

Gary Michael Doxtater

March 17, 1948 - January 31, 2025

Gary Michael Doxtater, age 76, of James City County, passed away unexpectedly on January 31, 2025. Born in Rochester, New York, Gary graduated from veterinary school at Michigan State University and went on to become a respected large animal veterinarian in Williamsburg and the surrounding areas for 45 years. A devout Catholic, Gary was a parishioner of St. Olaf's Church in Williamsburg. Gary's many passions included music – he played guitar and sang in several bands throughout his life and attended music festivals with his son, Oliver. He was also an avid gardener, world traveler, sports enthusiast, and fisherman.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Ardelle, and his sister Gail. He is survived by his wife Carol, his son Oliver (Megan), his stepson Brett (Kirsten), his grandchildren; Ophelia, Elin, Welles, and Sigrid, his brothers; Greg (Jean) and Larry (Carol), brother in-law Mike, and his nephews; Scott, Keith, and Christopher.

A funeral mass will be held for Gary at St. Olaf's Church in Williamsburg, Virginia on Friday, February 7th at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Gary's honor to the Saint Olaf Food Pantry in Williamsburg; <https://www.stolaf.cc/Food-Pantry>.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

FEB 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Olaf'S Church
104 Norge Lane
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Tribute Wall

BA

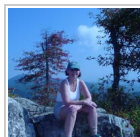
“ I'm at Gary for the first time at a jam session in about 1981. We then formed a band a few years later and over the years I played in quite a few bands with him. My favorite memories would be playing with Gary and the band, "Hot Potato". Everybody in the band had a nickname and Gary's was Mr Potato Head. I sure do miss him as a dear friend and a mentor and also a great bandmate.

Bob Albergotti - November 04, 2025 at 08:04 PM

WA

“ Sending love out to Carol and the family. I first met Gary when I moved to VA in '88. I brought my horse with me and Tidewater Equine was the veterinary service I used. I later became a neighbor when I moved to Croaker. The neighborhood had many little horse farms and Gary was the vet for most all of them. As many have said, he was a kind and gentle person and animal vet. He will be missed by so many.

Wendy Winstead (aka Abby) - March 24, 2025 at 09:08 AM



“ Gary was my first veterinarian when I first moved to Virginia and bought my first horse many years ago. Over these years, he has always been kind and compassionate with all of my horses and was always there to help me since that time. Condolences to his family and to his Tidewater Equine family.

Marianne Bobskill



Marianne Bobskill - March 16, 2025 at 02:26 PM

DD

“ Met the Great Doctor first when he was practicing at all creatures on route 60, I will never forget him coming out to our suv and administering vaccination shots to our new pup. Wonderful man he will be sorely missed. RIP Doc.

Jean and Donn DeMarzio

Donn DeMarzio - February 26, 2025 at 04:48 PM

BH

“ I first met Dr. Doxtater in the 80's, when he first started "Tidewater Equine Clinic". One of my cows got an apple stuck in her throat. Since she had it in there all day, he had to unstop her from both ends. He told me later that when he retired and wrote a book, as most veterinarians do, that cow experience would be chapter 1. Sadly, he didn't get that book written. I will really miss him coming out in that white van to check on my cattle.

Billy Hott - February 15, 2025 at 03:50 PM

KM

“ A fine musician and person!



Kenneth Mas - February 07, 2025 at 02:51 PM


HA

“ *A caring and compassionate person. My dear friend and musical compatriot. There are no words. The world is less with you gone.*

Howard Anby - February 07, 2025 at 09:07 AM

KW

“ *What an amazing veterinarian and person Gary was, and he had a remarkable life. He helped CW livestock and my own horses for over 30 years. We all have fond memories of the horse community going out at night and hearing him play after a day at work. To Carol and Tidewater Equine may your memories of Gary give you comfort today, and in the future, he will always be with you in spirit.*



Dennis and Karen Watson

Karen V Watson - February 07, 2025 at 07:18 AM

RM

“ *Gary was an amazing individual, as a friend, a veterinarian and musician. I'll always cherish the connection we shared through horses and music, as my late fiancé had the pleasure of playing alongside him in their band. His wife, Carol, showed me incredible kindness during a difficult time after Chuck's passing. I feel grateful to have called them friends. Rest in peace, Gary. Your unique spirit will be deeply missed, and those who knew you are truly blessed. My condolences to his wife, Carol and the rest of his family, colleagues and friends.*

Rebecca McMillan - February 07, 2025 at 03:43 AM

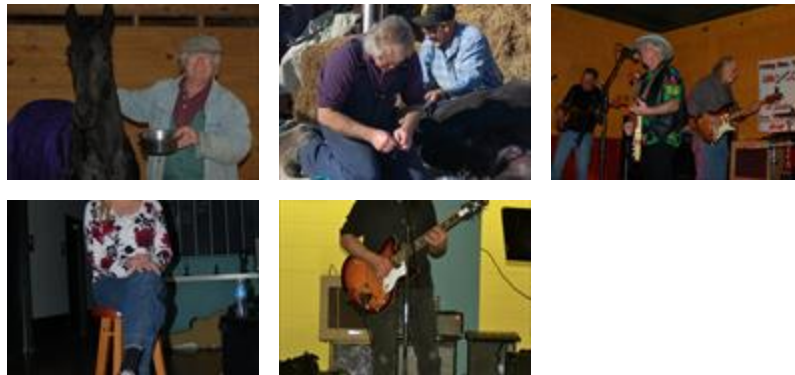
AR

“ *My college roommate for our first 2 years at MSU, and FRIENDS, since.*
My sincere Condolences to Gary's family, and may his memory, be for a Blessing!!!! ❤️

Allan Weiss ,Olivers college Roommate. - February 06, 2025 at 11:13 PM

RH

“ *14 files added to the album Gary photos*



Robert Hale - February 06, 2025 at 06:37 PM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss*



Thomas Widgeon - February 06, 2025 at 01:32 PM

JB

“ *Carol, family and Tidewater Family; my sincere and deepest sympathies to you. What a special man Gary was. I know you will all miss him terribly. Condolences to you.*

Jenny Boswell - February 06, 2025 at 10:08 AM

CL

To Carol, family and Tidewater Family, God Bless everyone. My deepest sympathies to you. He was a great Doctor, great person. He helped so many horses, including mine. It was a blessing knowing him and I am so thankful to God that he was there to help me with my horses. He has been a blessing to many, and he will surly be missed.

Carol Loth - February 06, 2025 at 08:38 PM

LW

“ Deepest condolences for his passing. He was my vet from my very first horse to the present. A caring and compassionate person, he took great care of them, and was very kind to me, as well. From routine visits, to seeing Cookie through accidentally impaling herself, to her final breath last spring, he was a calm, comforting presence. Just recently he talked me through the colic of one of my horses, I think of it as a blessing to have been able to talk with him, not knowing it would be the last time. I'm so glad I got to tell him how much I appreciated him. He will be greatly missed.

Linda Weiss - February 06, 2025 at 08:53 AM

CP

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. What a sweet and gentle soul! i pray the Lord will hold his family and friends in the palm of his HIS hands and give you comfort.

Carol Pitts



Carol Pitts - February 06, 2025 at 06:24 AM

LA

“ Gary literally saved my sanity when the first and then the second horses I ever owned had to be euthanized due to catastrophic injuries/colic. So calm, so rational, so caring. Those qualities of his enabled me to endure so much pain. I will ALWAYS hold him in my heart, as will my family. Bless him and bless his family: he talked about you all often and loved you so much.

Lu Ann - February 06, 2025 at 12:42 AM

DW

“ Gary was a wonderfully, compassionate veterinarian. His gentle, calming demeanor was so welcome in all situations. My heart and prayers are with his immediate family, his practice family, and all who loved him.



Donna Wilson - February 05, 2025 at 11:25 PM

LS

“ Lynn Stivers lit a candle in memory of Gary Michael Doxtater



Lynn Stivers - February 05, 2025 at 11:11 PM

PK

“ Sending our sincere sympathy and condolences to Gary's family. He was a special person as well as a wonderful Vet ,both for our family and countless other grateful patients. We send our Prayers for God's comfort and peace. The Kona Family

Pamela Kona - February 05, 2025 at 07:32 PM

AS

“ *Angie Sternberg lit a candle in memory of Gary Michael Doxtater*



Angie Sternberg - February 05, 2025 at 07:23 PM

SW

“ *Sherry West lit a candle in memory of Gary Michael Doxtater*



sherry west - February 05, 2025 at 05:36 PM

SG

“ *This is Steve George and I want to send my most sincere condolences to the entire family. Gary became one of my best friends after meeting him in high school! That was senior year 1965. 50 years....unbelievable!! He will be forever in my heart and soul!*

Stephen M George - February 05, 2025 at 04:00 PM

SD

“ Gary,

I always viewed you as the "Cool Uncle" because you played guitar and sang in bands and we shared some of the same musical interests. You had a great sense of humor and you always made me laugh without even trying. I will miss your quick wit and your unique perspective on things. I know you are a believer, so I look forward to seeing you again in heaven with our Lord Jesus.

I love you Uncle Gary and I will miss you!

Scott Doxtater - February 05, 2025 at 03:29 PM

EK

Jack and I were so sorry to hear of Gary's passing, We got to know him when we started with horses and through many years of showing horses all over the US. Not only was he an outstanding Vet but became a good friend, easy going always with a smile and ready to tease you about something. He loved his son and was always talking about him. Prayers for his family during this time.

Ethel and Jack King - February 06, 2025 at 02:31 PM

AB

I am so saddened to hear of Gary's passing. I first met Gary when he moved to Michigan and attended Brother Rice High School. As it turned out, this new kid was fun to be around and he fit right in with our little group of like minded goofballs who all had an interest in good music. It was also fortuitous that I'd have good friends at MSU when Gary and Steve "the Cat" George chose to go there as well. Even though we lived on opposite sides of campus and played in different bands around East Lansing, we made time to see each other and catch up on the latest happenings.

In recent years, on one of Gary and Carol's visits to Michigan, Steve invited Gary, Paul Hursley and myself to his home for a boat ride and a day of renewing our friendship with each other. It was wonderful to see my good friends again and particularly Gary as I knew his time in Michigan was limited. Sadly, it would be one of the last times I would ever see Gary again. While the passing years had taken their toll on our physical attributes, the strength of my friendship with Gary had endured. Gary was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. I will miss his smile and his witty banter that always made me laugh. I am proud to have known him over these many years and I will cherish his memory for as long as I live.

*Rest gently my good friend.....
Ole Artie Balfe*

Arthur Balfe - February 06, 2025 at 05:23 PM

DD

“ *Donna Douglas lit a candle in memory of Gary Michael Doxtater*

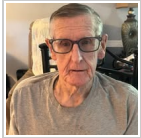


Donna Douglas - February 05, 2025 at 02:29 PM

AC

“ He he always had a smile driving up metal beat up white van I used to laugh at him and say why don't you get a newer van and he would just smile and say he still working a wonderful person excellent veterinarian the best bed side of being gentle and kind and would help you any kind of way with your animal you will be missed I'm glad I got to know you and I'm glad you got to take care of my horses and I bet you're singing up in the choir your friend Angela Collins

Angela Collins - February 05, 2025 at 01:16 PM



“ Nancy Garthright lit a candle in memory of Gary Michael Doxtater



Nancy Garthright - February 05, 2025 at 12:26 PM



“ Mary Jones lit a candle in memory of Gary Michael Doxtater



Mary Jones - February 05, 2025 at 12:12 PM

KD

“ Karen P Disse lit a candle in memory of Gary Michael Doxtater



Karen P Disse - February 05, 2025 at 07:34 AM

BS

Gary and I met at Michigan State University in 1967. We became fraternity brothers there and lifelong friends. We embarked on a two-month hitchhiking trip after we graduated across the western US. There were so many memories of that trip we would reminisce about when we got together over the years. Although we lived on opposite sides of the country, we still got together at homecoming at MSU, his visits to California and Idaho where I lived and my visits to Virginia over the years. He was a fantastic person, and I will miss him.

Bob Shaw - February 05, 2025 at 09:34 AM

SC

Bob Shaw....I remember you from MSU!
In 1965, Gary came to Brother Rice High School in Birmingham, Michigan and we became fast friends. We both got accepted at Michigan State University and we were roommates for 2 years, along with Steve 'Redeye' Peltz and Wacky Weiss! We had great times together....both of us were in music bands playing for fraternities and other parties. His band was 'Francis X and the Bushmen', mine was the Victor Talking Machine Company! Great memories from college and beyond. When Gary moved to Virginia, we stayed in touch and he came back to Detroit to visit family thru the years.. We always got together with the 'old gang' every time he was in town! Art Balfe (Ole Artie), Paul 'McCartney' Hursley, et. al. Gary was just back in the 'D' before Christ=mas 2024 and that was our last reunion. Unfortunately, at that time, Gary told me he wasn't feeling well, but he didnt mention anything in particular. God bless his soul....what a wonderful friend and lifelong partner in crime, and whatever else life had to offer us!!
Steve "The Cat" George

Steve "The Cat" - February 05, 2025 at 12:06 PM

BB

Brian Boyle... I got a job working w/ Gary as my first job out of vet school, kept in touch w/ him over the years, got together when life allowed and I called him on St Paddies day (his birthday) every year so I only learned of his passing today. Gary always had a smile on his face and he radiated that warmth on to everyone he encountered. We both loved to 'rock out' and had many fun jams together. The world is a lot less welcoming without you in it, God bless and we'll see on the other side my friend.

Brian J Boyle - March 17, 2025 at 08:01 PM