



## Gary Lee Wild

May 4, 1948 - February 10, 2017

Dateline: Brighton, IL

Gary Lee Wild, 68, of Brighton, IL, died Friday, February 10, 2017 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO. Born May 4, 1948 in St. Louis, MO, he was the son of Walter Lee and Elizabeth "Betty" (Haynie) Wild. Gary graduated from Belleville Township High School and earned his associate of applied science-drafting technology degree from Belleville Area College. He went on to earn a bachelor of technology-mechanical technology degree, and a bachelor of technology-mechanical design technology degree, both from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Gary's extensive career with Purina took him from the drafting department at Ralston Purina, to the engineering department, to project management, and ultimately to plant management at Nestle Purina. After 30 years of service, Gary retired from Nestle Purina in 2013, as the support center plant manager. Gary was a member of the H.O.G. Club and an avid fan of car racing. On October 7, 1984 he married the former Sharon Voumard in Alton. She survives. Also surviving are their six children, Brett (Gwen) Wild of Galesburg, MI, Christine (Jon) Rohrbach of St. Charles, MO, Bartt (Lacey) Wild of Red Bud, IL, Carrie (Ken) Morrill of Alton, Tanya Wild (Gary Liefer) of Red Bud, IL, and Curt (Marissa) Bradley of Wood River, 15 grandchildren, and two great grandsons. A private burial will take place at Lakeview Memorial Gardens in Belleville, IL. Family requests that all gifts be made as memorials, in honor of Gary, to Washington University School of

Medicine @ <https://gifts.wustl.edu/med/index.html>. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com) . Family and friends will gather in the near future to join in a CELEBRATION OF LIFE honoring Gary.

# Cemetery Details

## Lakeview Memorial Gardens

Belleville, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gary Lee Wild*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Gary Lee Wild*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I just learned of Gary's passing tonight while looking at genealogy post....I am so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in my thoughts.  
Diane Wild Burgin*

**Diane Burgin** - April 08, 2017 at 01:13 AM



“ *Sharon and Family,  
I was in total shock and disbelief when I heard of Gary's passing.  
Having worked with Gary for over thirty years at Purina, he has  
been a dear friend and constant ally, literally from day one! We will  
all miss him.  
"Ride On, 'Wildman'...  
RIDE ON"!!!!*

*With Respect,  
Guy*

**Guy** - February 25, 2017 at 11:00 AM

CJ

“ Gary and I have been good friends since Belleville Township High School. We would get together for hours, working in the detached garage behind his dad's house on motors. Gary's favorite was his El Camino. Often we would ride around the Belleville fountain in his El. After high school, I went to Viet Nam. When I returned, Gary threw a "welcome home" party for me. After college, I left Belleville, but our friendship remained strong. For more than 50 years I have considered Gary Wild to be my best friend. I could always talk to him, he was only a phone call or text away. How I enjoyed his sense of humor and his wit. I joined him several times at the races, not because I like car races, but because my friend did. I miss him so much....

*Craig Johnson  
Forest Hill, Maryland*

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**Craig Johnson** - February 22, 2017 at 05:26 PM

SH

“ Sharon and Family,

*As I read this very sad news to my husband this morning I could tell by the look on his face that I had to respond right away for him just how much he respected and enjoyed working for Gary. Gary was more than a boss, he was also a friend.*

*With great sadness, The Family of Steve Hanewinkel*

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**sharon hanewinkel** - February 22, 2017 at 09:15 AM

NM

“ Sending love to the family from Fairbanks, Alaska! Gary was always so full of great stories, goofy jokes, and a positive energy. It was always a good time when he was around. He had a deep love for his family.

Gary took me to my first (and only, thus far) NASCAR race several years ago. It was a fun memory that I am glad we shared!

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**Nick and Natalie Morrill** - February 15, 2017 at 03:15 PM

 Monica Martino

“ Gary's dad, Walt, and my mom, Helen, married while Gary and I were still in high school. I have many stories, but one of my favorites is his crazy love of engines and hot cars. When we all moved in together, he basically confiscated the dilapidated, 2 car, detached garage, and promptly started tearing engines apart. One day mom came home from work to find Gary boiling oily old parts on the kitchen stove, in one of her favorite pots. Needless to say, that did not end well. He was a great guy, funny, loving, a wonderful father, a fantastic friend. We will miss him dearly, but, I have those wonderful memories to console me. The four Martino's have donated to Wash U. in his memory. Hugs to all of you.

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**Monica Martino** - February 15, 2017 at 03:08 PM

LE

“ Dear Sharon and family. We are sorry to hear of Gary passing and send our condolences to you. Gary was one of a kind and will be truly missed. He touched everyone in his own personal way. He was a true asset to the Support Center and his expertise was well needed and received. We'll miss him. Lew and Donna Evans

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**Lew Evans** - February 15, 2017 at 02:01 PM



“ Sharon, so sorry to read this. My thoughts are with you and your family. Rita

Rita Frankford - February 15, 2017 at 12:20 PM

BB

“ Rest in peace Gary Wild. You were an awesome person and someone I could call my friend. For all the good times and bad that we have shared over the years, we could always laugh together about any of them. You will be missed by many. Hugs to you Sharon and your family. This one God got wrong. Linda and my thoughts are with you and your family during these difficult times.  
Bob and Linda Buechel

Bob Buechel - February 15, 2017 at 10:50 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gary Lee Wild.



February 15, 2017 at 10:28 AM

DC

“ Dodie and Cieto purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Gary Lee Wild.



Dodie and Cieto - February 15, 2017 at 10:16 AM

SF

“ Sharon, so sorry to hear about the passing of Gary. He was always such a fun loving guy and Steve and I have such great memories of him. I got to witness the time he entered into your life and the happiness he brought you. You are in our thoughts and prayers!

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**Steve and Cathy Forbes** - February 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM

GW

“ I remember when Gary came to California in 1955. We had a lot of fun that summer. One time we were throwing rocks and broke my dad's window. Gary's cousin Gregory D. Wild

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**Greg wild** - February 14, 2017 at 11:09 PM

JM

“ Oh man, where do I start?

*I've known Gary for most of his years at Purina and watched him grow in his career from a highly-respected draftsman, to an exceptional Project Engineer to a highly effective Project Manager. After leaving the pet food side of Purina, he finally saw the errors of his ways and agreed to help me out by becoming a Plant Manager for the Support Center on the Hill.*

*This was a marriage made in heaven!*

*With Gary's outstanding Mechanical design skills, his powerful people skills, and about 30 excellent Italian restaurants in the area there could be no other choice.*

*He took responsibilities for HR development and initiated an ambitious Capital program that saw the place transformed into a modern, first-rate facility that the Swiss were falling over.*

*Through all this Gary and I remained friends and shared our family dreams and issues. We were never afraid to tease each other, and loved, loved, loved working for the Checker.*

*I will miss you, Gary.*

*John Moll*

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**John Moll** - February 14, 2017 at 01:14 PM