



## Gary - Fairfield

March 7, 2011

Gary Wayne Whitson, resident of the Butler Community, passed away on Monday, March 7, 2011 at the age of 58. He was born in Wichita Falls, Texas on October 20, 1952 to Billy Ray Whitson and Helen Marie Reck Whitson. Gary was born without the ability to hear and attended the Texas State School for the Def. He was an avid football fan following the Dallas Cowboys and the Texas Longhorns. Gary is survived by his father Billy Ray Whitson of Fairfield, mother Helen Marie Reck Runyan of Mesquite. Brothers: Tom Whitson of Fairfield, Tim Whitson and wife Dee of Fairfield, and Billy Whitson and wife Brenda of Fairfield. Sisters: Christi McCloud and husband Chris of Lorena and Pat Dial of Mesquite. Gary is also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, and other family members. He was preceded in death by his step-father Bill Runyan and step-mother Ann Whitson. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 10:00 am in the Chapel at Griffin - Roughton Funeral Home in Fairfield with Rev. T. Paul Kethley of First United Methodist Church of Fairfield officiating.

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary - Fairfield

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ Gary has been on my mind a lot lately and I decided to see if I could locate him. I am very sad to hear of his passing. He was a very sweet man. He was a good friend to my husband and myself. We miss him a lot.

Linda Martin - March 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ This post is late, and the service for Gary has taken place. When I read the news in the WF Tx paper, I knew I needed to pass on an experience with Gary that had results beyond my imagination. I had the privilege to meet Gary when I was in my teens. He was humorous and loved to cut up. About 4 or 5 of us, who were like-minded, ran together and stuck to each other like glue. Those were the best times, back then. Our roads went the same direction for years, but over time we became acquaintances and the friendship faded as we took different paths on the same road. In 1996 we crossed paths in Abilene, Tx. He was completing an in-house program that I was just entering. It was a life changing event when I saw Gary in Abilene. You see I was trying to do something different, to find a new way to live but I had no faith that it was possible to change. Then I saw Gary, we greeted each others like survivors from a bad war. He had a light in his eyes and a glow in his spirit. He was happy. He told me that I could do this program because he had stuck it out and completed it. He gave me hope and believed in me. That hope and belief has transcended into over 14 years of sticking on the path of recovery. I've thought about that day hundreds of times since then. In short, I believe that it was no coincidence that Gary was in Abilene when I arrived in 96. I also believe that coincidences are God's way of remaining anonymous. It has always been my hope and prayer that Gary was doing good and I am deeply saddened and disturbed to learn of his death. I just need the family to know that Gary gave me a gift, a gift that lives on today, the gift of hope, hope for a new way of life that lifted me out of the drudgery of addiction, a hope that turned into a life I never dreamed of. Life is good today. God is good today and I thank God for Gary today. He was a huge blessing in my life. I truly miss him. I wish the family the best during this period of grief. Tell Billy and Brenda that it would be great to hear from them.

*Jeff Leatherwood*

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**Jeff Leatherwood** - March 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Gary - Fairfield

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**Jeff Leatherwood** - March 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Dear Uncle Bill, Billy, Tom, Tim, and Christy, we were so saddened to hear of Gary's passing. He was always so kind-hearted, and so funny. Many times after reunions, we would talk about & laugh at things Gary had said - especially when he teamed up with Billy. Everyone knew that when the two of them started telling stories, there would be lots of laughter. The Whitson story-telling gene was definitely passed down to Gary. We will miss him and share in your mourning. God Bless you all.

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**Donna Gregory Teafatiller** - March 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ So sorry Bill and family to hear about the loss of you son. We will keep you lifted up in prayers.

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**Robert T & Carolyn Fisher** - March 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Dear Bill and Family,  
We are so deeply saddened at the passing of Gary. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I was gone so much and always appreciated the time he spent with Bobby. Our family truly loved Gary, and we will miss the smiles and laughter he brought to us. May God bless and comfort each of you at this time.

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**Bobby and Earlene Robertson** - March 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ *On behalf of Freestone County Senior Services, we express our deepest sympathy and many prayers of comfort to the Whitson Family.*

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**Kathy Earley** - March 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM