



## GARY JOSEPH PALEN

July 20, 1955 - July 26, 2018

Gary Joseph Palen, 63 yrs. old of Brownsville, MN passed away on July 26, 2018 at Gunderson Hospital, La Crosse WI. He was born July 20, 1955 in Caledonia, MN to Ralph Arnold Palen and Carol Marie Walhovd/Palen/Heisler, one day before Ralph's birthday. Gary started school in Richland Center, WI and continued his elementary years in Brownsville, MN and in June of 1973 he graduated from Caledonia High School. Gary then went on to attend college at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse until 1975.

Gary always had an interest in music, but in Junior High under the mentoring of Alex Vaver and the High School Jazz Band he became more devoted to music. Music was Gary's passion and that continued to grow as he was in college studying music and participating in the UWL Marching Chiefs. He became more involved with different bands and artists throughout his life.

Just a few of the bands he played with where Bittersweet, Stinger, Passage, Doug and the Chicago Mob, Pipestone, Pearl Street Band, and backup bands for many national acts.

Gary traveled to many location with these various bands. One destination was going to the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway in 1994 where he played for the Olympians and the King of Norway. Another was his USO Tour in Asia where he was able to visit Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam. He also

played in Nevada, Washington, Tennessee, California, North and South Dakota, Illinois, Florida, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Many people have enjoyed listening to Gary play multiple instruments while doing vocals. His venues ranged from a world renowned stage, to his hometown, to family camping trips. He never needed a large audience only an opportunity to share his gifts.

While Gary was a performer first he also wrote and recorded music. He spent several hours composing various music selections and trying different techniques on his many guitars. His most endearing music was when he would record with his niece, nephew and son, Seth.

Gary stayed locally after the birth of his son, Seth in 1996. He was able to spend time with his family and his music.

He was a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe - White Earth Band.

Gary is survived by his parents: Robert and Carol Walhovd, son: Seth Palen, siblings: Susan (Palen) & Gary Reihl, Gerald Walhovd, Pamela Walhovd, nieces and nephews: Alesia (Adam) Hofschulte, Aaron (Christa) Reihl, Anthony Reihl, Natalie Stone, Anastasia Walhovd, Roslyn (Jordan) Walhovd, great-nephews and niece: Aiden and Arya Hofschulte, Harrison Reihl

Gary was preceded in death by his father: Ralph Palen, grandparents, John & Marie Heisler, Mathew & Armella Palen, Lester & Bertha Walhovd.

The family would like to thank Lakeview Health Center, West Salem, WI for their care and service of Gary.

Services for Gary will be at 11:30 am, Saturday, August 4th, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Brownsville, MN. Visitation will be from 9:30-11:30 am before the service, at Breza Hall, next to the church, with a rosary at 9:30 am. Luncheon will follow immediately after the mass, and burial will occur later at

Calvary Cemetery, Caledonia.

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ *This breaks my heart.*

*Carol Lynch Soike, Tucson, AZ*



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**Carol S** - October 17, 2019 at 02:09 PM

NO

“ *Very sorry for your loss. I had the privilege to here Gary play many times.*

*Missed seeing his smiling face all these years.*

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**Noreen A Oldenburg** - August 07, 2018 at 12:53 PM

KN

“ *This is a happy/sad memorial. Happy for Gary, and sad that I had never got the chance to talk to him after he had left Brownsville. Many times I remember him as uncle Gary Jo to his neices and nephews, from staying around Kayo's house, where he was the living grace that filled our atmosphere with his tenderness and inspiration. I love him, had a space in my heart waiting for his soul to return. Now it's in all us, his tribe of friends and folks who will always live for him and his relation to his family. Wishing you all the best, and all my love for us to share. God I miss him, and will want to make more memories of you all to last my lifetime.*

*Yours, Kurt Nelson Kayo's kid Brownsville, her reservation buddy from her care when I was a youngster. PS Proud of you all and your sharing with me in childhood when Gary was around, and proud we all got to be there.*

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**Kurt Nelson** - August 07, 2018 at 12:52 PM

JB

“ *I always enjoyed conversations with Gary when ever we met. I was fortunate to have heard him, play his music, but not often enough. Our deepest condolences.*

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**James Blair** - August 07, 2018 at 12:52 PM