



Gary Fredrick Romberg

February 24, 1935 - January 15, 2020

Gary “Old Man” Romberg

Gary’s one-of-a kind spirit left his earthly body on January 15 and joined his family and friends that went before him. Gary was born on February 24, 1935 to Fred and Elsie (Chesterfield) Romberg. Gary was proud of his Swedish heritage, and loved to be called the Old Man. His grandfather had been the Old Man and he inherited the title.

Gary fell in love with his wife Bonny at the age of 7 and she was 3. He knew they were going to be married. It took some convincing on Bonny’s part and they were married on October 5, 1957. In their 62 years of marriage they enjoyed many adventures together. She was by his side and supported him in his many endeavors. While Gary had an illustrious career and traveled world-wide, what he enjoyed most was time with his kids, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family. The kids enjoyed hearing his stories because they knew “Never let the truth get in the way of a good story.” He handed down those words of wisdom to his children and grandchildren.

Gary worked at NASA in the middle and late 60’s and was involved in putting the first man on the moon. His involvement included aerodynamic development of the Saturn B1 Booster which propelled the astronauts from the launch pad into outer space.

Gary also had a career with Chrysler for 40 years. Near the end of his career, he was the lead engineer that brought a wind tunnel to Chrysler. Gary couldn’t sit still in retirement and has been working at Aerodyne in Mooresville since 2006. He’s also been an energetic member of American Power Boat Association (APBA) for 45 years.

Gary was an active member of Centre Presbyterian Church serving in various capacities including the Session. Gary enjoyed fishing but rarely caught anything. But, hearing his fishing stories, all his fish belonged in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Gary is survived by his loving wife, Bonny, his children Val (Karla) of PA, Kurt (Kim) of

Charlotte, Leif (Kim) of VA and Heidi of VA. His is the beloved old man to 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 18 with visitation at 2pm and service at 3pm at Centre Presbyterian Church (129 Centre Church Road, Mooresville) Gary will be interred at Buckley Cemetery in Buckley, WA on January 27.

In lieu of flowers a donation may be made to Centre Presbyterian Church Landscaping Fund.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Romberg family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery

Events

Buckley Cemetery

Buckley, WA, 98321

**JAN
18**

Receiving Friends

02:00PM - 03:00PM

Centre Presbyterian Church

129 Centre Church Road, Mooresville, NC, US, 28117

**JAN
18**

Funeral Service

03:00PM - 03:45PM

Centre Presbyterian Church

129 Centre Church Road, Mooresville, NC, US, 28117

Comments



“ To the Romberg family. I have many fond memories of Gary helping me setting up the race course in Grand Rapids OH. Always enjoyed his company. Prayers to all.

John Fronce - January 21 at 09:51 PM



“ As a member of the SATA community, I was lucky to meet Gary every year for several days somewhere on this planet. Gary was one of the most welcoming persons I have met there, even though I was much younger, not from the same country and not in the same industry!
We will miss you.

Grégoire d'Ozouville - January 20 at 02:21 AM



“ Did a lot for all of us who raced. Always enjoyed my conversations with Him. RIP Gary.

Chris White - January 18 at 10:19 PM



“ Gary was a wonderful person that helped me in a mentoring role when I started working in the automotive industry and later when I was involved in the Subsonic Aerodynamic Testing Association (SATA). When I think of SATA, I think of Gary, as I'm sure countless others do. He will be missed, but never forgotten. My sincere condolences to his family.

Victor Canacci - January 18 at 11:29 AM



“ There are few people in my life that were as encouraging and supportive as Gary, from technical cooperation in the SAE, to being a client, to being my boss, mentor, co-inventor and friend, I always knew that he supported me and had my back if times got tough. He is greatly missed.

Mark Gleason - January 18 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you so much for coming Mark-you were a special friend and do worker to dad.

Heidi - January 20 at 07:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



January 17 at 07:38 PM



“ William Bell lit a candle in memory of Gary Fredrick Romberg



William Bell - January 17 at 07:13 PM



“ APBA Historical Society purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



APBA Historical Society - January 17 at 05:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



January 17 at 01:11 PM



“ I was honored to be his friend. Now he is with Miller and Allen having a beer and planning races. Gibber

Jim Gibbs (Gibber) - January 17 at 12:11 PM



“ Thanks for the picture and kind words, Jim. I don't think I've seen that picture before.

Leif - January 17 at 03:22 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jim Gibbs (Gibber) - January 17 at 12:08 PM



“ Godspeed sir.

William Powell - January 17 at 09:38 AM



“ Mike Giraud purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



Mike Giraud - January 17 at 09:17 AM



“ Gary's friends at Jacobs (Sverdrup) purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.





“ Bonnie and Kurt,

I will forever be grateful for time, wisdom, and guidance Gary shared with me during my time at A2 and the years after. I can genuinely say he is the reason I was able to accomplish what I did. He will always remain in my thoughts and will be missed.

Mike Giraud - January 17 at 09:08 AM



“ From Sheri and Steve Wolfe purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



From Sheri and Steve Wolfe - January 17 at 08:12 AM



“ Bonnie and family please know that you are all in our prayers. We pray that the LORD watch over you and comfort you and remind you of his love every moment of every day. Every time I saw Gary his actions showed his keen understanding and faith in knowing that the LORD watched over him, always.

I am overwhelmed to know which memories to share of Gary because there are so many. For perhaps the last 5 years, Gary would often say these words--seemingly every time I saw him: "I'm an old man, I've lived a long life, I know I'm not going to be here for ever." He said it so matter of factly, so calmly, so at ease with the statement. Each time, after we parted, I'd think that he spoke of such matters like I spoke about going to the supermarket to get bread and milk. He spoke about this with such equanimity and composure and evenness of temper that it made me carefully think about it for hours afterwards. Much more recently when he noted we hadn't seen each other regularly and I alluded to my recent faith struggles he suggested that faith was like rubber or a band or it stretched--at times stronger and at other times less strong.....yet I didn't see it waiver in his behavior and attitude. EACH time I would see him he would seem to make the same statement: "I'm an old man, I've lived a long life, I know I'm not going to be here forever." Gary knew where he would be forever. In heaven.

I never got to say it to him and now wish I had, but he knows it anyway. Gary, in heaven, there is a wind tunnel of LOVE. The everlasting LOVE that Jesus and the LORD give to us through the promise of our eternal life. I am sure he would have had

something interesting to say about this. "Well Steve.....

Gary spoke of so many things he loved--so many times speaking about his trips to Alaska, fishing, and bringing back ? 50 pounds of halibut/salmon. I would often ask him each time I would see him, if he was still eating halibut.

I'm at a loss of words to describe Gary's one of a kindness.....I might not know the words he would use, but once they came out of his mouth, I knew it was Gary. For instance, he recently said he wasn't happy to be seeing me with his son. I asked why. He said: "Well, do "I" go to HIS visits with HIM?!

Gary each time I saw you, I knew of your faith. You didn't have to bang it over my head.....your actions showed it. It is those actions that reminded me of God's promise and love. The LORD has a purpose and a plan.....you were his servant in that and have eternal life.....the eternal life that was the unspoken word of you not being HERE forever.....the knowledge of your being in HEAVEN forever.

Steve Wolfe - January 17 at 08:00 AM



“ The Entire Klein Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



The Entire Klein Family - January 17 at 06:46 AM



“ Wendy & Andy Nash purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



Wendy & Andy Nash - January 17 at 12:00 AM



“ Gary was my hiring senior manager and one of the people who first hired me into Chrysler as a contract employee and then supported me for a full time permanent position in 1999. He was charming, loud, honest, intelligent and full of vigor. An excellent engineer and mentor to so many. Thanks for all the memories Gary and all

of the many quotes. My favourites being “ Bone in Nose” and “ believe all rumours until other rumours dispel those”. A great loss for us all. Rest in peace Gary!

Partha Datta - January 16 at 07:53 PM



“ Parthia, thanks so much for the kind words and memories. We’ve been going over “Garyisms” and you’ve reminded us of a couple more. Only my dad...
Leif Romberg.

Leif - January 17 at 03:28 PM



“ Bonnie, thank you for sharing your husband with us. I remember his stories of lumberjacking, how he became an engineer, and that he was part of creating one of the most fantastic cars ever sold to the public, the Roadrunner Superbird. Many times over the years I would think of how Gary would handle situations and use his examples to temper what I was about to do. I was blessed to have him in my life.
John Broge

John Broge - January 16 at 07:37 PM



“ John, Thanks for the kind words.
I know that he thought a lot of you.

Leif - January 17 at 03:45 PM



“ For a few years in the 70's Gary was my mentor and pretty close to a father figure for me. We traded stories every week during the summer when I was racing cars and he was building and racing a "picklefork" boat and his kids were wrecking model planes then later Gary's lease cars !!! We were in the embrionoc days of the modern automotive aerodynamic technology rapid growth. I was so very fortunate to be starting my career with Chrysler and with Gary as my boss. "Those were the best of times".
My sympathy to the family and I know the God I know will accept him with open arms and give him a most rewarding position.
God bless his family and all who knew him.
Dale Frank (AirDale)

Dale Frank - January 16 at 07:27 PM



“ Dale,
My family and I get great comfort from the shared memories and messages of condolence. Thanks so much and may God bless you and yours.

Leif - January 20 at 12:29 AM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



January 16 at 07:06 PM



“ Bonnie, Kurt, and the rest of the Romberg family,

My condolences on your loss.

It is often said that "We stand on the shoulders of giants" in life. Gary was a giant in so many ways... He was an outstanding person, engineer, and leader. It was truly an honor to have known him.

The aero community will forever miss his humorous, blunt, and insightful comments at our conferences.

Best regards,

Greg Fadler

Greg Fadler - January 16 at 05:50 PM



“ Debbie and John Pugh purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



Debbie and John Pugh - January 16 at 05:48 PM



“ Stacy & Mike Iwanicki, Gordie, Lea & Kyra Miller purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



Stacy & Mike Iwanicki, Gordie, Lea & Kyra Miller - January 16 at 04:42 PM



“ So Sorry to hear about Gary, He was a wonderful person with a wealth of knowledge and experience, our condolences go out to the family, he will be missed by us all. He always invited me to visit him at the wind tunnel in NC every time we talked and visited at the boat races, sorry to say I never got around to going.

Bob Dunlap - January 16 at 04:38 PM



“ Somewhere Gary and Fred Miller are swapping stories again. So sad for the family; we will all miss Gary hugely.

Tana Moore - January 16 at 04:04 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



January 16 at 03:35 PM



“ I very much enjoyed my time with Gary chatting about aerodynamics and airplanes, especially the 737 Max debacle. He was acutely interested in hearing my updates.

Roger Myers

Roger Myers - January 16 at 03:01 PM



“ Dear Bonnie and Family,
Sue and I were saddened to hear the news that Gary had passed on to his next great adventure. He will be missed, not only for his aerodynamic knowledge but also for his wonderful personality. I take issue with his being a fisherman who seldom caught anything. I remember a fishing expedition to Alaska that he and Kurt and I and a number of Gary's friends embarked upon. Gary managed to pull in enough salmon to stock the freezer for a long while on that trip.
God bless all of the Romberg family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Mike and Sue Allison

MICHAEL ALLISON - January 16 at 01:55 PM



“ Bonnie, I am saddened to hear of Gary's passing. He was always also kind and caring. He would always ask how I was doing with my health. I am thankful I got to know Gary and he will surely be missed Love to you and the family.

Samantha Johnston



Samantha Johnston - January 16 at 12:52 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



January 16 at 12:15 PM



“ We were the oldest at Aerodyn. I affectionately called you Geezer and you referred to me as Old Man. I will miss you Gary. God bless your family.

Andy Andrews

Andy Andrews - January 16 at 11:40 AM



“ Andy,

I know my dad really enjoyed working with all the good people at Aerodyn. My family and I appreciate that you and others have taken the time to post condolences here.

Leif - January 20 at 12:23 AM



“ Bonnie and Family:

My deepest condolences to all of you on the passing of Gary. Gary was a pillar of knowledge to the wind tunnel community and a great person to be around. I had the great opportunity to know Gary during the past two decades through the SATA meetings and always looked forward to our annual connection. I will always remember his insight, knowledge, humor, and caring. He will be greatly missed.

Tom Yechout
Professor
Department of Aeronautical Engineering
U.S. Air Force Academy

Tom Yechout - January 16 at 10:30 AM



“ Tom,

My family thanks you for your kind words in our time of sorrow. The outpouring of memories provides a great deal of comfort.

Leif - January 20 at 12:10 AM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



January 16 at 10:11 AM



“ Your friends at Windshear purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



Your friends at Windshear - January 16 at 10:08 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Fredrick Romberg.



January 16 at 09:58 AM