



## Gary Lewis Brooks

May 11, 1949 - October 9, 2021

Gary Brooks, 72, of Red Oak passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 9, 2021.

He graduated from Lancaster High School in 1967. During his time in high school, he met the love of his life, Karen Andrews during their sophomore year. After graduation, Gary and Karen married on August 4, 1967. They spent fifty-four wonderful years together and raised two daughters.

Gary served as a fireman for thirty-seven years with the DeSoto Fire Department and retired in 2008. Not being able to sit idle in retirement, he held many part time jobs, but his absolute favorite job was being a bus driver for Life School of Waxahachie. He loved serving his students. He was a member of the Lancaster Masonic Lodge. He was also an active member of Ellis Cowboy Church where he faithfully served as a lay pastor.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Ramona Sanders.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Brooks of Red Oak; his daughter, Brandy and husband Grant Vowels of Waco; his daughter, Amanda Brooks of Ponder; and his four wonderful grandchildren: Taylor, Ethan, Logan and Mason. He is also survived by his sister, Pat and husband Jim Forbes of Baird; his sister, Rita and husband James Caffey of Cross Plains; and numerous nieces and

nephews.

A celebration of Gary's life will be held at Ellis County Cowboy Church at 1:00pm on Friday, October 15, 2021, with Pastor Ray Boyd officiating. Interment will follow at Red Oak Cemetery. A visitation with family will be 5pm to 7pm on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at Byrum Funeral Home Chapel, Lancaster, Texas.

# Cemetery Details

## Red Oak Cemetery

700 South Central Blvd.  
Red Oak, TX 75154

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **15**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Cowboy Church of Ellis County  
2374 U.S. 287 Access Rd  
Waxahachie, TX 75167-5006  
(972) 935-9801

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary and Frank and myself servered as door greeters at the Cowboy church of Ellis county. We had planned to set the welcome wagon up with Ranger doug western songs and we would be the control without anyone knowing!!! We laughed so hard that we gave it away before actually doing our deed. Glenn Eaton

Glenn Barb Eaton - October 15, 2021 at 09:57 AM



“ We are very sorry for your family's loss. May God's love give you comfort and peace.



Rhonda & Dennis Lesner - October 15, 2021 at 08:07 AM

PG

“ Karen and Family, We are so sad to hear of Gary's passing. What a wonderful friend he was always offering hope and joy to each he met. I remember when he worked for me years ago along with two other firefighters from the Lancaster house. I have often felt in the past there was never again a group of individuals around me that I respected and trusted so much. I have a picture of the four of us standing in my garage. It hangs on a wall in my bunkhouse and reminds me each day what good there is in the world if we just slow down and look. Gary is in a good place now I know and we look forward to seeing him again someday. I know he will be waiting for all of us with that grin he always had on his face. We thank the lord for giving us the joy in knowing him. May he rest in peace. Phil & Jeanan Gizzi



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**Phil Gizzi** - October 14, 2021 at 03:53 PM

PG

“ Phil & Jeanan Gizzi purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.



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**Phil & Jeanan Gizzi** - October 14, 2021 at 12:38 PM

BH

“ *Bill and Judy Hawkins purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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**Bill and Judy Hawkins** - October 14, 2021 at 10:05 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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October 13, 2021 at 08:57 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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October 13, 2021 at 07:05 PM

DA

“ *Desoto Firefighters Assoc. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*

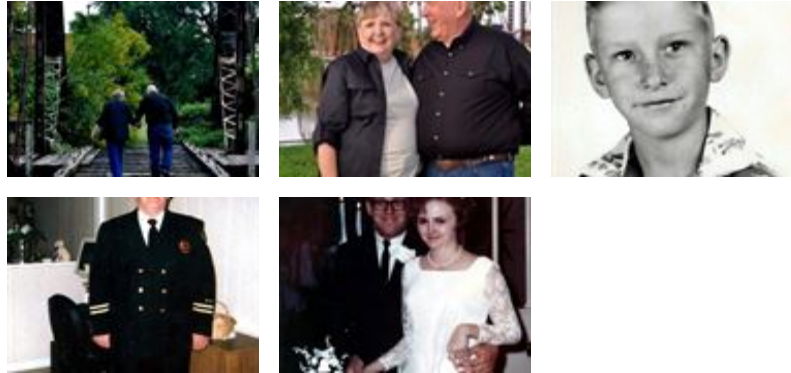


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**Desoto Firefighters Assoc.** - October 13, 2021 at 05:33 PM



“ 56 files added to the album Life Tributes



Byrum Funeral Home - October 13, 2021 at 04:41 PM



“ Your friends at Mars purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.



Your friends at Mars - October 13, 2021 at 04:34 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Byrum Funeral Home - October 13, 2021 at 03:37 PM



“ Karen and family , I am sorry for your loss... the last couple of days have been so hard for you... This time has stirred a lot of memories for me , when we were in school and our times together... Hugs and prayers to you all... Karen he loves you so much, that will never end... love Brenda

Brenda Mashburn - October 13, 2021 at 03:30 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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October 13, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ *Karen, Our heartfelt condolences go out to you and your family. Gary was truly a great man and he will be missed dearly by many. We are keeping you all in our prayers.*



*Rene & Theresa Salazar*

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**Theresa** - October 13, 2021 at 02:34 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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October 13, 2021 at 12:25 PM



“ *Karen, Brandy, & Mandy... We are so sorry for your loss. Gary was a very caring and nice person. David always had the highest respect for Gary. They shared many experiences working together at the fire department in Lancaster. Our most heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and the girls. Judy McMullan, Jennifer, Calvin, Allison Stacks*

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**Judy McMullan** - October 13, 2021 at 11:45 AM

PP

“ *I have many memories of Gary and Karen. We spent a lot of time together in our younger years. I am so sorry, Karen. My love to you.*

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**Patty Peck** - October 13, 2021 at 11:27 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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October 13, 2021 at 10:24 AM

LM

“ Gary was my neighbor only two houses down. I can only imagine what a tremendous loss that you all must feel. Right after he and Karen moved into their home, both came to meet me, and he worked hours on my yard out of kindness. Somehow he just knew I was in a time of need. I have since seen him mow many neighbors' yards, step in and care for their place when they had surgery, or there was a sickness or loss in their family, or just to be doing something for them. I never returned the kind deed, but would always say to myself, "Someday I've got to do something for that guy, he's about the best neighbor I've ever seen." Well, someday never came, and today, after reading about him, I realize it was a great loss to me, and I feel painfully convicted, yet inspired by learning about who he was. He was one who never expected anything in return. No doubt he would want even his death to be a testimony and lesson to others: Today Gary is saying to me: Don't wait until it's too late to show you care. Don't wait until there's no time left. Don't get caught up with things that don't really matter and miss the opportunity to be there. Listen for God's voice prompting you to step up and don't wait, not one minute as that opportunity can and will be stolen from you. And if you haven't ever heard or recognized God's voice, or you've forgotten what it 's like to hear from God, start listening for it, because it's there. Answer it and say, "Yes, Lord." To Karen and all the family, I know no words can ease that sense of loss you feel and will feel for the rest of your lives. I'm so sorry for that. Gary said, "Yes, Lord." one last time on this earth, and beyond your sadness, there is joy in knowing that.

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Linda Moody - October 13, 2021 at 10:23 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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October 13, 2021 at 09:56 AM



“ *Nova Human purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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**Nova Human** - October 12, 2021 at 07:50 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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October 12, 2021 at 03:26 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Lewis Brooks.*



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October 12, 2021 at 03:25 PM