



## Gary Richard Van Vleet

October 30, 1942 - July 9, 2025

Gary Richard VanVleet, age 82 of Beach, North Dakota passed away on July 9, 2025 at his home surrounded by family. A mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, July 14, 2025 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beach, North Dakota. Silha Funeral Home of Beach has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Gary was born on October 30, 1942 in Burns, Oregon to Harvey and Una (Murphy) VanVleet. At an early age, the family moved to Killdeer, North Dakota. He attended Killdeer Public School through eighth grade and graduated high school in 1960 from St. Mary's Catholic School in New England, North Dakota. After graduation, he went on to trade school at North Dakota State School of Science receiving an auto mechanic degree. He also attended a year at Dickinson State University.

Gary was united in marriage to Leone Richard in 1964. Their first residence was in Geraldine, Montana. Several years later they moved to Beach. Eight children were born to that relationship. He met Mary Dunbar in 1990 and that meeting led to a 35-year relationship. They were married in 1996. They lived in several places before coming back to Beach in 2001.

Gary made a living for his family by 'turning wrenches' for several different employers in Beach, including Scott Cameron, Dakota Farm and West Plains; Sundance Equipment in Sundance, Wyoming; and a farm equipment dealership in Kittitas, Washington; to name a few. After coming back to Beach, Gary along with his family has operated the fireworks business successfully.

Gary was especially proud of being a volunteer fireman. He spent several years as chief of the Beach Fire Department. He, along with Gary Braden, fought the large forest fire in the Yellowstone Park in 1988. In 1989, he attended the National Fire Academy receiving a Certificate of Achievement in the Master Planning course of study. He was also proud to share the fact that his high school football coach was Ron Erhardt who went on to become the head coach of the NFL New England Patriots.

Gary enjoyed hunting and fishing with his father and sons. He also enjoyed a good game of Pinochle or Booray with his card playing buddies and family. After he retired, one of his favorite things to do was attend an auction sale. Gary is preceded in death by his parents; brother Robert; son Shawn; granddaughter Lauren; and grandson Robbie.

Gary is survived by his wife, Mary; daughters Sara (Gerard) Goroski, Jeanne Ray, Tonia (Greg)Glass and Teresa VanVleet; sons Curt (Sharon), Dwayne (Wanda) and Dean (Jackee); three stepsons, Allan (Tara) Dunbar, Tony (Molly) Dunbar, and Jason (Tracy) Dunbar; 18 grandchildren and six great grandchildren; five step grandchildren and four step great grandchildren. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.silhafuneralhomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 14. 10:00 AM (MT)

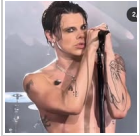
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
162 2nd Avenue Northeast  
Beach, ND 58621

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
John and Angie Ross*

John & Angie Ross - September 06, 2025 at 08:04 AM



“ *Kymberley Allen lit a candle in memory of  
Gary Van Vleet*



Kymberley Allen - July 22, 2025 at 09:38 PM

PS

“ *I mean't playing cards at the house! We are driving back from  
Rochester MN so it's bumpy so missed putting cards in first post  
SORRY*

Perry snd Nancy Stockwell - July 14, 2025 at 06:19 PM

PS

“ *So SORRY to hear about your loss. Perry always enjoyed playing at  
his house with the boys! He was one of the good guys, RIP Gary  
God Bless his family!*

Perry snd Nancy Stockwell - July 14, 2025 at 06:12 PM

ME

“ *Mark And Dawn Egan lit a candle in memory of Gary Richard Van Vleet*



---

**Mark and Dawn Egan** - July 13, 2025 at 11:02 PM

LW

“ *Lynne Wojahn lit a candle in memory of Gary Richard Van Vleet*



---

**Lynne Wojahn** - July 12, 2025 at 10:30 AM

DM

“ *Gary did a lot for the community. AND he took my money playing poker! He didn't have to cheat. He had the most phenomenal card talents.*

---

**Dick Melvin** - July 12, 2025 at 10:28 AM



“ *Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Gary Richard Van Vleet.*



---

July 11, 2025 at 06:50 PM

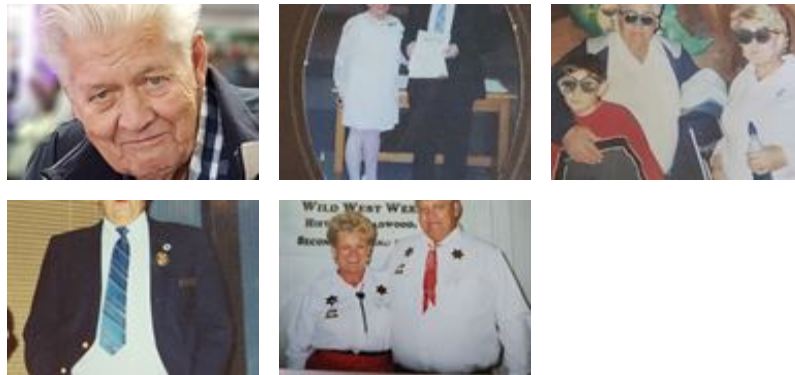


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Richard Van Vleet.

July 11, 2025 at 06:50 PM



“ 64 files added to the album Life Tributes



Silha Funeral Home - July 11, 2025 at 05:42 PM



“ Tonia and Family I'm sorry for your loss no matter how old we are losing our parents is a hard time. Cherish your Memories and hold them close.

Becky (Chouinard) Tipton

Becky Tipton - July 11, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ Sam Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Gary Van Vleet



Sam Lawrence - July 11, 2025 at 12:50 PM

CH

“ Carol Hanson sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Van Vleet



-----  
Carol Hanson - July 11, 2025 at 12:38 AM

CK

“ Carmen Knight planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Richard Van Vleet.

-----  
Carmen Knight - July 10, 2025 at 05:24 PM

CK

“ Carmen Knight purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Gary Richard Van Vleet.



-----  
Carmen Knight - July 10, 2025 at 05:24 PM

PK

“ Pam and Dick Knopp sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Van Vleet



-----  
Pam and Dick Knopp - July 10, 2025 at 05:04 PM

KG

“ *Ken & Patti Goroski sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Van Vleet*



---

**Ken & Patti Goroski** - July 10, 2025 at 03:59 PM

KG

“ *Ken Patti Goroski sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Van Vleet*



---

**Ken Patti Goroski** - July 10, 2025 at 03:59 PM