



## Gary Jo Oates

August 3, 1945 - February 6, 2016

Grafton resident, Gary Jo Oates, 70, passed away suddenly Saturday, February 6, 2016, at the Fillmore County Hospital in Geneva, NE.

A celebration of life service will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 11, 2016, at the Federated Church in Sutton, NE with Pastor Michael Fink officiating. Interment will follow at the Grafton Cemetery in Grafton, NE. Visitation will be Wednesday, from 5-8 p.m., at Sutton Memorial Chapel in Sutton, NE.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family to be designated at a later date.

Gary was born on August 3, 1945 in Geneva, NE to Orville and Hazel (Elofson) Oates. He was the youngest of 5 children. His childhood was spent on the family farm southeast of Sutton.

Gary attended Sutton Public School and graduated in 1963.

In 1964, he married Karen Korensky and to this union were born three children: Bill, Julie & Kristy.

Gary spent his younger years farming with his dad. The love of farming never left him as he was always helping area farmers through the years.

In 1969, Gary moved the family to Lincoln where he ran a mail route between Lincoln and Grafton. They later returned to Grafton where he was the 3rd generation to operate the Oates Standard Service Station. Gary then spent 32 years with Burlington Northern Railroad.

On November 30, 1996, he married Marilyn Skibbe. Gary & Marilyn met while taking square dancing lessons and enjoyed many years dancing and camping with the Central RV Camping Club.

In his retirement, Gary enjoyed camping, collecting antiques, woodworking and helping his sister Ora with auctions. However, he sometimes brought home more than he auctioned! He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. It brought great joy to him helping his son Bill on the ranch in Kansas and he never turned down a chance to help his girls and their families on their farms. One special event he always enjoyed was having the whole family over for Christmas and watching them open the gifts he wrapped in Santa's shop in his unique way (duct tape, barbed wire, pet food sacks, etc.) and then initiating the annual paper fight.

Gary was an active member of the Sutton Lion's Club, the Central RV Camping Club and the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department.

He was preceded in death by his parents Orville and Hazel Oates.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Marilyn of Grafton; son, Bill (Joan) Oates of Rosalia, KS; daughters, Julie (Randy) Nunnenkamp of Aurora; and Kristy (Rick) Hiebner of Henderson; step daughters, Lori (Jeff) Harras of Fort Collins, CO; Lisa Schlueter of Windsor, CO; and Amber (Joe) Hand of Windsor CO; siblings, Tom (Dot) Oates of Headland, AL; Mary Ann Riley of Lincoln; Bob (Betty) Oates of Webb, AL; Ora (Dr. Jerry) Adler of

Hastings; and sister-in-law, Betty Little of Grafton; 11 grandchildren, 9 step-grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, 3 step-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

# Tribute Wall

PJ

“ *Many memories have passed through my head since I heard the news. He fathered an amazing family, endured many difficulties, and always wore a smile. His loss will affect so many. My deepest sympathy for his many loved ones. Rest in peace.* ”

Patrick Jennett - February 10, 2016 at 11:26 AM

CE

“ *So sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.* ”

Curt and Max Epp - February 10, 2016 at 11:00 AM

GK

“ *Thoughts and prayers to you at a difficult time. Rest in Peace.* ”

Gary Kircher - February 10, 2016 at 02:54 AM

CN

“ *Bill, Joan & Family:  
So sorry to hear about your loss. Our thoughts and prayers to you at this difficult time.* ”

Cindy & Jamie Nejezchleb - February 09, 2016 at 07:02 PM

EB

“ *Sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Deepest sympathies* ”

Ed and Sherri Beam - February 09, 2016 at 05:43 PM

LH

“ *Bill, Joan and Jake , sorry for your loss. God bless* ”

Laura Holz - February 09, 2016 at 03:07 PM

MD

“ We will miss you Gary. God bless you Marilyn and family.

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**Marshall & Patty Damgaard** - February 09, 2016 at 12:59 PM

CO

“ All thoughts and prayers go out to Gary and family. He will be missed in this small town of Grafton. A place where we all know each other and were there for support and friendship. I enjoyed being around Gary. God Bless you Gary. Rest in Peace and we will miss you. All my condolences to friends and family.

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**Carol Oliver** - February 09, 2016 at 11:13 AM

RN

“ You have my deepest sympathys.

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**Robert Newby** - February 09, 2016 at 08:10 AM