



Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025



Scan to Visit



Table of Contents

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Obituary | Page 3 |
| Events | Page 7 |
| Tribute Wall | Page 8 |
| Media | Page 14 |



Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025

Gary Lewis Brooks died peacefully, with a heart full of gratitude for his family, friends, and support system, at his home in Davidson, N.C., on August 24, 2025. He was 67 years old.

Charlie Brown: "One day, we will die Snoopy..." Snoopy: "Yes, but every other day we will live..."

Between his birth and his death, Gary did a whole lot of living.

Gary came into this world on April 11, 1958, as the little brother of David Brooks and son of Neal and Opalee Brooks. He was preceded in death by his parents and his youngest son, Dylan Brooks. Growing up in Harrogate, TN, Gary knew the value of hard work - helping in the tobacco fields and putting up hay. Gary attended Kindergarten through the eighth grade in a one-room schoolhouse. In high school he played basketball, enjoyed his friends, and loved to joke that at his small high school, he graduated 2nd in his class but was not in the top 10%! Gary's late Aunt Cleo Jordan encouraged him to continue his education. As a first-generation college student he earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University, picking up life-long friends along the way; followed by a Master's of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte through night classes with good friends. Throughout his 41 years working at IBM in product development, he had the privilege to work with great people and make lasting friendships.

Gary cherished his family. His boys brought him endless joy - playing in the pool, coaching their teams, driveway basketball, rounds of disc golf, and camping. He enjoyed building computers and talking over coffee with Austin; riding motorcycles



Obituary

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025

and fishing with Logan; and watching Dylan play rugby. The whole family created many happy memories at 'his' woods in Traphill, N.C. - paintballing from the treehouse he built, go-karting and 4-wheeling around the trails he cleared, shooting guns on the range he built, and spending nights in the travel trailer with a few mice.

One of Gary's dreams was to build a log cabin with his wife, Kathy Brooks, of 41 years. Even though that dream was cut short by his ALS diagnosis, Gary's enjoyment of life never was. He used to say 'If I died today, I'd die a happy man because I've had a great life.' For Gary, there was no Plan B in marriage, so he worked hard on Plan A. Gary and Kathy went on weekly dates when the boys were young and enjoyed just being together.

The outdoors was Gary's 'happy place'. Whether bush-hogging on his tractor or sitting in his tree stand watching the sunrise/sunset, nature was his second home. He shared this love with his brother, David. Growing up in East Tennessee gave them many opportunities to play in the creek, build a log cabin, throw rocks at each other, or be sent to work in different fields when they got in trouble with their mom. As adults, hikes to White Rocks VA, caving, and visits together with family allowed their special bond to continue.

Gary was blessed with awesome friends, and in turn he blessed them with his smile and quick wit. For many years Gary was the 'travel agent' for his treasured rides across the country with his motorcycle 'gang'. In the fall, Gary loved his time fishing at Hatteras with good friends where he usually brought home more sand than fish, and the opening weekend of hunting was always a favorite. For over 30 years he enjoyed Friday breakfasts before work with his friends. Once he finally retired, they became Thursday lunches! Whether he was riding, fishing, hunting, eating or meeting with his men's small group for coffee, he always came away with a new story.

Gary loved Jesus and as a devoted member of First Baptist Church Huntersville for over 30 years, he served as a deacon as well as various other roles. Most recently, he



Obituary

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025

served at Angels and Sparrows and called the homebound. He also very much enjoyed the fellowship of his men's small group.

In addition to Kathy, he leaves behind his sons Austin Brooks of Mooresville, N.C. and Logan Brooks (Amy) of Greenville, S.C. He is also survived by his brother David Brooks (Vickie), his mother-in-law Dorothy Brown, and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Debbie and Scott Sellers. In addition, he loved and was loved by his nephews, great-nieces, and cousins. Gary is also survived by his best friend, Jack Kirkland, and many, many more dear friends.

Having had a terminal diagnosis for six years, Gary had the opportunity to 'view his life' through his family and friends who reached out to him and Kathy with their love and support through visits, calls, cards, meals, and most importantly, their prayers. Gary leaves behind a legacy marked by the deep bonds he formed with his family and friends and his service to the Lord. He will also be remembered for his awesome smile, watching the entertaining squirrels and birds at his bedroom window, and for nearly wearing out Chick-fil-A's chocolate milkshake machine!

His family is forever grateful for the wonderful care Gary received from VIA Health Partners Hospice Care, Atrium Health ALS Center, Joe Martin ALS Foundation, Homewatch CareGivers, Dr. Laura Skinner, and Dr. Sandrine Martin.

A celebration of life service for Gary will be held on Monday, September 1, 2025, at 2 P.M. at First Baptist Church Huntersville. Those who cannot attend, the service can be accessed at 2 P.M. at this link <https://facebook.com/fbchuntersville> on the church's Facebook page. The family will be receiving friends for a time of visitation on Sunday, August 31, from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. at James Funeral Home in Huntersville, NC.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church Huntersville's Youth Ministry or the Joe Martin ALS Foundation.



Obituary

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025

Watch Gary's slideshow here:

https://www.tributeslides.com/videos/embedded_video/W5D44XBY88BH86WQ

James Funeral Home, of Huntersville, is serving the family and obituary lovingly written by the family.



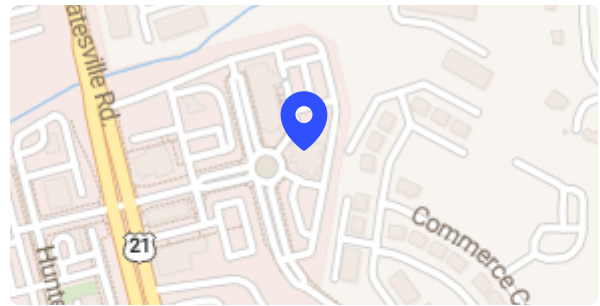
Events

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025

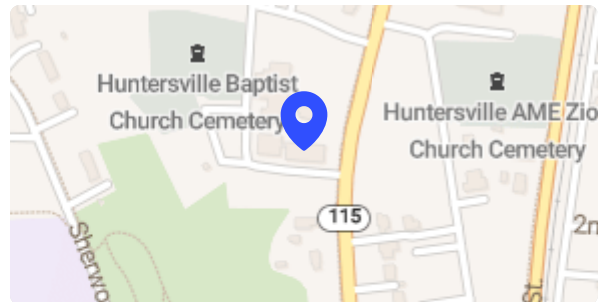
Visitation

- Sunday**, August 31, 2025
- 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET
- James Funeral Home**
10520 Arahova Dr, Huntersville NC 28078



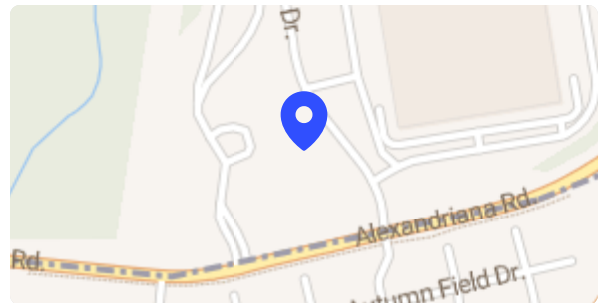
Funeral Service

- Monday**, September 1, 2025
- 2:00 PM ET
- First Baptist Church Huntersville**
14813 North Old Statesville Road, Huntersville NC 28078



Cemetery Details

- NorthLake Memorial Gardens**
11001 Alexandriana Road, Huntersville NC 28078
- (704) 584-9004**





Tribute Wall

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025



James Funeral Home shared a **Video**.



August 29 at 6:17 PM



Romi posted:

I am so sorry to hear this news. I joined IBM in 2019 and Gary was my manager for a short time before he retired. Even in that brief period, he left a lasting impression on me. He was the best manager I have had in my decade-long career—kind, empathetic, always willing to listen and incredibly considerate. He was such a genuinely good human being that his kindness and character were evident even in the short time I worked with him. Calm, collected and supportive, he taught me so much in just a few months and I only wish I had the opportunity to learn more from him. Even years after his retirement, we would still talk about how exceptional he was as a manager and as a person. To Gary's family, please accept my deepest condolences. I hope it brings some comfort to know how positively he impacted the people he worked with and how fondly he is remembered. His legacy truly lives on through the lives he touched.

January 13 at 10:56 PM



Mike Campbell posted:

Gary was a good friend. I've known him since 1984. He was my first office mate at IBM Charlotte. During my five years in Charlotte, Gary and I co-captained a mixed softball team and I think a mixed volleyball team. Luckily, I got invited to a yearly group fishing trip to the outer banks which continues to this day. Gary was one of the original group members along with Jack Kirkland, Ron Deloney, Mike Hardy, Jim Archer and Greg Murphy. I moved to Kentucky in 1989. Whenever I went on the yearly fishing trip which lasted about a week, I would stay at Gary and Kathy's house the night before and ride out to Hatteras in Gary's 4x4 vehicle. We had so much fun. I'm going to miss Gary a bunch.

September 3 at 3:34 PM



Tribute Wall

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025



William Devizia posted:

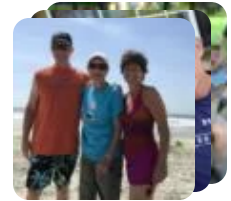
I'll still never forget the house in Davis lake going to church on Sundays. Mr Brooks was always so kind and calm. My house at times could be the opposite. So I always looked up to how Mr. Brooks was such a calm, kind, and caring person he was. Mr Brooks & Mrs Brooks always treated me like family when I was over there growing up. I don't say this often but Mr Gary was a good man genuinely a kind person. I know he is with Dylan having a great time! My deepest condolences to Mrs Brooks and to Austin and my buddy Logan. I'll always cherish those times growing up. Even though I was rebellious at times growing up I think Mr Brooks was a great role model and sewed more seeds than he even realized . A inspiration that with God you really can find inner peace! Thanks for the great memories RIP Mr Brooks you will be missed.

September 2 at 4:56 AM



Ps Joyner shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

NMB gatherings through the years!



August 24 at 10:33 PM



Alan Strickland posted:

I was fortunate to work with Gary during his time at IBM. In light of how full Gary's life was, it seems trivial to note that among his accomplishments during his time at IBM, Gary led the team that developed IBM's first online banking product, and among the first in the world. Prayers to his family and friends. Congratulations, Gary, on a life well lived.

September 1 at 9:20 AM



Alan Strickland posted:

I was fortunate to work with Gary during his time at IBM. In light of how full Gary's life was, it seems trivial to note that among his accomplishments during his time at IBM, Gary led the team that developed IBM's first online banking product, and among the first in the world. Prayers to his family and friends. Congratulations, Gary, on a life well lived.

September 1 at 9:20 AM



Tribute Wall

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025

B

Brian Fluet posted:

I was very fortunate to have been able to participate in a number of rides with Gary and his band of riding brothers and long time friends. Gary was a special individual and appeared to be the glue that held this group together. The story of how I came to be a brief part of it is long so suffice it to say that I will be forever grateful for the acceptance and camaraderie of this group.

August 31 at 11:57 AM

RM

Robin Dean Manjarrez sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Brooks family.



August 30 at 10:03 PM

HT

Hayes T. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gary.



August 30 at 6:15 PM

DB

Dorothy Brown planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gary.



August 30 at 1:17 PM

BP

Brad Page posted:

I've had the privilege and blessing to know Gary since 1975/ I met him at Tennessee Tech University. We were both studying Electrical Engineering. After our freshman year, we were roommates for the next three years. Through the years at Tech I learned and witnessed what a thoughtful and caring person Gary was. He was always there to lend a hand whether it was course related or whatever came up. Many times, Gary made the trip to the airport in Knoxville to either drop me off or pick me up when the school semesters were either starting or ending. His kindness was never ending and will always be remembered that way.

August 29 at 7:44 PM



Tribute Wall

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025



Anonymous sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Brooks family.



August 29 at 11:25 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gary.

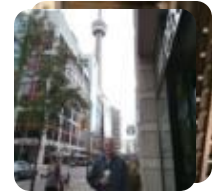


August 29 at 11:25 AM



John Hartley shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

This one hurts. Thanks to Rick, I was lucky enough to be invited to join Gary's wild hogs, or whatever we were called, (you could call us anything and we didn't care), for many 'round the country moto trips. It was something to look forward to every year. Gary was probably the most positive soul I've ever known and so we always had a grand time when we were together. Gary and I liked to go on coffee hunts in the mornings to get our walks in when we could and we had lots to talk about. If you paid attention, you could see that he was a wise and subtle teacher. And when he wanted to be a smartass, he was good at that too! I will always miss him.



August 24 at 10:33 PM



John R. planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of Gary.



August 28 at 10:46 PM



Alyssa G. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gary.



August 27 at 11:38 AM



Tribute Wall

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025



The Kirkland And Underwood sent a Serene Retreat to the Brooks family.



August 26 at 8:09 PM



Rick Besterman shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Gary was a kind and gentle soul. I enjoyed our breakfast/lunch times with Gary and the "gang". And our annual September motorcycle rides where just so much great fun and created so many great memories that will last me forever. My fondest memory will always be John and I riding our lighter, more agile adventure motorcycles following and trying to keep up with Gary on his beautiful, shiny chrome, and heavy Harley Electra Glide while riding on a dirt/gravel road in the (Lake) Superior National Forest. The dirt/gravel road finally turns back into asphalt at which point Gary says to us: "I don't need no stickin' adventure bike" 🍷. That moment will always bring a smile to my face. Miss you my friend...



August 24 at 10:33 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Brooks family.



August 26 at 9:41 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gary.



August 26 at 9:41 AM



John Lomonaco posted:

Gary was so easy to be around. His smile and jovial demeanor was the best of him.

August 25 at 10:11 PM



Tribute Wall

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025



Bri, Casey, And Otto Delong sent a Forever Our Angel Bouquet to the Brooks family.



August 25 at 8:50 AM



Bob Bellamy posted:

I joined Gary's motorcycle group for several years on bike trips to various parts of the country. Gary was our leader (and main planner) for the trips. Gary welcomed me warmly into the group and am blessed to have gotten to know the kind and loving person he was. All the guys were fun guys to spend time with, but Gary was the heart and soul of the group and led us each September to a wide assortment of places from Maine to South Dakota. It wasn't about the destinations that made the rides so special to me. It was the quality time spent with good friends. I truly miss those rides, and I will especially miss Gary.

August 24 at 10:33 PM



Media

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025



James Funeral Home shared a **Video**.

August 29 at 6:17 PM





Media

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025



Ps Joyner shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

September 1 at 12:29 PM





Media

Gary Brooks

APR 11, 1958 - AUG 24, 2025



John Hartley shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 28 at 11:19 PM





Rick Besterman shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 26 at 12:17 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

