



Gabriel E. Durbin

May 8, 1954 - July 31, 2023

Gabriel E. Durbin, 69, passed away suddenly on Monday, July 31, 2023, in Carthage, Missouri. He was born May 8, 1954, in Joplin, Missouri, to Elmo Gabe Durbin and Earl Dean (Baker) Durbin. Gabriel was a lifelong Joplin/Carthage resident.

He graduated from Memorial High School in 1972. After graduating Gabriel took courses in various fields that interested him. These included drafting from Missouri Southern State College and a course from Bell Howell. After completing the Bell Howell course, he built a working television. Gabriel had a love of science, specifically Astronomy and Geology. When he and Reta moved to the country, he enjoyed using his telescope to view the night skies. He had an extensive rock collection, as well as a stamp collection. He also enjoyed photography and shared many of his photographs with family and friends. Gabriel worked at High-Tec Amplifier in Joplin and was a Machinist at H & H Machine in Carthage, where he was working when he retired.

On May 5, 1985, Gabriel married Reta Kern in Carthage, Missouri, and they recently celebrated their 38th Anniversary. You rarely saw one of them without the other. For many years they enjoyed camping, spending time together outdoors, and traveling to different states to visit relatives and friends.

Gabriel faithfully attended Neosho Community Chapel. He loved to discuss the Bible with others. Gabriel had a strong desire for everyone to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. It is a comfort to know that he is now in the presence of his Lord and loved ones, and that we have the promise of being reunited with

him someday.

Gabriel is survived by his wife, Reta; their foster son, Terry (April) Royal of Mantachie, Mississippi; a brother, Jim (Brenda) Durbin of Joplin; a foster granddaughter, Esmee; many nieces and nephews; two Uncles, Steve (Darlene) Baker of Carl Junction and Larry (Cheryl) Baker of Joplin, and a host of cousins. He also leaves behind his dog, Hope, who will miss playing and snuggling with him. Those preceding Gabriel in death were his parents, Elmo and Earl Dean, and a brother, John.

The family would like to express their appreciation for all of Gabriel's doctors, nurses, and the emergency medical attendants who worked with him on Monday.

Gabriel's funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, August 4, 2023, at Ulmer Funeral Home in Carthage. A visitation will be held from 9:00 AM until the time of the service. Burial will be at Fullerton Cemetery in Carthage. Memorial contributions may be made to Carthage Crisis Center in care of Ulmer Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be made at www.ulmerfh.com.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Ulmer Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Fullerton Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 9:00 AM (CT)

Ulmer Funeral Home
1208 S. Garrison
Carthage, MO 64836
(417) 358-2222
ulmerfh@gmail.com
<https://www.ulmerfh.com/>

Funeral Service

AUG 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ulmer Funeral Home
1208 S. Garrison
Carthage, MO 64836
(417) 358-2222
ulmerfh@gmail.com
<https://www.ulmerfh.com/>

Tribute Wall

CD

“ I remember Gabe as I was a young boy at Evangel AOG in Carthage where he and Reta attended with my grandparents. Though a quiet guy, he always had a smile and could find him helping around the church. I was able to run into him recently at a funeral and we were able to talk for a few minutes. My condolences to Reta and family!

Chad DeGonia - August 04, 2023 at 10:29 AM

GS

“Cousin Gabe and I saw each other often when we were kids. We both loved and visited Aunt Bea in Joplin, and there we would talk about rocks, stamps, dogs, space, and ‘Land of the Giants,’ and we gobbled Aunt Bea’s PB&J sandwiches! Years passed. We saw each other at family gatherings, and then in 2019 we became Facebook Friends! I enjoyed reading about his life with Reta and their beloved dogs, and I enjoyed her and his pictures and creative videos. I am so glad Gabe loved and worked for the Lord. He was a Witnessing Warrior! We who were Facebook Friends with Gabe learned so much about God, the weather, gemstones, etc., and space! I will miss his wit and wisdom. I will miss his personal postings. I have saved one from his Facebook Timeline, and I am going to include it in my Tribute. He said God helped him take the picture (as seen with his original posting) and he replied to a complimentary comment in which he referred to the picture as God’s Gift. Gabriel E. Durbin was a gift too! We are blessed to have known him. I am thankful for my memories. I send HUGS to Reta (and Hope), and I know God will take care of you and yours. Love, Gayla. On July 14, 2023, Gabe/Gabriel posted the following words: This photo still amazes me. This is not a trick photograph. I was trying to catch it and the LORD helped me! The photo, I feel shows the dual nature of GOD. The rainbow speaks of the love GOD has for us all. The rainbow was given to us as a reminder that HE will not destroy all the living with a flood again. The lightning is the power of GOD. Lightning is one of the most powerful forces on earth. It has the heat to melt rock and burn through metal. One thunderstorm has the energy of nuclear bomb! Though GOD is love, HE is also righteous and cannot tolerate sin! GOD’s rainbow should never be used for anything that is sinful or promotes sin! Once again, I want to remind everyone that NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, GOD WILL FORGIVE IF WE REPENT!

Gayla E. Sligh - August 02, 2023 at 08:48 PM

RD

Thank you Gayla! Beautiful tribute of a worthy servant of the Lord.

Reta Durbin - August 03, 2023 at 08:19 PM

ST

“ *Stacia lit a candle in memory of Gabriel Durbin*



Stacia - August 02, 2023 at 12:48 PM