



## Gary W. Chouinard

October 27, 1947 - August 20, 2014

Gary Chouinard, 66, of Kankakee, passed away Wednesday evening (August 20, 2014) at his home surrounded by his family following a very difficult, but courageous battle with leukemia and Parkinson's disease. Visitation will be from 2:00-7:00 p.m. Sunday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee with the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. Monday at the funeral home. Cremation Rites will be accorded following the services.

He was born October 27, 1947, in Kankakee, son of the late Venita (Riggs) and Raymond "Blue" Chouinard. He graduated from Kankakee High School and also attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Shortly after his return to Kankakee, he joined his parents in the restaurant business helping to run the Blue Flame. When his father became ill in 1977, he took over the running of Blue's Café and turned it into one of the most popular and successful restaurants in Kankakee. He served as Trustee (1985-1989) as well as Supervisor (1989-1997) for the Kankakee Township. In 1994 he developed the breathtaking, riverfront Hawkins Grove subdivision. He retired from Blue's in 2008, but continued to help in any way that he could. He had a lifelong love for fishing and spent the majority of his time on the Kankakee River. He had a love for gardening and landscaping. In the winter months when it was too cold to fish, he enjoyed creating beautiful stained glass lamp shades.

He is survived by his wife, Linda (Smothers), and three children, Audrey Chouinard and her special friend Tim Lowe of Cabery, Dustin Chouinard of Kankakee and Lesley (Pete) Dato of Kankakee. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Aaron, Jilliana, Aamira and Rayah, one brother, Lanny (Michelle) Chouinard of Grand Isle, Louisiana, Debbie Chouinard of Kankakee and Julie (John) Surprenant of Kankakee. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother-in-law, Lynn Smothers.

Memorials may be made to Parkinson's disease research ( [www.parkinsonsasociation.org](http://www.parkinsonsasociation.org)) and Hospice of Kankakee Valley ([www.hkvcares.org](http://www.hkvcares.org)).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **24**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

AUG **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary W. Chouinard



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - August 25, 2014 at 08:47 AM

JB

“ So sorry for your loss, I remember Gary from Blues Cafe back in Kankakee so many years ago. Such a wonderful person he was, what a great loss to your family. My condolences.  
Jeannie Cairns Blevins, Placerville, California formerly from Kankakee.

Jean Blevins - November 30, 2014 at 03:10 PM

CS

“ Carla Golowski Scheppler lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard



Carla Golowski Scheppler - October 09, 2014 at 06:02 PM

JA

“ *My thoughts, prayers and sympathy to your entire family. Praying that God's loving arms would enfold you during this difficult time and that you would feel His presence through the days and months to come.*

*May God Bless you!*

*Jessica Adderley*

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**Jessica Adderley** - August 26, 2014 at 02:29 PM

NA

“ *Our prayers and sympathy to all of Gary's family. Sorry we could not attend the service, but our thoughts are with you. Nick and Shirley Africano*

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**Nick/Shirley Africano** - August 25, 2014 at 09:07 PM

JW

“ *i am speechless if god had to call on a new soldier for his army at least he got one of the best human pain and suffering hurts and i know the family is hurting , please remember the legacy he left behind and that he suffers no more hope he holds the chair for my granny in heaven like he did many times at the cafe he always new their name hi FREDA HI BOB when the came threw the doors it made my grandparents so happy that they could be part of your family! see ya on the other side of the river GARY WHEN I GET THERE*  
*ALWAYS YOUR FRIEND*  
*JOHN WHITTET*

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**JOHN R WHITTET** - August 25, 2014 at 09:04 PM

KM

“ *Sis Julie and Family my condolences and prayers going out to you and your entire family.*

Kassandra Martin - August 25, 2014 at 08:16 PM

KM

“ *Kassandra Martin lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard*



Kassandra Martin - August 25, 2014 at 08:15 PM

DM

“ *RIP my sweet sweet friend, I don't know where I would be today without your help. Your friendship and all you did for me goes above and beyond the call of servanthood. May Jesus greet you in Heaven above as the angels surround you with songs of love. Untl we meet again one day , my friend, always loving thoughts and memories you leave in my heart.*

*It just goes to show the impact one life can make in the world , had it not been for this man , I wouldn't have the family I have today. I wish I could be there to celebrate his life with family and friends but health issues of my own prevent me from doing so. My prayers are with all his family and friends! May comfort, peace, and many many fond and joyful memories be yours., With a sad heart but a grateful one for knowing him and with lots of love,*

*Debbie k Micetich & Family*



Debbie Micetich - August 25, 2014 at 06:03 PM

DH

“ Our deepest condolences to Gary's entire family. We had so many fond memories of Gary and Linda during our time in Kankakee. We laughed and times were happy. That is what we will remember. Gary will be missed by so many people.

*Dan & Robin Havens*

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**Dan Havens** - August 25, 2014 at 02:00 PM

LN

“ I use to wait on Gary, Linda, Tina and her husband at Fishermans Wharf every time they would come in. I am sending love and prayers to the family. You are in my thoughts. Regards, Linda (Seemann) Nabors

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**Linda Nabors** - August 25, 2014 at 10:57 AM

CB

“ Remembering Gary's family at this difficult time. Remember the good times talking with Gary and his sisters at Blue's for many years. May you know the presence of God with you on this journey. Sandy Ziemer Buser



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**Carol Buente** - August 25, 2014 at 09:40 AM

BR

“ To the Chouinard Family:  
Please accept our sympathy during your time of loss. We regret not being able to come to the visitation today. As a young kid, I saw Gary in Blues every morning and he will always be remembered by me. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

*Sincerely, Bruce Reardanz and family*

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**Bruce Reardanz** - August 24, 2014 at 03:13 PM

TC

“ *Saying goodbye to a life well lived in joy and in suffering. But confident that today he enjoys a new life free from the pain of this world, and filled with an unimaginable sense of peace. He will be missed yet never far from our memories. We hold each who loved Gary in our thoughts and prayers.*  
*Roxanne and Tom Clark and family.*

tom and roxanne clark - August 24, 2014 at 01:40 PM

SB

“ *Susan Boudreau lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard*



Susan Boudreau - August 24, 2014 at 12:08 PM

JH

“ *Goodbye from a couple of old friends....Jan and Mike Honn*

Jan and Mike Honn - August 24, 2014 at 08:59 AM

CT

“ *Chip Thurston lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard*



Chip Thurston - August 22, 2014 at 09:13 PM

TD

“ Sincere sympathy and condolences to the Chouinard family. I grew up 2 blocks from the Chouinard grocery store on Station street so I had the pleasure to know most of the family. And through mutual friends got to know Gary even more. He will be missed.

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**Tom Dandelles** - August 22, 2014 at 08:02 PM

DD

“ my deepest sympathy to gary family i have know gary for along time and worked at blues cafe for 6yrs i have to say i had the highest respect for him as a excellent boss he was always there to help anybody he could he always talked about fishing which he enjoyed so much he will be so sadly miss by so many it really brought sadness to me when i heard the sad news my thoughts and prayers to you :(

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**donna dubois** - August 22, 2014 at 07:51 PM

TD

“ Tammy Deaton lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard



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**Tammy Deaton** - August 22, 2014 at 07:16 PM

KR

“ As a Blue's customer for many year (as was my Dad), I just wanted you to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Karen Jackson Riml  
Brunwick, ME*

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**Karen Jackson Riml** - August 22, 2014 at 06:14 PM

LP

“ My prayers are with all of Gary's family. I didn't have the honor of knowing him, except seeing him at Blue's a few times, but knew Linda and Lesley very well while Lesley was growing up. I know by the love in Linda's voice as she spoke of her husband and the way Lesley's eyes would lite up, and her voice fill with love when speaking of her father that he must have been a special person. I know because of all the time Lesley spent at my house in Naperville, that he and Linda were wonderful parents. Praying that Gary will get to spend eternity fishing and that the GOOD LORD will bless his family with comfort and peace as they start their journey on this new path of life without Gary leading the way. MAY GOD BLESS AND COMFORT YOU AS YOU STRUGGLE THROUGH THE COMING DAYS!!!

*Linda Gound Pagano*

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**Linda Gound Pagano** - August 22, 2014 at 05:58 PM

CA

“ Cathyfoiles lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard



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**cathyfoiles** - August 22, 2014 at 05:01 PM

CA

“ Cathyfoiles lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard



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**cathyfoiles** - August 22, 2014 at 05:01 PM

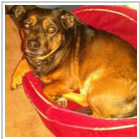


“ *My sincerest sympathy to the Chouinard Family and the 'Crowd' at Blue's Cafe where I downed countless cups of coffee and enjoyed great "Biscuit's and Gravy" one simply can't find up in Maine. I always stopped there before work, occasionally during work breaks, and have many fond memories of bringing my daughters Julie and Sarah for Blueberry pancakes on Saturday mornings. A real Kankakee "Institution" because of a great Kankakee family.*

*Ron Rimi, Kankakee City Police, Ret.  
East Boothbay, ME*

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**Ron Rimi** - August 22, 2014 at 03:47 PM



“ *Our condolences go out to the entire Chouinard family at this very difficult time....As I (Taryn) only knew Gary for a short time, he was always a kind and caring person to everyone. His sister, Debbie, and I have been great friends for many years ...and I am sorry I cannot be there for her at this very difficult time. I hope that in time the family's sorrows will become a bit easier by reflecting on all the fond and fun memories of him. He was a good man, husband, dad, grandpa brother, brother-in-law, and a good friend to all who crossed his path. May he rest in peace forever...*

*Taryn (Bowsher) Schuemann and Dennis Schuemann*

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**Taryn Lynn** - August 22, 2014 at 03:14 PM

DE

“ So many memories...from the trip to Yellowstone when I was a little girl to the most valuable lesson that "Time is Money". We'll miss him but treasure the memories.

To Linda, Audrey, Dustin & Lesley - We love you and wish we could be there to hug you close.

Love,  
Deniser, Rick & Raven

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Denise - August 22, 2014 at 11:51 AM

JJ

“ Gary and I went to Kankakee High together, we had a lot of the same friends. My family used to live on Yates ave. and before I got my car would sometimes walk to Blues Cafe for a hamurger and coke and see Gary there working part time. RIP Gary you are missed by everyone who knew you! Jeff Josephson

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Jeff Josephson - August 22, 2014 at 11:44 AM

AW

“ We will always remember the good times we had with both you and Gary. Remembering the Halloween parties we had at the old barn on Herscher Road, the concert with Eric Clapton, first time we seen the property and Gary called it the "love shack". Memories.....



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Alan and Michelle Williamson - August 22, 2014 at 10:14 AM

VD

“ Virginia R Dominick lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard



Virginia R Dominick - August 22, 2014 at 09:54 AM

R(

“ Rick And Kim Magruder (Dominick) lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard



Rick and Kim Magruder (Dominick) - August 22, 2014 at 09:25 AM

CW

“ Cheryl Walsh lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard



Cheryl Walsh - August 22, 2014 at 05:14 AM



“ Rich Miller Sr lit a candle in memory of Gary W. Chouinard



Rich Miller Sr - August 21, 2014 at 07:51 PM

RM

“ *Prayers to the family of this wonderful man who is most likely fishing already. May the great memories of his life well-lived always bring more smiles than tears and keep him close in your hearts.*

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**Rose & Gary Mitchell** - August 21, 2014 at 03:09 PM