



Gary W. Gathen

February 26, 1941 - April 2, 2025

Gary W. Gathen, a longtime resident of Pleasant Ridge and more recently of Royal Oak, passed away on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at the age of 84.

Born on February 26, 1941, Gary was the son of William and Elizabeth Gathen. He earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the General Motors Institute in Flint, where he was a proud member of the AGU and FIJI fraternities. As part of the school's co-op program, he gained hands-on experience working with General Motors.

After graduation, Gary joined his family's business, Gathen Industries—a tool and die company founded by his parents—where he eventually became president. After the company closed in 1991, Gary and his wife, Patricia, founded G Corp, a consulting firm where Gary served as president.

Gary was a lifelong learner and collector, amassing books with the intention of reading them all in retirement. He was also an amateur astronomer and even had an observatory in his backyard. He was an active member of the Warren Astronomical Society and found joy in sharing his knowledge with others.

Standing at six feet, eight inches tall, Gary was literally and figuratively a towering presence. His personality was intense, and his intellect remarkable—he had a high IQ and a strong desire to teach and enlighten those around him.

In keeping with his generous spirit and dedication to education, Gary chose to donate his body to Wayne State University's Medical School. It was later shared that his donation helped teach 50 students in the mortuary department-something he would have been very proud of.

Gary's presence, intellect, and passion for learning left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Beloved husband of Patricia Weiss Gathen. From a previous marriage, Gary was the father of Gary William (Suzette) Gathen Jr. and Kaylie Lochner, and grandfather of Erin Gathen, Griffin Gathen, and Jason Lochner. Dear brother of the late Karen and uncle of Patricia Westergaard and Michelle Abbot.

Friends and family will gather on Friday, July 25, from 9:30 am until time of Funeral Mass at 10:00 am at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, 2100 W. 12 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073.

Donations in Gary's memory may be made to American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023. Merrifield, VA 22116.

Please share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JUL **25**. 10:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073