



## Gary Hurta

March 21, 1946 - October 15, 2022

Gary Hurta, 76, passed away peacefully on October 15th, 2022, after his battle with lung cancer and other medical complications.

Gary was born in Snodland, England on March 21, 1946, to Eunice and LeeRoy Hurta. He arrived in Texas in July of that same year. He attended Needville High School where he participated in every sport he could. He was President of his Senior class, voted Outstanding Athlete, Mr. NHS and Most Likely to Succeed.

He married his high school sweetheart, Joyce Plocheck Hurta, in June of 1966. They were blessed with 56 years of happy times together, and most blessed with their daughter, Cheryl Hurta Stein. He is survived by his wife, daughter and son-in-law Patrick Stein and their children, Chance, Julia and Grayson.

The grandkids were his pride and joy, and he would do anything for them. They in return loved him to no end, always living by the motto of "Grandpa can fix anything", and he could! He attended any and all events that they participated in.

Also survived by his sister Greta Mhire and husband Tom, brothers-in-law (who thought of him as their brother ) Robert Plocheck, Tom Plocheck and

wife Marla,

Johnny Plocheck and sisters-in-law Kathy Plocheck Roll, Dianne Plocheck Friedel and husband George. Additionally survived by many nieces who loved their “UG” (Uncle Gary). He is preceded in death by his parents, Joyce’s parents, Ann and Manuel Plocheck, his beloved niece, Sara Plocheck and nephew, Adam Plocheck. Gary also has a large family “across the pond” in England, whom he was able to visit many times.

Gary graduated from the University of Houston in 1972 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Forty years of his career were spent working in the oilfield equipment manufacturing business. Starting with Vetco Offshore and then Dril-Quip International where he worked for over 30 years retiring as Sr VP of Worldwide Engineering in 2014. During his last few years prior to retirement, he was Dril-Quip’s technical representative during the trial of the BP/Macando incident, and defended Dril-Quip well. (He even had a cameo in the movie!)

He was a member of the American Petroleum Institute’s Standards Committee, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and other committees supporting events benefiting the University of Houston Engineering Department.

For much of his adult life, he enjoyed playing tennis as much as he could. Gary served on the Board of Directors for the Annual Houston Oilman’s Tennis Tournament for 20 years. The proceeds from these events helped many local charitable organizations.

World War II history and aircraft were a passion for him from early on. He was a member of the Commemorative Air Force - Houston Wing for many years and volunteered at Wings Over Houston annually. Additionally, he and Joyce

enjoyed their annual trips to the Reno Air Races.

When Gary wasn't on the river, traveling, or attending his grandkids' activities, he could be found at his own slice of heaven on earth, their family ranch in Flatonia, Texas.

Gary was a devoted family man who left us with so many wonderful memories. He will be dearly missed by his entire family, close friends and really anyone that knew him.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Warrior's Weekend (founded by his good friend, Ron Kocian) <https://www.warriorweekend.org/> or St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Needville, Texas <https://www.stpaulsneedville.com/>.

A memorial service will be held at 12:00 p.m., Friday, October 21, 2022 in the Chapel of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home in Rosenberg. The family will receive guests starting at 11:00 a.m. Please note that the service will be LIVESTREAMED through the funeral home website.

Tributes and words of condolence may be left for the family at [www.davisgreenlawnfh.com](http://www.davisgreenlawnfh.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home, 3900 B.F. Terry Blvd., Rosenberg, Texas 77471, Phone: 281-341-8800.

# Previous Events

## Public Visitation

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapels and Cemeteries  
3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.  
Rosenberg, TX 77471  
(281) 341-8800

## Service

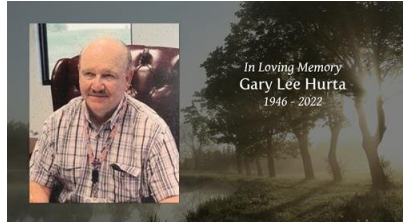
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapel and Cemeteries created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary Hurta*



**Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapel and Cemeteries** - October 21, 2022 at 08:51 AM



“ *Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapel and Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of Gary Hurta*



**Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapel and Cemeteries** - October 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM

EA

*Dear Joyce & family,  
Thinking of you during this very difficult time. Much love, Elizabeth Alford*

**Elizabeth Alford** - October 19, 2022 at 08:24 PM

KK

*So sorry for your loss! Gary was a friend and well respected. God bless Joyce & family!*

**Ken Kinser** - October 20, 2022 at 05:07 PM

CU

*Prayers for you, Joyce and your family. Gary was a wonderful perso 🙏  
🙏 Catherine Pavlicek Ubanoski*

**catherine Pavlicek Ubanoski** - October 21, 2022 at 12:34 PM

CS

*“ I am thankful for the small amount of time I got to spend with Gary but he will always be in my memory. A kind caring and amazing man.*

*Chris Sharp*



**Chris Sharp** - October 21, 2022 at 12:16 PM

RM

*“ My life with Gary & Joyce has always been intermingled. I first met them though Eddie Zawacki who was a relative of Joyce in the mid 1970's. I started working with Gary in 1977 at Vetco Offshore. I also worked him at Dril-Quip in 1989-1990. I then started working with Joyce at Oceaneering in 1992-2014. The photo I included was of Gary at a Vetco Offshore function.*



**Richard McKinney** - October 21, 2022 at 10:58 AM

EZ

“ I have many fond memories of Gary. As a young boy I watched him play football in the playoffs when he was in high school. Then there was the fun we had at the yearly crawfish boils at U of H. My thoughts are with Joyce and family at this time. Eddie Zawacki

EDWARD ZAWACKI - October 20, 2022 at 09:00 PM

WY

“ Dear Joyce and family,  
Jan & I are so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. During the time that we worked together, Gary and I developed a strong, personal friendship, as well as a close, and unique, working relationship. On my frequent trips to Houston, Gary, Randy, Joe & I would get together and enjoy a meal and a drink (or two) and work hard to solve the world's problems. These get-togethers became the highlight of the trips! My thoughts are with you in this trying time. May peace be with you. He will be missed by many. He was just a great guy.  
Wally Youngman

Wally Youngman - October 20, 2022 at 08:14 PM

KM

“ Joyce, I was so saddened to learn of Gary's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Peace, Kevin & Maria

Kevin McEvoy - October 20, 2022 at 04:56 PM

KM

“ Kevin & Maria McEvoy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Hurta.



Kevin & Maria McEvoy - October 20, 2022 at 04:50 PM

GE

“ *Gas Supply & Trading - Cheniere Energy purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Gary Hurta.*



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**Gas Supply & Trading - Cheniere Energy** - October 20, 2022  
at 02:57 PM

SE

“ *Joyce, Greta and family, so very sorry for your loss. Know you are in our thoughts and prayers.*  
*Rodney & Sheila Elster*

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**Sheila & Rodney Elster** - October 20, 2022 at 10:55 AM

FT

“ *So sorry to hear of Gary's passing. My sympathy to Joyce, Greta, and all of his family. I wish you God's Peace!*

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**Frank L Teykl** - October 20, 2022 at 10:17 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gary Hurta.*



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October 19, 2022 at 09:22 PM

BD

“Joyce - I am very sorry for your loss and am praying for God's comfort and peace for you and your family during this difficult time. I owe Gary a debt that could never be paid. Way back in 1988 Gary hired me to work for him at Dril-Quip and through his mentorship, leadership, and friendship it was the last place I would ever work. He will be missed by many, but leaves behind so many great memories. God's blessings to you all.

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**Blake DeBerry** - October 19, 2022 at 01:55 PM

FN

“I am so sad about this loss .... Gary brings me only good memories of the days that I used to wake up early in the morning looking forward to spending one more day in a happy and fun work environment managed by him. I believe we had a mutual admiration. He was truly a wonderful friend that will be missed by many. I will keep him in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Flavio Nisenbaum** - October 19, 2022 at 01:30 PM



“Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Hurta.



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October 19, 2022 at 08:15 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Hurta.



October 18, 2022 at 06:41 PM



“ A great guy all the way back to our childhood, when our parents were friends too. Sympathy to Joyce and Cheryl, Greta and all other family members. His suffering is now over but missing him will continue.. 🙏🙏🙏

Colette Hobbs - October 18, 2022 at 09:35 AM



Knowing Gary while in high school was a blessing. He provided the leadership everyone needed. Whether In band , football or other activities he always was encouraging to all He definitely earned his " Well Done faithful servant" He well be missed, but never forgotten, BLESS HIM. PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY

Bob Vacek - October 18, 2022 at 04:28 PM



I am so very sorry for your loss! God bless you and your family during this time!

Sharon Brauner

SHARON BRAUNER - October 19, 2022 at 12:10 PM



I have many fond memories of Gary from Needville High School, all of them positive. Prayers for Joyce and all of his family during this time.

Jo Ann Lehman Buchan - October 19, 2022 at 02:58 PM

FA

*This is a great loss for all of Gary's Oilfield friends and colleagues and UH Alumni!*

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**Frank C Adamek** - October 19, 2022 at 08:58 PM

JB

*It was the the late 1980's, tennis at Nottingham County Club was in full swing. Danny, Rand, Gary, Charlie and a host of others were going after each other hard and heavy on the tennis court. Gary and I hit it off with engineering talk. We were always engineering, re-engineering, re-designing some project. Sometimes these re-designing projects interrupted our standing Tuesday nights 7PM tennis workout at Nottingham. We would always start with the crosscourt forehands drill. 3 quick steps to the right, hit a forehand cross court, 3 quick steps back to the middle. 3 quick steps to the right again, hit a cross court forehand again, and 3 quick steps back to middle of the court again. This went on for 15 minutes, then we would switch to crosscourt backhands and start the process all over again. Then a switch to up and down the lines. This process would go on for an hour or more. Then at some point Gary would walk up to the net and pick up a ball and make a comment about something we were re-engineering and the re-design talk would start. It took me awhile to figure out that was his way of saying, "enough of these drills, time for a break and a beer."*

*I'm gratefully for these wonderful memories of those days. And our time on the San Bernard River with Gary and Joyce, who were just a short boat ride away.*

*Joe and Susan Brockert*

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**Joe Brockert** - October 19, 2022 at 09:16 PM

CA

*I have fond memories of Gary from our days in high school. Gary was a friend to so many and I always appreciated being from such a small class that we really had a chance to know each other. My prayers are for Joyce and family. Carolyn Hackstedt Alhashimi*

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**CAROLYN J Alhashimi** - October 21, 2022 at 01:02 AM

CU

*I am so sad of Gary's passing. He was a wonderful Classmate and friend. Prayers for Joyce and the family. We are going to miss him.  
Catherine Pavlicek Ubanoski.*

**catherine Pavlicek Ubanoski** - October 21, 2022 at 12:39 PM

DF

*So sorry to hear about Gary's passing. I just heard about his death and service today (10/22). So sorry that I wasn't able to attend the service. My condolences to Joyce and the family. He was a great classmate and friend throughout the years. Don Fuchs*

**Donald Fuchs** - October 22, 2022 at 03:59 PM

JS

*Dear Joyce and family  
We are so sorry to hear of Gary's passing, we have great memories of you both that will stay with us forever.  
All our love Tina, Jamie and Family*

**James David Sharp** - October 23, 2022 at 06:49 AM