



Gary J. Cooper

September 11, 1958 - April 6, 2023

Gary J. Cooper, age 64 of Caroga Lake, NY, passed away suddenly on Thursday April 6th, 2023, at Albany Medical Center.

Gary was born September 11, 1958, in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from Bishop Ford High School in 1976. Gary relocated to Caroga Lake, NY in 1978 when his family finished building their new home.

He met Patricia O'Flaherty in 1979 while working at Kasson and Keller. They were married on August 15, 1981.

Gary and Patricia resided in Fonda and Fultonville until 1982 when they moved to Gloversville where they would stay until 1996 when they moved to Caroga Lake after their new home was completed.

He retired from the Gloversville Enlarged School District in 2021 after 28 years of service as the Head Custodian at Kingsboro Elementary where "Mr. Cooper" was beloved by many children over the years. He often came home with stories of his day telling of his interactions with the children as he always had a soft spot for the kids.

Under Gary's rugged exterior was a caring man who would help anyone who was in need of assistance, who loved his family and who always put them first.

Gary had a strong passion for music, especially the guitar. Some of his favorite artists were Smokin' Joe Kubek, Tommy Emmanuel, Eddy Lawrence, and his absolute idol Robin Trower.

He also enjoyed collecting guitars, playing them in his spare time, and always

had music playing at home.

When he wasn't doing any of those things, you could find him outside during the warm summer months hanging by the pool which he took great pride in, enjoying the sun, and of course jamming out to some great tunes.

Gary is survived by his wife, Patricia, two sons, Charlie and Eddie, brother, Edward H, three granddaughters, Merissa, Ellie, and Baylee.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday April 12, 2023, from 4pm-6pm at Amico Funeral Home with a service to immediately follow.

Online condolences can be made on the Amico Funeral Home website at www.amicofuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

There will be a celebration of life held this coming summer at a later date to be announced.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

APR 12. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Amico Funeral Home
150 S Main St
Gloversville, NY 12078
(518) 725-8916
<https://www.amicofuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

APR 12. 6:00 PM (ET)

Amico Funeral Home
150 S Main St
Gloversville, NY 12078
(518) 725-8916
<https://www.amicofuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

GQ

“ So sorry to hear of Gary's passing. May he rest in peace. Gerry Quackenbush

Gerry Quackenbush - April 29, 2023 at 11:32 AM

PP

“ Pat, so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Thoughts and prayers from our family to yours! Gary was and always will be a good man!!! Again very sorry for your loss

Perry Paul - April 17, 2023 at 11:25 PM

MH

“ I met Gary in 1998 when I started working with him at Kingsboro Elementary. Through the years he became quite a friend. A very down to earth guy, who was also caring, compassionate, and funny. He invited me to his house many times to hear Eddie Lawrence play his guitar. I remember the times I spent with Gary very fondly. I learned a lot from him! Gary, you will be dearly missed. I thank you for being a part of my life. With love, Matt Harrington



Matt Harrington - April 13, 2023 at 03:08 PM

LU

“ Lucy lit a candle in memory of Gary J. Cooper



Lucy - April 13, 2023 at 06:59 AM

EW

“ Pat and Family,
Marc and I are so sorry for your loss. Gary was a very special person. His sense of humor got us all through many difficult days. The Kingsborough children looked up to him and he was a positive model for many of them, as they didn't have a male influence in their life. Gary always took care of the staff and children at Kingsborough. He was a great friend. We had many great memories & times together, and I will miss him.
Love, Marc & Eileen

Eileen Wilson - April 12, 2023 at 07:16 PM

DE

“ Pat and Family,
We are so very sorry for your loss. May God provide comfort and hold you in His loving arms during this very difficult time.
Sincerely,
Dave and Sandy Edwards

David Edwards - April 12, 2023 at 12:15 PM

JB

“ Pat and family I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Gary. May he RIP.

Jeff Blair - April 11, 2023 at 07:44 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. Sending all my prayers and love

JoAnne Kadle

JoAnne Kadle - April 11, 2023 at 06:13 PM

BP

“ Pat, I'm sincere condolences to you. Sending you prayers and hugs.

Brenda Pedrick

Brenda pedrick - April 11, 2023 at 05:35 PM



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



April 11, 2023 at 03:54 PM

DC

“ I am very heart broken over Gary's passing. Gary was a great man and I enjoyed the times I was able to spend with him. Thank you Gary for giving us our "station mom". Pat.

Darren Coupas - April 11, 2023 at 01:57 PM

LB

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Gary. He was such a kind person and was the staple at Kingsborough School. My condolences to his wife and family. My heart and prayers go out to you.

Lisa Brown - April 11, 2023 at 12:28 PM

SP

“ I was so sad to hear of Gary’s passing. My heart goes out to his loving family. I was so fortunate to have known and worked with Gary. My husband, Bob, and I have such fond memories of being invited to his house for his amazing concerts. He was so talented. Gary also had such a big heart and was so kind and supportive of the children and staff at school. I will never forget the time when the building was under construction and the staff was encouraged to dispose of older, unused materials. I had set aside some materials to donate to a poor school in Belize and they were accidentally tossed into a huge trash bin by the school. When Gary heard about this, he took it upon himself to climb into the bin and salvage as much of the materials as he could. I was so grateful to him for that act of kindness. This is just one of the many times Gary demonstrated his thoughtful and caring ways. Gary had a beautiful spirit and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Sharon Preston

Sharon Preston - April 11, 2023 at 09:54 AM

JM

“ So sad to hear of the loss of Gary! He was such a friend to all at Kingsborough School. Was full of fun and would always lend a helping hand. He will be greatly missed by all. God bless!

Jerilyn Meyers - April 11, 2023 at 06:46 AM

SF

“ So sorry for your loss Pat 😞. Sending love and prayers to you and your family.

Sandy Fagiani - April 10, 2023 at 07:01 PM

DF

“ So sorry everyone for your loss Gary is a great guy and we will cherish the great times we all had together forever Love Dave and Wanda France

David France - April 10, 2023 at 05:26 PM

PG

“ Condolences to the entire Cooper family . We will miss Gary and the many enjoyable times we had listening to music, having great conversations and enjoying happy, relaxing times at his bonfires. Rest easy my friend . . .

Pat & Richard Geer - April 10, 2023 at 03:33 PM

TB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. He was such a great person and took care of his Kingsborough family. He will be so missed.

Trisha Bobowski - April 10, 2023 at 03:22 PM

SP

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts to everyone. Gary was a good friend and helped me in so many ways. I so appreciated his friendship. Forever in my memories and heart. Sincerely, Shelley Pettit



Shelley Pettit - April 10, 2023 at 10:28 AM

KL

Sincere condolences to the entire Cooper family. Gary was such an exceptionally wonderful man. My memories read like a video/musical slideshow, punctuated by his big booming laugh, and so much love of all around him.

Having been invited to several career day events at the school I saw first hand how he touched the lives of the children. The kids all adored him! I loved it that they got to see him play guitar! Mr. Cooper wasn't only nice, he was wicked cool! Years after visiting the Gloversville school I had a friend who I knew independently share with me how much Gary touched the life of her son, who struggled with things sometimes. Gary greeted them every day when she dropped her son off, offering strength that her little man needed to walk through those imposing school doors every day.

The years of playing house concerts in your home are some of my fondest memories of playing ever. EVUH! As a musician I was so lucky to have played with him and enjoyed every note. He was so humble, but other musicians really know what an exceptionally talented player he was. Two of my all time favorite stage moments were shared with Gary, and his tremendous sense of humor. Once when Eddy called one song, yet launched into another, leaving us to madly scramble; and another when the bridge of my bass exploded while we were playing at the Gloversville school. At those moments Gary's huge smile and the TWINKLE in his eyes said it all... and he hardly missed a note!

I will always cherish the many fond memories and laughs. Gary will be so very missed... and always in our hearts.

Kim Lawrence - April 10, 2023 at 05:09 PM

RM

So sorry for your loss Pat and family. In our thoughts.

Rich Miles - April 11, 2023 at 08:01 AM

LP

Oh Patty, I am shocked beyond words to have read about Gary's passing. We sure had some great ole times together back in the day. My heart breaks for you and the boys. Please know I am thinking of you and wishing you strength and peace. Love ~ Linda (Chichester) Portanova

Linda K Portanova - April 11, 2023 at 03:28 PM



Bob and I are very sorry for your loss. Bob has shared many funny stories of their time working together. Gary stopped by our house a short while ago to visit with Bob and pick up his egg noodles. So thankful that they had that moment together. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

Sincerely,

Bob and Elissa Rosa

Elissa Rosa - April 11, 2023 at 04:24 PM