



Gary Don Blair

October 25, 1951 - June 16, 2017

Gary Don Blair passed from this life on June 16, 2017 in Granite at the age of 65, succumbing to lung cancer. Gary was born on October 25, 1951 in Mangum, Oklahoma to Doyle Columbus Blair and Helen Willene (Grady) Blair. He spent grades 4, 5, and 6 at Granite Elementary in Granite, OK, where some of his happiest childhood memories were made. His family later moved to California, where he ultimately graduated from Westminster High School. After a few years living in paradise in Hawaii, he went back to California and attended Cal State Fullerton, receiving his BA and MA in History and Education. For ten years Gary was the Graphics Production Coordinator at Trend Offset Printing in Los Alamitos, CA. But by far his favorite job was the fifteen years he spent as a Middle School History Teacher at Hamilton and Hill middle schools in Long Beach, CA. He was a phenomenal educator and well-loved by many of his students. He reluctantly left Hamilton for his retirement, moving back permanently to Oklahoma.

In his leisure, Gary enjoyed golfing, and was an avid collector of military models, which undoubtedly sprung from his love of all eras of world history. He was a true patriot and exceptionally politically active, being appointed to the Oklahoma State Election Board and volunteering with the Greer County Democratic Party, even serving briefly as chair. He loved to joke that he had become “one blue dot in a sea of red,” which appears as “a purple haze.” Gary’s tremendous sense of humor shined through in everything he did.

Both cultural heritage and family were always close to Gary's heart. He delighted in his Celtic roots with both Irish and Scottish heritage, researching his family tree and tartans and participating in the Clan Blair Society, whose motto, Amo Probos, or "Love the Virtuous," fit him like a glove.

Gary was an exceedingly caring and conscientious person, giving much of his time and energy to helping the broader community as well as his family. He volunteered as a counselor at Touchstones in Orange, CA, primarily working with troubled young people, often with substance abuse issues. His endless compassion and understanding coupled with his endearing sense of humor gave him a perfect personality for this work. Seldom do we find a more altruistic individual who was willing to give so much of himself while asking nothing in return.

Gary is survived by his brother John Blair of Campbellsville, KY; his sister Teresa Castillo of Altus; niece Kristina McKeon and her husband Michael of Hidden Valley Lake, CA; nephews Jarrod Blair of Campbellsville, KY, Beau Castillo and Adam Castillo of Altus; numerous beloved cousins, aunts, uncles and life-long friends. Gary was preceded in death by his parents, brother Butch, and sister Katie.

Memorial Services for Gary are scheduled for Saturday, June 24, 2017, 10:00 A.M. at Grace Baptist Church in Granite, OK with Pastor Tim Montgomery officiating.

Arrangements are entrusted to Peoples Cooperative Funeral Home located at 1400 West Main, Lone Wolf, 580-846-9018. On-line condolences can be made by visiting www.peoplescooperativefuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **24.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church
500 W. Second St.
Granite, OK 73547

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Don Blair

October 08, 2023 at 02:10 PM



“ Gary Don Blair

October 04, 2023 at 11:28 PM



“ *I have so many great memories with MR Blair. He was a very spontaneous, generous and spectacular teacher. He always made us laugh. Even when we were struggling not understanding he would take his time and help everyone in the class thru the bumps. He will be missed by so many. Always and forever in our hearts. My condolences to his family. Betsy Tapia. Hamilton Middle school Long Beach Ca*



Betsy Tapia - September 09, 2017 at 10:42 AM