

A Psalm of Life

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

What The Heart Of The Young Man Said To The Psalmist.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther that to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act,- act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Gary Duane Toftely

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, May 24, 2025-11:00 a.m.
Larson Funeral and Cremation Service
Pelican Rapids, Minnesota

CLERGY

Pastor Alex Ohman

MUSIC

— Congregational Hymns —

Organist-Geralyn Lyseng

"How Great Thou Art"

"The Servant Song"

Soloist-Gina Toftely

"The Lord's Prayer"

URN BEARER

Grandson-Nathaniel Loken

HONORARY URN BEARERS

Grandchildren-Nicholas, Allison, Quinn
Chloe and Ada Toftely

MILITARY HONORS

American Legion Post #17
Pelican Rapids V.F.W. Post #5252

INTERMENT

Lake View Cemetery
Pelican Rapids, Minnesota

Gary's family gratefully acknowledges your attendance and many kind expressions of sympathy during their time of loss and invite you to join them for lunch and fellowship following the service.

Arrangements by
Larson
Funeral and Cremation Service
12 5th Avenue NE, Pelican Rapids, Minnesota

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF...

Gary Duane Toftely, born January 27, 1938, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2024, surrounded by family. He was the son of Maurice L. and Beryl A. (Ebersviller) Toftely.

Gary grew up in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, enjoying an outdoor life of hunting, fishing, and skiing. His family moved to Riverton, Wyoming, in 1954, and he graduated from Riverton High School in 1956. He earned an Honor Scholarship to attend the University of Wyoming, majoring in Industrial Management and participating in Army ROTC. He later transferred to Montana State University, Missoula, earning his Bachelor of Science in 1961 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps.

In 1962, Gary began active duty, serving 18 months in Germany with the 8th Infantry Division. There, he met his future wife, Hannelore Palzer. They married in 1964 in Waldorf, Luxembourg, then moved to the U.S., eventually settling in Butte, Montana.

The family relocated to Virginia in 1965, where Gary began a long federal career. He worked as a management analyst, operations research analyst, and mathematical statistician. He earned a master's degree from George Washington University in 1971 and later studied at MIT through a federal advanced study program. His work contributed to national defense efforts.

In 1984, Gary transferred to Minnesota with the Defense Contract Administration Services. The family settled in Prior Lake, and Gary retired in 1998. In 2001, he and Hannelore built a cabin on family land in Minnesota. He also worked part-time for Intertek Testing Services for 15 years.

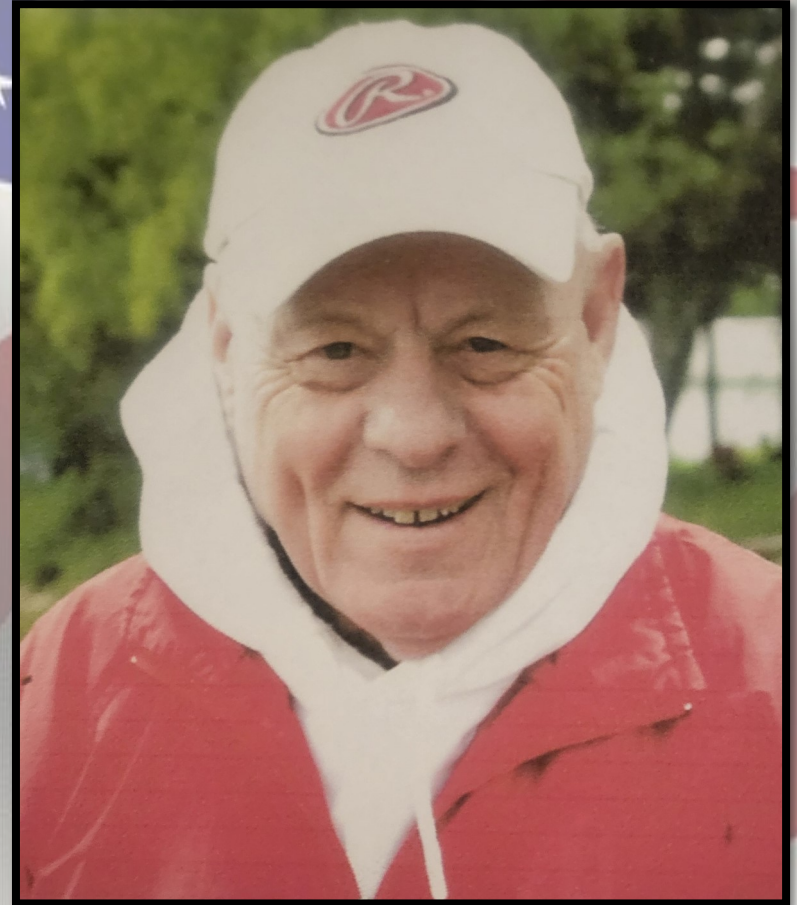
A dedicated community member, Gary served on the board of trustees and as treasurer and moderator for the First Congregational Church in Pelican Rapids. He was treasurer for the Lakeview Cemetery Association and a proud member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans.

Gary was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his children, Nora Toftely-Loken (Darrin), Teegan (Thron) Toftely (Michelle), and Thorstein Toftely (Gina); sisters Penny Kempfert (Al) and Kathy Farmer (Jerry); and grandchildren Nathaniel, Nicholas, Allison, Quinn, Ada, and Chloe. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Hannelore, and brothers, Allen and Leonard Toftely.

Gary's legacy of service, love, and integrity will be remembered by all who knew him.

Blessed Be The Memory Of Gary Duane Toftely

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Gary Duane Toftely
January 27, 1938 - October 31, 2024