



## Gary Huncovsky

August 3, 1941 - May 7, 2022

Gary William Huncovsky, age 80, of Glendive, Montana, passed away Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the Glendive Medical Center in Glendive, Montana. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Glendive with Father Francis Schreiber officiating. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Gary was born to Bill (Yum) and Mary (Mack) Huncovsky on August 3, 1941 in Dickinson, North Dakota. He grew up with his younger brother, Mack. Yum's job took them to Bismarck, Williston, Baker, and finally to Glendive. He attended school at Sacred Heart School through the 8th grade and graduated from Dawson County High School with the class of 1959. In high school he excelled at basketball, football, track and baseball. In 1955 his Babe Ruth team won the state tournament and went on to play in the regional tournament in Idaho. After high school he graduated from Dawson Community College with an Associate's degree. He attended one year at Eastern Montana College in Billings, then enlisted in the Montana Army National Guard from 1962-1968 with an honorable discharge. In September of 1965, he went to work for Montana Dakota Utilities Company and worked in various positions for 35 years. He retired in September of 2000 as the Glendive District Superintendent for Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline, a MDU subsidiary. On August 21, 1965, Gary married Judy Thielman. Together they raised 3 kids: Amy, Greg, and Andee, and were blessed with six beloved

grandchildren: Michael, Izaak, Alex, Beau, Dylan and Abigail. Gary's grandchildren were the light of his life! He kept up with all of their activities and accomplishments. He talked to or texted all of them daily. His pride for them was evident in his voice every time he spoke of them. Judy, Amy, Greg, and Andee were his pride and joy too and he always said, "I don't know what I would do without you kids and Mom." Mom lovingly cared for him at home until he had to enter the hospital. No matter where his family was, he was always reaching out and checking on us. If we were on an airplane, he tracked the flight on his iPad. If we were driving home or to somewhere, a text would come in about every 2 hours: "Where are you now?" or "Did you make it?" Wednesdays were special every week because it was "WW--Wine Wednesday." We all tried to show up after work on Wednesdays to catch up and check in. He made sure to send a text reminding us: "It's WW."

Dad was a people-person. He genuinely liked people and looked for the best in everyone. He had the ability to make everyone his friend, whether you were 2 or 92. No matter what the circumstances, you always left a conversation with dad with a smile on your face. This was evident to us when we would hear these comments from people over the years and now, countless times: "What a great guy!", "I just love your dad!", "How is your dad doing?", "Your dad is such a character!" He was a people watcher and loved to look at people and wonder what their "story" was. He often reached out to help people if he thought they were in need.

In college, Dad was an English major. Even though he never finished his degree, he was a gifted wordsmith and a master storyteller. He loved poems and limericks (some dirty, some clean!) and he had memorized many long pieces of poetry that he could recite even as he got older. His love of words and stories was evident even in the music he liked. He loved the song "El Paso" by Marty Robbins because it told a story. He listened to Paul Simon's "Graceland" album over and over and enjoyed the masterful use of words in every song. He would sometimes sing one part of a song over and over because he liked how the words sounded. When we were kids, he would take

us to the country to check cows and he would make up stories in the pick-up for us. He completed the crossword puzzle and the word jumble in the newspaper every single day. He was a swear-word aficionado.

Dad was a huge sports lover, especially baseball, football and basketball. His teams were the Cleveland Indians, Green Bay Packers, and the Boston Celtics and they have been for decades. Dad was not a fair-weather fan. After retirement, many of the vacations he took with Mom were centered around sports. They took a bus tour and attended baseball games in several different stadiums. They took in the Indianapolis 500. One year they sat in the rain in Pasadena at the Rose Bowl Parade. For about half a dozen winters, he and mom spent a couple of months in Goodyear, AZ and attended the Cleveland spring training games.

In the late 60's and 70's, Dad was a member of the Montana Official's Association and put many, many hours on the basketball court and the football field, traveling all over Eastern Montana reffing games and making friends everywhere he went.

In retirement, Dad also became the caretaker of our Belle Prairie and Bloomfield farmyards. He often mowed both yards by himself, cleared weeds, painted buildings, made repairs. He loved both of those places dearly. He was an exclusive member of the Belle Prairie Yacht Club. Another favorite place was Silver Gate, Montana, our family vacation destination every summer for about 20 years. We learned how to use a spinning rod and a fly rod and he held our hands as we crossed the streams. He showed us how to gut and scale a fish. He cooked bacon and eggs for breakfast before a day of fishing and nothing could have been better.

In 1994 he bought a lake cabin on the North Shore of Rock Creek at Fort Peck and in 2000 built a new cabin on that spot. Many, many happy memories were created because of that purchase! We have celebrated many birthdays there and in 2015 celebrated Mom and Dad's 50th wedding anniversary. Dad loved the lake and fishing and boating. Years ago, he often fished in walleye

tournaments at Fort Peck or at Lake Sakakawea with his brother, Mack. To use the words of Mack: He was a bonafide character. To know him was to love him and he lives on in all of us. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to us with phone calls, texts or hugs. It's gratifying to know how many people knew him and loved him. We love you Gare-bear! Go Pack! Go Tribe! Go Celtics!

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Mary Huncovsky, his in-laws, Harold and Genevieve Thielman and numerous close friends.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Judy, children: Amy (Paul) Hopfauf, Greg Huncovsky, Andee (Jesse) Jolliffe and his six grandchildren: Michael and Alex Hopfauf, Izaak and Beau Huncovsky, Dylan and Abigail Jolliffe; one brother, Mack (Lonnie) Huncovsky, one nephew, Tom (Heather) Huncovsky and his dog, Henry.

Memorials are suggested to the Greater Glendive Foundation (Dad often contributed to GGF because it bugged him when things needed fixing around town and GGF was getting things done!); the DCC Foundation (as an alum, he always supported DCC); the GMC Foundation (another favorite of his) or the Glendive Community Cancer Fund. Remembrances and condolences can be shared with the family at: [www.silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.silhafuneralhomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAY **24**. 10:00 AM (MT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
316 West Benham Street  
Glendive, MT 59330

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary Huncovsky

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gary Huncovsky.



May 23, 2022 at 10:33 AM



“ Bob And Dixie Justice lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky



**Bob and Dixie Justice** - May 19, 2022 at 06:23 PM



“ Glorious Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Huncovsky.



May 19, 2022 at 05:27 PM



“ 40 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Silha Funeral Home** - May 16, 2022 at 12:51 PM

KA

“ Amy and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. I'm so sorry to hear your dad has passed. As I read about his life I remembered how in 9th grade you demonstrated in our theatre class how to tie a lure on your fishing pole or maybe it was a fly in your fly rod. I can't quite remember. I do remember it was a skill you fondly talked about with that demonstration, taught to you by your dad. May your memories help you through this difficult time. With deepest sympathy, Kelli

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**Kelli Alexander** - May 15, 2022 at 08:36 PM

JB

“ Judy and family I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. May memories help you through the days ahead.

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**June Boje** - May 15, 2022 at 08:17 PM

SB

“ *Stacey Bowlds lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky*



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**Stacey Bowlds** - May 14, 2022 at 11:50 AM

DS

“ *Denise Stoddart lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky*



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**Denise Stoddart** - May 13, 2022 at 10:46 PM

BM

“ *To all of Gary's family, I am so sorry for your great loss, I worked with Gary at WBI, in Baker. He was such a character and I always enjoyed his visits! Hugs and prayers for all of you!*  
*Mel Bertsch (Baker)*

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**Bertsch Melodie** - May 13, 2022 at 11:18 AM

BK

“ *Our deepest sympathy to all of Gary's family. Keeping you in our prayers*

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**Bernice Mischel & Nancy Keller** - May 12, 2022 at 10:39 PM



“ It was a pleasant surprise running into you and Lonnie in Billings today, Mack. Thanks for giving us the news of Gary's passing, He was one of a kind. Loretta and I send our condolences to all the Huncovsky family.

*Jim & Loretta Doll*

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**Jim Doll** - May 12, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ Lefty -Jeanette lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky



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**Lefty -Jeanette** - May 12, 2022 at 05:50 PM



“ Our hearts are sad from the loss of a great high school friend. Our condolences to the family through this difficult time.

*Carolyn and Dick Dye*

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**Dick Dye** - May 12, 2022 at 10:34 AM



“ Wild Man..lol..gonna miss our ole Beer Jug talks.may your light always shine Bright..U will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing you..May God Bless Gary!!!

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**Terry Knapp** - May 12, 2022 at 09:51 AM

JH

“ *Judy, Mack, and the Huncovsky family...*

*My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Tom spent many years working with Gary at MDU/Williston Basin Pipeline. Tom passed away May 7, 2001, and I'm sure he was at those pearly gates to greet Gary on May 7, 2022!! Gary always kept everyone smiling and laughing when you were in his presence. He spread a lot of happiness and created a lot of great memories for all of you. You have my deepest sympathy.*

*Judy Holm*

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**Judy Holm** - May 11, 2022 at 11:27 PM



“ *Heather Frank lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky*



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**Heather Frank** - May 11, 2022 at 11:03 PM

SM

“ *Scott & Ann Mills lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky*



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**Scott & Ann Mills** - May 11, 2022 at 09:13 PM

DT

“ Mrs. Huncovsky and Family, So sorry to hear about Mr. Huncovsky passing. So many stories I would hear from my dad and Mr. Huncovsky. Miss those days. I will be praying for you and your family thru this difficult time. May god guide you thru this.

*Debbie Fager Tweet*

Debboe Tweet - May 11, 2022 at 07:01 PM

LF

“ Linda Frank lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky



Linda Frank - May 11, 2022 at 06:48 PM

CW

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Gary was such a nice guy, always had a smile on his face. You're in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏



Carol Wolff - May 11, 2022 at 04:44 PM



“ Andeen Raymond lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky



Andeen Raymond - May 11, 2022 at 01:19 PM

CB

“ Gary was truly one of a kind, and we are lucky to have had him as a friend. We may be far in distance, but our thoughts and prayers are with you all.



Charley and Sharon Bennett - May 11, 2022 at 10:49 AM

SF

“ So sorry to hear about Gary. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.  
Ed, Sina, Cooper & Chancey Fink

Sina Fink - May 10, 2022 at 08:40 PM

GK

“ Huncovsky family, Gary and I are so very sorry to hear about Gary. What a big personality he was...so much fun to be around! Glendive and Fort Peck has lost a good one!! We have been family friends and I'm told "shirt tail" relatives for well over 50 years... love and prayers to you all.  
Gary and Karen Kampschorr  
Lake Havasu City, Az.

Gary and Karen Kampschorr - May 10, 2022 at 08:16 PM

LR

“ I would like to express my sympathy to Gary's wife and family. I also need to make a correction to my previous post. I meant to say "Williston Basin" pipeline company.

Larry Robson - May 10, 2022 at 06:27 PM

KS

“ *Karen Schock lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky*



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**Karen Schock** - May 10, 2022 at 04:00 PM

RS

“ *Renee Schultz lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky*



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**Renee Schultz** - May 10, 2022 at 03:11 PM

BT

“ *Huncovsky Family*  
*I'm so sorry for your loss I personally didn't know him very well, but he always had a smile on his face! He loved his Family and will be missed by all!*  
*Cherish your Memories*  
*Love Becky (Chouinard) Tipton*

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**Becky Tipton** - May 10, 2022 at 02:26 PM

LR

“ I remember Gary from the many hours we spent in the "Shack" while attending DCJC. I got to know him even better when he worked for the Yellowstone Basin Pipeline Company and I worked for the Corps of Engineers. Occasionally we would meet up at meetings in Billings and elsewhere on one project or another. I always looked forward to seeing him at the Class of '61 high school reunions. Rest In Peace, Gary! You will be missed.

Larry Robson

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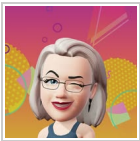
Larry Robson - May 10, 2022 at 01:36 PM



“ From the previous comment from me- Deanne I meant to say I was at Gary and Judy's home with My Mom and Aunt Mary..not Lonnie's and Gary's... 😊😊

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Deanne O'Donnell - May 10, 2022 at 12:34 PM



“ I wish I had some special memory to share with you all- but I don't have any. I am one of the 12 Butsch cousins. There were so many of us and the age differences are incredible. I was Uncle Yums goddaughter and never knew him. Being so young our worlds never crossed except maybe once when I was in Glendive with Mom visiting Mary and I think I was at his and Lonnie's home then. Its kinda blurry!! Ha ha..I did get to know Aunt Mary when she came to Billings to visit our Mother. But that being said I am so sorry for your loss and it sounds like Gary was a guy I wish I had known. RIP Gary and enjoy the sports from up in Heaven.. God bless you all.. Deanne Butsch-O'Donnell.. Billings mt.



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Deanne O'Donnell - May 10, 2022 at 12:29 PM

ER

“ Gary and his friends would come to the Intake farm to hunt pheasants in the fall of the year. What a great experience and the memories it was in my life. He was fun and great to be around. My God Bless. Emery Rice.

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**Emery Rice** - May 10, 2022 at 10:43 AM

MK

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Gary's family. May all your wonderful memories guide you through the tough days. Mandy (Boese) Kutzler

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**mandy Kutzler** - May 10, 2022 at 10:24 AM

MS

“ Judy and family, Mack and family, I'm so sorry to hear about Gary's passing. I worked around Gary for several years at WBI. He was a character and so fun to visit with. Please know that my thoughts and prayer are with you and your family at this very difficult time.



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**Melvin Sampson** - May 10, 2022 at 10:16 AM

MH

“ Like Kevin McGovern, I too worked with Gary during a summer job at MDU, circa 1976 or so if memory serves. Gary had the distinct honor or chore, not sure which, of shepherding several early 20-something guys around eastern MT and most of ND in a bright green Ford LTD car, checking the corrosion protection of gas lines. Gary somehow made this tedious activity fun and enlightening, and the evenings were spent playing cards and laughing. Gary was a wonderful man, and to this day many years later, I still have fond memories of my time with Gary. Gary's family and Glendive lost a wonderful guy, and my condolences go out to all who knew him. Thank you Gary!

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**Michael Hughes** - May 10, 2022 at 09:30 AM

DZ

“ Sincere condolences to Gary's family. He will be missed by many. Comforting hugs to all of you. Rest in peace, Gary.



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**Don and Penny Zimmerman** - May 10, 2022 at 08:21 AM

CP

“ Condolences to the whole family. Cherish all the many fond memories.

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**Cherise Patterson** - May 09, 2022 at 11:57 PM

PF

“ Prayers and Hugs to the family. His smiles and laughter will always be remembered. Ginger, Kelly and Kaye



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**Pulse Family** - May 09, 2022 at 11:09 PM

KO

“ Karl And Madeline Overlie lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky



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**Karl and Madeline Overlie** - May 09, 2022 at 10:41 PM

AA

“ Judy and family, Sorry to hear of Gary's death. The obituary you wrote for him was filled with such love. We make memories all our lives and your family has memories by the bushel. You will miss him terribly, but we grieve because we love and love always wins out. God's peace in the days and months ahead. Avis Anderson

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**Avis Anderson** - May 09, 2022 at 10:15 PM

MS

“ Judy and family my heart reaches to each of you during this most difficult time. The memories live on forever and ever, cherish each and every one! He was a good one!!  
Sending prayers and friendship!

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**Mike and Jacky Boje Saur** - May 09, 2022 at 06:59 PM

DB

“ May fond memories of Gary bring you comfort during this difficult time. Our most sincere condolences to you.



Dale & Alisa Boehning - May 09, 2022 at 06:47 PM

RB

“ I am sad to hear of Gary's passing! What a character he has always been! I loved his sense of humor and quick wit! A favorite memory of Gary was him and Bill Holsworth sliding down the cement banister at the old DCHS building after their graduation in 1959! Rest In Peace Gary! My deepest sympathy to you, Judy, Greg, Andea, Amy Mack, Lonnie & families!

Rosemary Baldwin - May 09, 2022 at 06:27 PM

BJ

“ Bob And Lani Jolliffe lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky



Bob and Lani Jolliffe - May 09, 2022 at 05:33 PM

BJ

Gary and I would stop for gas at the Holiday station at the same time almost every morning when we lived in Glendive. We'd chat a little over coffee and then both head our own ways. Always so fun to talk to and we'd usually end up talking about the kids - Jess and Andee. A great guy with a great family - our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Safe travels, Gary...

Bob Jolliffe - May 10, 2022 at 02:22 PM

TF

“ Judy and family, we are so sorry to hear of Gary’s passing. We have so many memories of Gary, too numerous to list, but all of them good. We send thoughts and prayers for you. Tony and Sharon Finneman

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**Tony Finneman** - May 09, 2022 at 05:20 PM

RD

“ Ron MJ Doll lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky



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**Ron MJ Doll** - May 09, 2022 at 04:31 PM

SM

“ Shane & Amber McPherson lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky



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**Shane & Amber McPherson** - May 09, 2022 at 04:11 PM

MT

“ Marlene M. Taylor lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky



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**Marlene M. Taylor** - May 09, 2022 at 12:59 PM

TH

“ I'm so sorry for your sad loss.



Teresa Hathaway - May 09, 2022 at 12:02 PM

KM

“ In the summer of 1970, I had a job with MDU and Gary was my boss. We really hit it off, he was always fair and friendly and I really respected and enjoyed him! I especially liked his wry sense of humor! I know he was proud of the family that he and Judy raised. God speed Gary, you were a good man!

Kevin McGovern - May 09, 2022 at 10:54 AM

GG

*Gloria Boehmer Guffey*

*A classmate i shall never forget, we shared the same birth month, and enjoyed lots of conversations, thru high school and after. Gary was like the greeting committee whenever i got to return home. He could always catch you up o. the comings and goings of our fellow classmates!! He so loved his family and was so proud of each of you!! My love and hugs to you Judy, and the rest of the family! Prayers for GRy as headends to the next world (where I'm sure he will be greeted by lots of friends and family gone on before him) and prayers of comfort for all the family and friends he leaves behind!*

gloria boehmer guffey - May 09, 2022 at 01:33 PM

JS

“ Judy and Family....this news really hit me. May God be with you all. Gary William was the best!



Jim & Donna Stanfill - May 08, 2022 at 06:49 PM



“ *Diane Crockett lit a candle in memory of Gary Huncovsky*



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**Diane Crockett** - May 08, 2022 at 05:50 PM

SH

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Gary's death. I had many great laughs with him and enjoyed visiting with him. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

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**Susan Howe** - May 08, 2022 at 05:46 PM