



## Garey "Pappy" L. Yocum

May 13, 1934 - August 8, 2020

Garey "Pappy" L. Yocum, 86, Kearney, formerly of North Platte, passed away peacefully into the arms of his Savior, Jesus Christ Saturday August 8, 2020 at Good Samaritan Society St. John's in Kearney. Due to Ft. McPherson's restrictions concerning COVID-19, a private family graveside services will be August 13, 2020 at Ft. McPherson National Cemetery near Maxwell, Nebraska with Michael Yocum officiating. Military rites will be provided by the North Platte Veterans Honor Guard and the Nebraska National Guard Funeral Honors Team. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to the family to be designated later.

You may contact Michael Yocum at 402-889-5869 to get further information about a family gathering after the service.

Garey was born May 13, 1934 in Grand Island Nebraska, he lived a great part of his life in North Platte, Nebraska. He graduated from North Platte Senior High School and attended Kearney State Teachers college where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in education. While at Kearney State he played football and was on the NCC championship team. After college he served in the US Army participating in Operation Sagebrush, during the Korean Conflict. Garey married Patsy Harper on May 27, 1956 in North Platte. Garey taught and coached at Stapleton High School. Garey and Patsy moved to North Platte where he worked at Young's Sporting Goods traveling throughout

Nebraska, parts of Kansas and Colorado calling on schools. He then taught briefly in the North Platte School System. He worked for a short period of time there after for the Union Pacific Railroad. His heart and passion called him back to Young's Sporting Goods where eventually he became a part owner. He was actively involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes serving on the state board, worked high school track meets running the shotput and discus competitions. He was member of the American Legion and the First Baptist Church of North Platte, serving as a deacon, church treasurer, Sunday school superintendent and sang in the church choir. He loved watching kids and grandkids activities but most of all he loved sharing his love of the Lord! Gary had a passion for Christ, his family, his work, and sports. In his younger years he played fastpitch softball, ran road races, played racquetball, rode bicycle regularly, and actively hunted and fished.

Gary is survived by the love of his life, Patsy R. Yocum of Kearney, married 64 years; and their four children, Michael (Darcy) Yocum of Lincoln, NE, Shari (Greg) Neth of Sydney, OH, Traci (Rick) Humphrey of Comanche, TX, Dana (Dave) Welsh of Kearney; sister, Carolyn Cohen of Bertrand, 10 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, numerous family members, and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents Lawrence and Fonelle Donaldson, and brother Donald Lynn Yocum.

# Cemetery Details

## **Ft. McPherson National Cemetery**

12004 South Spur 56 A  
Maxwell, NE 69151

# Tribute Wall



“ *Garey "Pappy" L. Yocum*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Our condolences to "Pappy's" family as we share your loss. I coached at Venango, Chappell, and Grant during the 60's, 70's and 80's. Pappy called on our schools and always had an interest in our needs and made it a point each visit to talk with some of our student/athletes. He would compliment an individual on an accomplishment he had read in the Telegraph concerning a performance in a previous game. If our athletic department needed something prior to his normal call, he was there the next day. He knew all the coaches, administrators, numerous players at each school; he was definitely the right man for his job. We purchased a lot of equipment because it was Pappy making the offer, not necessarily Youngs Sporting Goods. He worked for a great business and represented them so well. Former Coach Tom Lawson*



Thomas Lawson - August 22, 2020 at 11:29 AM

TD

“ Patsy....Gary and I never met formally, but we played against each other in football my junior year. I was the center for Kearney and Gary gave me nothing but fits the entire game, even causing me at one point to snap the ball over our punter's head! He was a challenge to block. I'm glad to know that he went on to play at the college level. Following that game I did not get a chance to talk to him, but the next day I checked the sports page for his name. Am sorry I never got to tell him in person how impressed I was with his style of play. I believe he was a senior that year. The fact I never forgot his name tells you something. And yes, NP won.

Tom Detwiler  
Chadron, NE

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Tom Detwiler - August 15, 2020 at 01:34 PM

DC

“ I worked with Gary for 15 to 20 years at Young's Sporting Goods. A couple of my fondest memories are, our road trips to the Kansas City Sporting Goods show with Gary and Patsy and Ray and Wonda Young, fun times. And playing racket ball with Gary at the NP Rec center. We would meet at the Rec Center at 6 AM several mornings a week and play doubles with others. No one has ever treated me better than Gary did. When I think of Gary, two scripture passages come to mind, Philippians 2:3-4, and 1 John 4:7. Humility, kindness and love. God sent to earth a gift of love when He sent us His Son Jesus Christ.

Heaven received that love gift back when Gary went home to Heaven.

I'm sorry for your loss.

Dennis Collins

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Dennis M Collins - August 15, 2020 at 12:19 PM

DY

“ I am saddened to hear of Garey's passing. I enjoyed and appreciated being associated with Garey for many years, and I know my Dad did too. Best wishes and my condolences to the Yocum family

*Dennis Young*

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**Dennis Young** - August 15, 2020 at 12:19 AM

PG

“ Patsy and family,  
We are so sorry to hear of Garey's passing! He would often visit my father, Sonny Sawyer, when he was so ill with cancer! My Dad truly enjoyed his visits as I did! He was a breath of fresh air in an otherwise difficult situation!  
Prayers that his memories gives you comfort! God bless you!  
*Pam Sawyer Graupensperger*

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**Pam Sawyer Graupensperger** - August 14, 2020 at 02:09 PM

CC

“ Dear Patsy and family,  
Our thought and prayers are with all of you at this time. Garey was a special man and he will be missed greatly. I am so glad to have known him and to have worked with him at Young's . He truly did have a passion for the Lord and it showed there.  
God Bless,  
*Jim and Chris Conner*

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**Chris Conner** - August 14, 2020 at 10:34 AM

DM

“ I will think of Garey every time I make a batch of jelly. I know he enjoyed it as much as I did making it.  
Dawn M.

Dawn M - August 13, 2020 at 10:36 PM

ML

“ My thoughts and prayers out out to all of you. To all the grandkids and great grandkids just remember one day you well all get to see your grandpa and great grandpa again.

Mary M Loop - August 12, 2020 at 10:16 PM

MS

“ Garey was my mentor from the time I was in junior high. He helped make me a better person in so many ways. He would coach me and encourage me in all my athletic ventures. Then he helped me get my first job at Young's Sporting Goods where I worked most of my life up to 1998. I would not be where I am today without Garey's guidance. He was the best! I will always cherish my memories of Garey. Mark Stadler

Mark Stadler - August 12, 2020 at 06:35 PM

TF

“ Shari, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



Tammy Foley - August 12, 2020 at 03:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of  
Garey "Pappy" L. Yocum.



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August 12, 2020 at 02:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of  
Garey "Pappy" L. Yocum.



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August 11, 2020 at 08:09 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of  
Garey "Pappy" L. Yocum.



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August 11, 2020 at 03:44 PM