



Gorden Lee Brown

November 5, 1944 - February 28, 2024

This is the story of Gorden Lee Brown. Gorden asked for a simple obituary, but to many he was extraordinary with a story deserving to be told. Even in his last breaths, he lived a life of gratitude and humility.

On November 5, 1944, in Kenton, Ohio, the world became a little better when Gorden arrived.

Born to the Rev. William and Margaret Brown, Gorden was the middle child with older brother, Charles, and younger brother, Donald.

As a family of ministry, they moved around the midwest. Some of his favorite childhood memories were the times he enjoyed playing with his cousins in Chicago and talked about those fond memories often. His family moved from Fairbury, Illinois, to East Peoria, Illinois, during his senior year at Fairbury Cropsey High School where he was able to graduate with his friends in 1962 thanks to some good friends who took him in for the remainder of the school year. Gorden did not know at that time that his family would be living right next door to the future love of his life in East Peoria.

Gorden married Jean Culpepper on December 5, 1970. In 1971, he graduated

from Bradley University with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. This was a true accomplishment for him because he worked hard to pay his way through college. In 1974, their first child, Shana, was born and soon followed Leann in

1975. For the years following that he worked in a variety of accounting roles from auditor to contract negotiator to Chief Financial Officer. He worked very hard to provide for his family and even prepared tax returns for many people every tax season. Many of his clients trusted him for decades. Most recently he was working for a car dealership doing something he also loved - driving.

Gorden was very committed to his faith and served on a number of committees at First Baptist Church of Peoria throughout the years. He also enjoyed not only playing dartball for over 50 years, but serving on the board for the Greater Peoria Area Dartball League. Gorden also enjoyed bowling, playing games, and traveling to National Parks. For those who knew him very well, they might have even had an opportunity to go on a road trip adventure. When we say adventure, we mean it. The most hilarious stories have been talked about for many years amongst his family and friends which were born out of his sometimes "unorthodox" decisions.

Let's just say the Dukes of Hazzard driving stunts were an inspiration to him. Most of all, Gorden truly loved and lived to help others. He would go above and beyond for even strangers if he felt he could lend a hand. When people think of him they feel the legacy of kindness and selflessness he has left for others to pay forward.

On February 28, 2024, Gorden's gentle soul departed this world at the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, Illinois, surrounded by his loving family, pastor, and caring staff.

Surviving is his wife of 53 years, Jean Brown of East Peoria, daughters Shana

Brown of Lihue, Hawaii, and Leann Eisfelder (Tim) and much loved grandson, Logan Eisfelder of Washington, brothers Charles (Marie) Brown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Donald (Chris Parsons) Brown of Los Angeles, California, along with many beloved nieces, nephews, in-laws, and cousins.

Gorden wanted to give special gratitude to all the medical staff at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center for all their efforts and caring during the fight for his life. To everyone who came to visit him in his last days of occupying his physical body, he gave continual gratitude and never complained.

Let his life be an example to you so his light of kindness can live on in others.

Services will be held at First Baptist Church of Peoria, 411 W. Lake Ave, Peoria, IL 61614 Saturday, March 9, 2024 Visitation 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM; Service 11:30 AM; Luncheon to follow.

In lieu of flowers Gorden requested donations be made to First Baptist Church of Peoria.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 9. 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Peoria

411 W. Lake St

Peoria, IL 61614

Funeral Service

MAR 9. 11:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Peoria

411 W. Lake St

Peoria, IL 61614

Luncheon to follow.

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Gorden Lee Brown*

Schmidt Haller Burial and Cremation Services - August 13, 2024 at 01:18 PM

JM

“ *I have only knew Gorden for a few years. I could tell he was someone special the way he carried himself and spoke. We played dartball on opposing teams. He was a tough competitor. God bless his family.*

Jerry Motsinger - April 23, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ *Kim & Pete purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Gorden Lee Brown.*

Kim & Pete - March 02, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ *Kim & Pete planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gorden Lee Brown.*

Kim & Pete - March 02, 2024 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Gorden Lee Brown.*

Beautiful Dreams - March 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Linda, Wil and the Espino family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gorden Lee Brown.

Linda, Wil and the Espino family - March 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ We had fine memories when we lived in Peoria he was a kind and generous man so sorry hugs and prayers to your family Florence and Harold Bloss

florence blossom - March 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ Florence B. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gorden Lee Brown.

Florence B. - March 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM