



Gary Wayne Byers

March 3, 2017

Byers, Gary Wayne

Chili: Passed away peacefully on March 2, 2017 at age 76. Survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Karen (Rendel) Byers; favorite daughters, Sheryl (David) Hunt and Gail (Matthew) Miller; adored grandchildren, Joseph, Samuel and Grace Hunt and Julia, Rachel and Peter Miller; brothers-in-law, Nicholas Nizamoff and James Rendel; nieces, Nancy (Jim) Winkley, Julie (Doug) Wilson and Christine (Chris) Potthoff and nephew, Eric (Jackie) Nizamoff. Predeceased by his grandson, George Wayne Hunt. Gary valued life long learning and education. He was a graduate of Wabash College (B.S.), Wesleyan University (M.S.) and the University of Rochester (Ph.D.). He leaves behind many good friends and co-workers across the country from Rochester (Kodak) to San Diego (Hewlett Packard).

Friends may call at the Leo M. Bean and Sons Funeral Home, Monday 4-7 PM. In lieu of flowers, appreciated would be fond memories and experiences with Gary to be shared on www.beanandsonsfuneralhome.com to be compiled into a remembrance book or contributions in Gary's memory to the charity of your choice to leave the world a little better than you found it. Gary would want you to tell your family and friends how much you love them and relish each day together.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I first spoke with Gary when he called me and asked if I had any authority in hiring at HP. I don't remember how he found my number but I do remember that I answered "Yes, I do" and he answered "Great". I ended up hiring Gary to HP and I was, I believe, his first manager. Gary was a fantastic scientist and loved to derive the understanding of difficult, important problems. He worked extremely hard and was unselfish in traveling to Corvallis, Switzerland, and even living in Manchester England to work on urgent technical issues often not in his program. We had several fun fishing trips together outside of work and I was with Gary when he caught his first tuna. Later in his career, I clearly remember his joy in speaking about his grand children. He was a good colleague, a good friend, and will be missed.

John Stoffel - March 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ I met Gary when I came to Kodak in 1978. We were immediately colleagues and shortly thereafter friends. I have no single remembrance of Gary but rather the overall sense of him in my professional and personal life. Gary was a first rate scientist and we spent many hours discussing experiments and theories. He understood that a "vigorous" disagreement over interpretation of science was not a reflection on anyone involved in that discussion and both our science and our friendship flourished as a result. Gary was meticulous (and could on occasion be maddeningly so). We designed a lab together to share and there were a few instances where I made an "agreement" in the design in the absence of his direct input in the interests of completing the project. I do recall one time when we all used to go out for pizza. I had called ahead with the order and Gary had called ahead with the order. We did not leave hungry that day. Unfortunately we stopped that outing eventually and the pizza place went out of business. Had you seen it you would appreciate we were likely their biggest customers. When Gary went to San Diego, Megan and I visited with Karen and him on several occasions and had the opportunity to share time with them on their returns to Rochester. After Gary came back to Rochester for good I was able to share some time with him as his disease took greater hold of him. He was gallant in accepting what he perceived was happening but he always sought research that might prove a path forward. Sadly nothing was there. I knew Gary was always there if I needed him and I hope he knew the same. My life is better for having known him and the world is just a little diminished with his loss.

Steve Neumann - March 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM

“ I had the pleasure and honor of being Gary's office mate for several years. Gary was one of the nicest people that I worked with at Kodak. He was always a gentleman. Besides being a great guy, Gary was a dedicated and excellent scientist through and through.

Gary was one of the regular poker players from the Dye Lab at that time. When Gary held a lowly pair at the end of a hand, his inevitable comment was "paregoric!" (You have to be of a certain age to understand that one.) When the question "Does a straight really beat a flush in a three-card game?" came up, Gary launched extensive combinatorial and probabilistic calculations and demonstrated that it truly was the case. He wasn't about to let us play with made-up rules.

Gary was always conscious of the rules. We used to get subs at lunch from International Importers and take turns picking them up, usually leaving around 11:30 or so. Gary always waited until official lunch time, 12 noon, when it was his turn. Except once.

Our Lab head Don Heseltine, occasionally ordered a sub and it once happened to be on Gary's day to make the run. Beginning around 11:35, Don asked me several times if the subs were here yet. I said no and told Gary each time that Don inquired that the lab head was waiting for a sub. Gary - who was at times the butt of a practical joke or two - did not believe me. I told Don who had a great sense of humor and knew Gary well. Don laughed, came into our office and created one extremely flustered Gary by asking him why he hadn't left to get the subs yet. Off he went with a red face because the boss was waiting. Before 12:00 noon.

Gary was honest almost to a fault. We both built the same Emperor grandfather clock. The first time I saw Gary's he had done a beautiful job. But Gary, ever honest, pointed out that he had installed one part upside down. In a fairly obvious place. But, the human eye and brain see what they think they should see, and I'll bet that very few people ever noticed that mistake on their own. I hadn't. Fast forward to our last visit with Gary and Karen in San Diego many, many years later. I remarked on Gary's clock. The error was lost to my memory. Gary, ever honest, pointed it out to me again.

I'm sure many of you have tons of good memories of Gary as well. "At any rate" he was a great guy.

*One of Gary's common expressions.

Fred