

Gary Jerome Dempsey

February 27, 1945 - March 31, 2020

Gary Jerome Dempsey, Sr., of Dayton, Nevada, 75, died March 31, 2020 at his home with his wife by his side after a long battle with cancer.

He was born Feb. 27, 1945 in Renton, Washington, a son of the late Paul Revere Dempsey and Merlyn Anna Doyle. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his youngest brother, Patrick Dempsey, and a great-granddaughter, Cyra.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years Shirley Dempsey of Dayton. He is also survived by sons Gary Jerome Dempsey, Jr., and his wife Carla, of Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania; Steven Dempsey and his wife in Washington; stepson Thomas Blich and his wife Debbie of Cocoa, Florida; and a step daughter, Christy Benham, and her husband in Washington. He has 10 grandchildren: Brittany, Alex, Mason, Julia, Michael, Thomas, Kyle, Samantha, Brooke, and Steven; and four great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by a brother, Paul "Sonny" Dempsey of Kerrville, Texas and a sister, Mary Reed, and her husband John, of Spanaway, Washington. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Gary Sr. retired after 30 years working at Rexam Beverage Can Company in Kent, Washington. He was a proud member of the Machinist Union local 79.

He was a car enthusiast most of his life, always eager to restore a classic auto or even just admire them during shows he and Shirley often would attend together. With a familiar grin on his face, it was clear he was always thinking of the next classic car project.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no public service. A private ceremony will be held at a later date.

Comments



“ Gary,
You are an amazing person. I can not thank you enough for teaching me and sharing your knowledge over the many years i visited. Watching funny car, nascar, and drag shows on tv, or being out in the shop helping you on classic cars. I will never forget. Thank you for taking care of grandma and helping to raise my dad (Thomas Sr.). Taugh him alot about raising me right. You will be missed dearly but never forgotten. Forever in our heart and in all the classic cars we see in the road today.



Thomas Blitch - April 06, 2020 at 10:40 PM



“ Gary, a man of few words. He was good to my mom and sister while I was away in the Navy. My first conversation with him was during the Daytona 500, I think he got caught up in the conversation because he missed part of the race. Thank you Gary for taking care of mom.

Tom Blitch Sr - April 06, 2020 at 10:22 PM

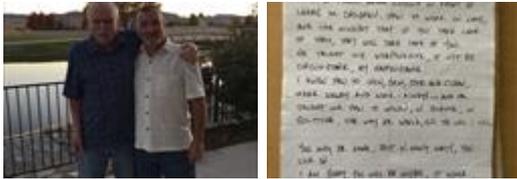


“ My Dad “The car guy”

I don't remember if it was because I was driving his black, 1973 Chevy El Camino with the 454 big block engine or the '75 CJ 5 he'd fixed up with the big tires, shiny wheels and cherry bomb mufflers, but one day after getting home from work about 7 AM, he was excited to tell me he found the vehicle for me! A 1978 Ford (he was NOT a Ford guy) Courier pick-up..."Cheap" he snickered, "right up your alley, a good first vehicle."

As we pulled into the junkyard, I got a little queasy, but he seemed to get a little giddy, then, I saw my truck, wrecked of course! He was nothing but smiles knowing I had scored a great deal and my first project! He taught me things that at the time of course, didn't seem relevant...wish I knew then what I know now...everything is relevant...given time.

I love you Dad.



Gary Dempsey Jr - April 06, 2020 at 09:34 PM



“ 29 files added to the tribute wall



Valerie Dempsey - April 06, 2020 at 09:02 PM



“ Dad has always been such a kind and giving man. I will always remember him. I was the first wife of his son Gary Jr and Dad always treated me like his own daughter and said so even after/during the divorce. He told me "even though you two won't be together, you will always be my daughter and I am here for you". that has always been dear to me. And he always was....along with his wife, Shirley.

....I remember the first day I met him....back in Issaquah, Wa...up in the mountains, back in 1987. He was so welcoming and he opened up his home to me. Then he met Shirley, and she was the same to me. I will never forget their kindness and warm and welcoming hearts. We had such great memories.

I am going to miss him dearly as I am sure others will too.

My prayers for others who have their hearts dear to him as I do. I will never forget him and will always cherish the precious memories I've had with him over the last 30 years.

God Bless you Dad....may you rest in peace.

Love, Valerie Dempsey

Valerie Dempsey - April 06, 2020 at 08:34 PM



“ click on the hyperlink above that says "29 photos...." I accidentally did some photos twice....and some videos...but they are great photos...of Dad and Shirley's visit to Virginia with us.

Valerie Dempsey - April 06, 2020 at 09:23 PM