

Gerald "Gary" Dean Werner, 84

October 6, 1940 - July 26, 2025

Hastings resident Gerald "Gary" Dean Werner, 84, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and minister, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 26, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of faith, service, and family.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., Friday, August 1, 2025, at the Clay Center Christian Church with Pastor Victor Knowles officiating. Interment will follow at the Fairfield Cemetery in Fairfield, NE. Visitation will be Friday, from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the service at the Clay Center Christian Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the family to be designated later.

Gary was born on October 6, 1940, in a farmhouse near Deweese, Nebraska, to Edward and Iona (Warboys) Werner. Gerald—known to family and friends as Gary—was raised on the family farm, where he learned the values of responsibility and perseverance. Alongside his older brother Eddie, he began farm work at a young age, contributing to the daily life and operation of the farm and developing a deep work ethic that carried through his entire life.

Gary graduated from Nelson High School and enrolled in the Midwestern School of Evangelism in Ottumwa, Iowa. In Bible college, Gary discovered

both his calling to ministry and the love of his life, Norma Holeman. The two married and built a life of shared faith and commitment, raising a family and serving side by side in churches throughout Kansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Indiana and Nebraska until Norma's passing in 2017.

A faithful minister of the gospel, Gary followed in the footsteps of his father, who preached for over 50 years at the church in Deweese. Gary continued this tradition of spiritual leadership, devoting much of his life to preaching, teaching, and mentoring others.

In addition to his ministry, Gary also spent many productive years working as an industrial engineer at New Holland in Grand Island and Lexington, NE, as well as at Hesston / AGCO in Hesston, KS.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Norma; brothers, Ed, David, Billy and Timothy; and son, David.

He is survived by his sister, Linda Fuelling; sisters-in-law, Sharon Werner and Jan Werner; daughter, Paula (Willie) Payne; sons, Tim (Sue) Werner, and Nate (Liz) Werner; grandchildren, Allyson (Jordan) McCurry, Anthony (Dawn) Payne, Travis Payne, Marissa and Keira Werner; great grandchildren, Caelan, Jordyn, Carmyn, and Evelyn Payne and Micah and Ruth McCurry; extended family, and many friends and fellow believers whose lives were touched by his example and service.

Cemetery Details

Fairfield Cemetery

1054-1058 Road 305
Fairfield, NE 68938

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 1. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Clay Center Christian Church
31371 Woodland Rd
Clay Center, NE 68933

Funeral Service

AUG 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Clay Center Christian Church
31371 Woodland Rd
Clay Center, NE 68933

Tribute Wall

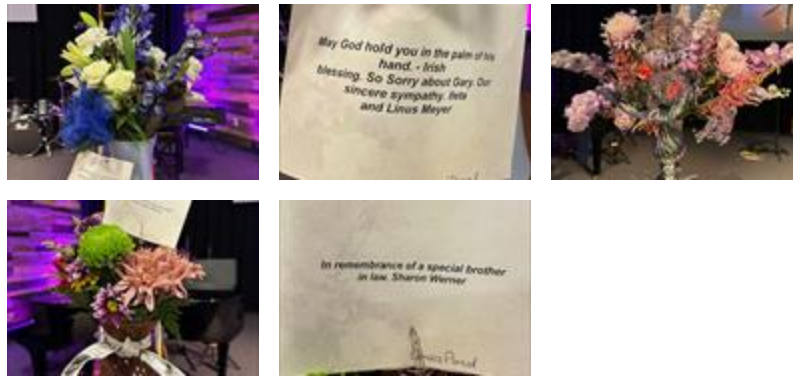
DH

“ Gary was a genuine man and child of God. We sang at churches where he ministered in Hastings, NE, Harlan, IN, and somewhere close to Newton NE. We always enjoyed working along side of Gary over the years. What a gem he was as a husband caring for Norma for many years. We truly will miss his smile, singing voice, and heart for God and family! Don and Vikki Hunt - Centerville, IA

Don Hunt - August 11, 2025 at 08:55 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Flowers



Sutton Memorial Chapel and McLaughlin Funeral Chapel - August 01, 2025 at 05:49 PM

DW

“ I have known Gary for years and I have truly have appreciated him. I also appreciated his faith and his great example of being a Christian. My wife and I had the pleasure of caring for Gary and Norma when they were in Lincoln. I am sure he is singing with the Lord's angels in heaven.

David Wegner - August 01, 2025 at 11:56 AM

CR

“ So sorry to hear the loss to the Warner family... the younger members were more my age group so didnt know Gary that well but his parents i knew well as they lived close and we are all related on my grandma coxbill side..... Linda i had lost track of you but want you to know i remember lots when we were younger.... your in our hearts.....(Jody Coxbill) cindy riger

cindy j rieger - July 30, 2025 at 06:18 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald "Gary" Dean Werner, 84.



July 30, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Gary" Dean Werner.

July 30, 2025 at 10:26 AM

RK

“ I met Gary on August 20, 2021 in the most unusual way. The house that he lived in on 7th Street, was the house that my family lived in when I was born in Hastings in 1958. I was visiting Hastings that day and knocked on the door, explaining to him my history and he was very welcoming and invited me in to see the inside. As we continued to talk we realized that we were “almost” related. His granddaughter Allyson, is the daughter of my first cousin Shelly. So his granddaughter is my cousin. It was so interesting and we had a good laugh out of it. We ended up going to lunch together and continued a wonderful conversation. It was obvious Gary was a great man with a strong faith in the Lord. I will remember that encounter for the rest of my life. My prayers and condolences go out to his family.

*Rebecca Kohl
Colorado*

Rebecca Kohl - July 30, 2025 at 02:40 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerald "Gary" Dean Werner, 84.



July 29, 2025 at 10:02 PM

LW

“ We always enjoyed visiting with Gary when we visited Nebraska. He and Norma were relatives great to chat with and explore family memories. We are blessed for having them as relatives fir many years. Rest in heaven cousin.
Les and Ina Warboys

Les Warboys - July 29, 2025 at 04:56 PM

CR

are you related to auntie Inez Shaw

cindy j rieger - July 30, 2025 at 06:21 PM

CS

“ *We always called him Bro. GARY. He was faithful to serve in Camp O Cedar and when Phil and I were newly married Gary would serve the church in Cozad where we were attending. I grew up with Norma , his beautiful wife, and enjoyed sharing adult time with her in Cozad. What a blessing this family was to so many. Bro. GARY will be missed here on earth, but I know he and Norma are praising God together again! Carol Sheldon*

Carol Sheldon - July 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM

DN

Sincere sympathy to Paula, Tim and Nate and my dear friend Linda and other family members. Heaven just got sweeter when Gary breathed his first breath in his forever home. Absent from his body but at home with his Lord! Deb (and Don) Nedza

Deb Nedza - August 01, 2025 at 10:57 AM