gary was preceded in death by his father, Lumir J. Filipi; Grandparents, Jerry and Emma Placek, Albert and Rosie Filipi; parents-in-law, Frank and Alma Hromadka; and daughter-in-law, Renee Filipi.

Gary is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judy of Shickley; mother, Alice Filipi of Milligan; sons, Gene Filipi of Richmond, California, Dan Filipi and special friend Tiffany Ressetar of Highlands Ranch, Colorado and Nate Filipi and wife Amy of Lincoln, Nebraska; grandchildren, Reese and Palmer Filipi of Lincoln, Nebraska; brothers and wives, Larry and Deb Filipi, Loren and Bev Filipi all of Milligan, Nebraska; sister, Donna Wentworth and husband, Norm of Lincoln, Nebraska; sister-in-law, Diane Jansky and husband Larry of Milligan, Nebraska; nephews and nieces, Troy Filipi and wife Amanda of Lincoln, Nebraska, Dustin Filipi and wife Carey of Columbus, Nebraska, Lindsay Filipi and fiancé Mike Densberger of Cortland, Nebraska, Amber Morrison and husband Brock of Bennet, Nebraska, Tyler Wentworth and special friend Stef Cerda of San Francisco, California, Kyle Wentworth of Lincoln, Nebraska, Jeff

Jansky of Milligan, Nebraska, Shelley Domant of Lincoln, Nebraska, Jody Kercahl and husband Matt of Urbandale, Iowa; and many grand nephews and nieces, cousins and friends.

A Funeral Service for Gary was held on Friday, February 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Geneva, Nebraska. Kim Dunker officiated the Funeral Service. Stan Johnson accompanied the congregation in the singing of "I Believe" and "To Everything There Is A Season." The recorded selection "Do You Believe In Magic" was played as the recessional.

Pallbearers for the service included Dusty Filipi, Tyler Wentworth, Jeff Jansky, Paul Kassik, Wayne Flathman, Isaac Kamler, and Dan Sorge. Honorary Pallbearers included Reese Filipi, Palmer Filipi, Kyle Wentworth, Troy Filipi, Doug Straight, and Chris Dunker.

Interment was held in the Atlanta Cemetery following the Funeral Service.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com)

Memorials are suggested to the family and a scholarship will be established in Gary's name.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 11. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

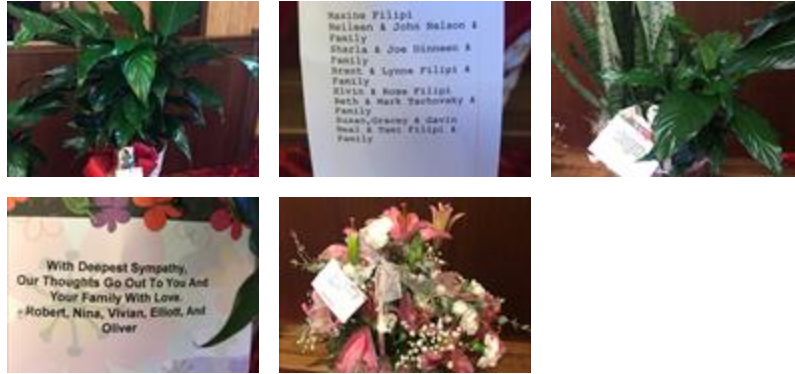
FEB 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church  
942 H Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3731  
[umc@windstream.net](mailto:umc@windstream.net)

# Tribute Wall



“ 79 files added to the album Memories Album



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - February 12, 2021 at 05:43 PM

JB

“ Thoughts and Prayers are with you Judy! May he Rest in Peace!

Jim Baxa - February 12, 2021 at 02:28 PM

KG

“ So sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Prayers 🙏 to you all.

Kathy and Tom Gillmore - February 12, 2021 at 12:13 PM

RI

“ Deepest condolences to the family of Coach Filipi. So many fond memories that will live on in our hearts. He was a great coach, teacher and friend. He will be truly missed. Thoughts and prayers in this time of sorrow. God bless.

-The Ideus family.

Rick & Suzanne Ideus - February 12, 2021 at 11:56 AM

HW

*Thoughts , prayers and sympathy. So many great memories. Charles and Heather Whitehead*

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**Heather Whitehead** - February 13, 2021 at 09:47 PM

JW

“ *Jim White lit a candle in memory of Gary Dean Filipi*



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**Jim white** - February 11, 2021 at 09:31 PM

LF

“ *Love, Janie & George Brennan & Families purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.*



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**Love, Janie & George Brennan & Families** - February 11, 2021 at 06:01 PM

RS

“ Jeani and I are so sad to hear of Gary's passing. He was a great guy and excellent football player. We played football together for the Hastings Bronco's for two years and I always admired his dedication to football, but more so to his family. Gary always treated everyone with respect and kindness and that was a characteristic that we all respected. Jeani and I were also pleased when our daughter, Brooke, became friends with Nate when they both entered Hastings College as students.

*Judy, you and your family should be very proud of the husband, Dad, and friend that Gary was. He will truly be missed by many.*

*Regards, Rod and Jeani Schultz*

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**Rod Schultz** - February 11, 2021 at 04:06 PM

TT

“ The FocusVision Team purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.



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**The FocusVision Team** - February 11, 2021 at 01:48 PM

BE

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Judy and family. So many memories. Hard to put just one over many. I will remember the night we decided, rather late to try and call Donny. His answering service would not let us through.

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**Brad Engel** - February 11, 2021 at 01:13 PM

BL

“ Judy and family, we are saddened to hear about Gary. We often talk about the many good friends and good times we had while we were part of the Longhorn family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Bill & Joan Lovgren

bill lovgren - February 11, 2021 at 10:50 AM

AA

“ So sorry to hear about Gary. He was a teammate on 1970 Bronco Football Team. we never really crossed paths after college but still consider him one of the best fullbacks to ever wear the uniform. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and family

Alan Anderson - February 11, 2021 at 09:40 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.



February 11, 2021 at 09:33 AM

SF

“ Scott & Beth (Boswell) Johnson & Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.



Scott & Beth (Boswell) Johnson & Family - February 10, 2021 at 11:39 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.*



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February 10, 2021 at 11:11 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.*



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February 10, 2021 at 11:04 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.*



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February 10, 2021 at 06:49 PM



“ *Our Deepest Sympathy, Gary was a very handsome, kind & caring guy who always spoke when our paths crossed. We will miss his smile!*

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**Mark & Sarah** - February 10, 2021 at 03:31 PM

GA

“ Thoughts and prayers to Judy and your family. I will always think good thoughts for Gary .... shared a birthday-teacher-basket ball coach-football coach-teammate-and friend. Miss ya coach!

Gary Anderson - February 10, 2021 at 02:29 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.



February 10, 2021 at 02:21 PM

MB

“ May all our sympathies go out to Gary's family. My husband Kim coached Gary his Senior year of highschool. It was Kim's first year of coaching. He coached nearly 40 years and has said many times that Gary was his most talented player. So many memories. Remembering being at their house in Milligan, visiting with Judy and Jeff and Gene were playing on floor. Very coincidentally, Gene and Jeff met at UNL in later years. Gene overheard Jeff speaking about his dad coaching at Milligan. And the rest is history. We were so fortunate to have been in Milligan at that time. As we look back, we all were close to the same age. Rest in Peace.

Merrie Busch - February 10, 2021 at 01:04 PM

MR

*I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. I was a classmate and team member of Gary's my senior year and only year at Milligan; as my dad was in his first year as superintendent there. He was a great teammate and made my time there very enjoyable. I still have film from some of our football and basketball games that I recently got out and watched. It brought back great memories. I also was a P.E. teacher and coached football and basketball for 35 years. I even coached against Gary's Shickley football team while I was at Nelson, NE. May the family find some comfort knowing that he was somebody that was looked up to and excelled at living a good life.*

Michael Reese - February 11, 2021 at 02:11 PM

JK

“*Words cannot express how sad we are for the loss of our Uncle Gary. I will forever remember sharing funny stories about teaching with him, watching ping pong matches in the garage, and having him coach my All Star game. I will cherish these memories forever. Holidays will never be the same. You truly were the best Uncle anyone could ask for.*”

Jody Kerchal - February 09, 2021 at 10:18 PM

RN

“*Our deepest sympathy on the loss of Gary. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.*  
*Rodney and Donna Norrie*”



Rodney & Donna Norrie - February 09, 2021 at 08:14 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.*



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February 09, 2021 at 07:35 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Gene Filipi** - February 09, 2021 at 06:14 PM

DF

“ I met Gary through my best friend to this very day, Dan, in the fall of 1998. He came up with Judy to put window kits on our walls so we wouldn't freeze in the drafty house when winter rolled around. The next thing I know he brings out a cooler full of steaks for us and is grilling them for us.

*I remember I would watch Dan's football games next to Gary, Judy, and Lumir all the time. We would always go to the car at halftime where Gary showed me the art of mixing a short pour (and was quick to tell me if I ruined it or not) and a red beer.*

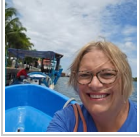
*Dan and I went down many times to Eagle Raceway with his family during the summer. I would talk to Gary a lot--about anything under the sun--and it always felt like they were my family away from my family in Nebraska. They were so kind and welcoming.*

*Gary had a warm heart and was always good for conversation. I know he was a very successful football player and later on, a helluva coach, but you wouldn't know it because he didn't talk about it. He was very humble in that regard. He was a kind family man and he always seemed like he put his wife and kids first.*

*I haven't talked to Gary since probably 2007 when I moved back closer to my family, but I still remain best friends with Dan. My heart aches for the Filipi family. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Dennis F** - February 09, 2021 at 01:30 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. We enjoyed having him as an educator/coach when we were in school. He also was one of our children's favorite teachers as well. Craig and I really appreciate the patience and support he gave Taylor while in his class. Taylor considered him a friend. He truly had a good influence on the kids he taught and cared about them. We pray God will give you peace and comfort in this time of grief.

*Lisa and Craig Reinsch*

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**Lisa Reinsch** - February 08, 2021 at 06:59 PM

MJ

“ My sincere condolences. Gary touched and improved the lives of so many. As he now at peace, May you all find comfort in the love of family and friends.

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**Mary Johnson** - February 08, 2021 at 12:50 PM

TT

“ Prayers for Judy and family.

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**Tom and Barb Trapp** - February 08, 2021 at 09:21 AM

MB

“ Marge & Bob Bedlan lit a candle in memory of Gary Dean Filipi



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**marge & Bob Bedlan** - February 07, 2021 at 11:09 PM

SS

“ Steve & Barb Sadd lit a candle in memory of Gary Dean Filipi



steve & barb sadd - February 07, 2021 at 10:34 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Filipi.



February 07, 2021 at 10:06 PM

RS

“ When his dad Lumir, Les Jansky, Leo Yeck and I played softball sponsored by Halfway, he travelled with the team as a two year old. One night after a ballgame with wieners and beer furnished by Halfway enjoyed in a dirt road, he toddled over to me and I put small cigar wound in his forehead. Everyone was mortified but Gary, who thought it was funny. Tough kid then. : 1: 🙏

Ron Svec - February 07, 2021 at 08:36 PM

DJ

“ Doug & Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Gary Dean Filipi



Doug & Patty Johnson - February 07, 2021 at 07:28 PM

JU

“ *Janine Uldrich lit a candle in memory of Gary Dean Filipi*



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**Janine Uldrich** - February 07, 2021 at 05:14 PM

VJ

“ *Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Gary Dean Filipi*



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**Virginia Johnson** - February 07, 2021 at 04:36 PM