



Gary Lynn Sanderson

March 20, 1963 - March 14, 2025

Funeral services for Gary Sanderson will be 3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 20, 2025, at the First Baptist Church with Pastor Chris Ruwaldt officiating. Burial will follow in the Alva Municipal Cemetery under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.

Gary Lynn, son of Lynn Perry and Norma Jean (Schreiner) Sanderson, was born March 20, 1963, at Thomas, Oklahoma, and passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on March 14, 2025, at Alva, at the age of 61 years, 11 months, and 22 days.

Gary lived in Canton and graduated from Canton High School and later graduated from Northwestern Oklahoma State University with a Law Enforcement degree. After college he was hired by the Alva Police Department where he worked as the Assistant Police Chief. His last nine years he was promoted to Police Chief, retiring after 30 years of service with the Alva Police Department. In January of 1989, he was united in marriage to Darlene Russ at Alva. Through the marriage, he gained a daughter, Angela, who he adored.

He attended the First Baptist Church with Darlene. He was also a lifetime member of the NRA. He enjoyed hunting turkey, wild hogs, and deer. Gary had a green thumb and could grow anything. Whatever he planted such as

flowers, trees, or shrubs always thrived under his care.

Gary loved his career in law enforcement. Friends and family also saw his “old soul” and homebody side. They were amused and accustomed to the result of his spending a large amount of time next door at his Grandma’s house watching John Wayne movies and eating chocolate shakes with her. He acquired some of her quaint expressions such as calling his shoes “slippers”, his coat or jacket his “shawl” and his eye glasses were “spectacles”. To know Gary well was to form a friendship for life, to love him and to know he could always be counted on in time of need.

His father, Lynn, preceded him in death.

Gary is survived by his wife of 36 years, Darlene, of Alva; his daughter, Angela Holcomb and husband, Shannon, of Lowell, Arkansas; two grandsons, Tyler Whetstone and Jenilee of Rogers, Arkansas, and Chance Holcomb of Lowell; a great granddaughter, Josephine Whetstone; mother, Norma Jean Sanderson of Canton; brother, Dale Sanderson of Canton; sisters, Linda Fields of Seiling, and Susan Pannell and husband, Todd, of Longdale; and many friends.

Gary was a strong, brave warrior against the monster named Cancer. He defied the odds and statistics of Gliosarcoma Brain Cancer and was in remission after 6 years. MDS and AML proved to be too much with Gary finally saying, "Enough. I'm tired." Our very painful loss is Heaven's gain.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to Tunnel to Towers or the Shriners Children's Hospital..

Remembrances may be shared with the family at www.marshallfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Alva Municipal Cemetery

Flynn Street
Alva, OK 73717

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 18. 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Marshall Funeral Home of Alva
230 Flynn Street. P.O. Box 804
Alva, OK 73717
(580) 327-2311
<https://www.marshallfuneralhomes.com/>

Viewing

MAR 19. 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Marshall Funeral Home of Alva
230 Flynn Street. P.O. Box 804
Alva, OK 73717
(580) 327-2311
<https://www.marshallfuneralhomes.com/>

Viewing

MAR 20. 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Marshall Funeral Home of Alva
230 Flynn Street. P.O. Box 804
Alva, OK 73717
(580) 327-2311
<https://www.marshallfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

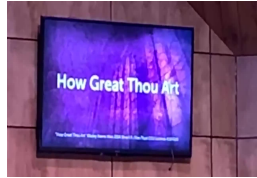
MAR 20. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
714 College Ave.
Alva, OK 73717

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Service Video



Marshall Funeral Homes - March 21, 2025 at 06:16 PM

BH

“ A guy that could walk into a room and make you smile was Gary. He would walk into Public Works and you would hear, “ Hello Hawthorn, or Hello Lonzo, or Hey Dacoma Bob, or “Now Bear... Everyone had a nick name.

*The first time I met him, several years ago, a bunch of us were joking around and laughing, and he looked at me and said, “ I don't know you but I like you.” Definitely one of your good ole boys.
Prayers for the family.*

Bob Hansel - March 19, 2025 at 07:03 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gary Lynn Sanderson.



March 19, 2025 at 02:26 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Video Tribute



Marshall Funeral Homes - March 19, 2025 at 12:11 PM



“ Gary and I met in Law Enforcement classes at Northwestern and became friends. Thirty-eight years ago I introduced him to my best friend Darlene. Two years later they we married and we became a family. Gary entertained us with saying stuff like, brushing his tusk and putting boots on his hooves. The special nicknmes he gave us and others was always entertaining. Gary was very special to us and like a brother to me. After we moved to Texas we shared OU football via phone calls during the game to share our thoughts and criticism or at-a-boys and wins and loses. Rest in peace brother. Job well done good and faithful Servant. Rest now in your Saviors arms. We love you, Sonja Hardy Piersall

Sonja Hardy Piersall - March 19, 2025 at 10:55 AM



So many precious memories.💕💕

Darlene Sanderson - March 22, 2025 at 09:07 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Gary Lynn Sanderson.



March 18, 2025 at 06:11 PM

JK

“Joyce and I send our condolences to Gary's family. It has been a blessing to know Gary and his family over the years. I always enjoyed my visits with him whether at family reunions or wherever we might see one another. Rest in Peace my Law Enforcement brother.

Jack & Joyce Kelly

Jack Kelly - March 18, 2025 at 06:01 PM

SL

“Sheryl Lyons purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Gary Lynn Sanderson.



Sheryl Lyons - March 18, 2025 at 03:06 PM

MP

“Mildred P. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gary Lynn Sanderson.



Mildred P. - March 18, 2025 at 02:14 PM

MP

“Mildred P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Lynn Sanderson.

Mildred P. - March 18, 2025 at 02:14 PM

SR

“ My heart goes out to you and Angie and the boys. Mike and I have great memories of Gary and his little buddy Mac coming over on Sundays for the horse shoes tournament that never ended. He was a great guy.

Sheila & Mike Rodkey - March 18, 2025 at 12:18 PM

JS

“ I will miss my good ol neighbor Gary and his , how you doing neighbor, when i saw him outside. When Darlene and i would be out on a little shopping trip he'd always check in on us to make sure we were ok. Such a great guy. Darlene and Angie you're in my thoughts and prayers .

Jeannie Smith - March 18, 2025 at 11:38 AM

DS

Yes he did always check on us my friend.

Darlene Sanderson - March 22, 2025 at 09:10 AM

JS

“ Jake Sanderson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gary Lynn Sanderson.



Jake Sanderson - March 18, 2025 at 10:12 AM

LV

“ Mike and I send our condolences to the Sanderson family. We became neighbors and gained two very special friends. Will miss our waves and visits with Gary, he was the sweetest. Darlene our prayers are with you in the days ahead. 🙏

Lori VanBuskirk - March 18, 2025 at 09:20 AM

DS

Mike came over and helped Angela and I switch Gary to a different bed seeking better comfort for him. Next day we called EMS to transport to Share for comfort care. It was a good decision. Your friendship is priceless.

Darlene Sanderson - March 22, 2025 at 09:13 AM

MS

“ Great man and great loss. Every time I saw him, whether delivering something to him or seeing him out in public, he was always so friendly and funny. Darlene and family, my thoughts are with you.

Michael Sterba - March 18, 2025 at 07:07 AM

ST

“ What a great human being! Giving nicknames to everyone! In the late 80's and early 90's calling other officers on the radio, not by their unit number, but by a unique, "My Good Friend." Gary at the drop of a hat would help anyone! Funny memories of Trooper Helm and Gary and their "King of the hallway" competitions. A good friend, he will be missed!

Steve - March 17, 2025 at 08:37 PM

BI

He sure will. Where he got the name Mayor for Bill I will never know.

Bill/Linda - March 17, 2025 at 08:42 PM

VT

Darlene, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Gary was always kind to me. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Valerie Tuxhorn - March 17, 2025 at 09:03 PM

KA

Gary was a genuinely nice guy, such a gentle soul. Darlene, our prayers are with you and your family. We are so very sorry for your loss.

Kandice Allen - March 17, 2025 at 09:10 PM