



Gary Louis Vance, MD

January 17, 1942 - February 27, 2026

Gary Louis Vance was born in Columbus, Nebraska on January 17, 1942, to Louis and Ernestine Vance. He grew up in a farming family in Chappell, Nebraska, where he engaged in the community and demonstrated dedication and leadership. Gary was proud to attend the Boy Scout Jamboree in Valley Forge, PA, and achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

He went on to attend Hastings College, where he was very involved in the band, choir, and many other activities. He graduated with distinction and was recognized with the Bronco Award in 1963.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Gary attended medical school at the University of Nebraska. It was during this time that he met his wife, Louise Erickson. The two were married in 1966. Gary began his medical career with an internship in Ogden, Utah, and completed his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Washington. During their time in Washington, Gary and Louise welcomed their children, Andrew and Jeanette.

The Vance family moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, where Gary took his first job at Poudre Valley Hospital. After eight years in Fort Collins, they relocated to Yuma, Arizona, and later to Grand Island, Nebraska. As their children grew up and left home, Gary and Louise spent time in Iowa and Arizona before eventually returning to Fort Collins.

Throughout his life, Gary enjoyed a wide range of activities. He played baritone and marched with the Shrine Band, loved boating, and indulged his wanderlust traveling the country by RV, often taking his grandchildren to various national parks. In recent years, he sang bass in the Silvertones Senior Choir and enjoyed meeting up with his Tuesday breakfast buddies to talk sports and life. Gary was also an avid gardener who gladly shared his harvests with friends and family. He was a passionate Nebraska Cornhuskers fan, and an animal lover—especially devoted to his Havapoo, Olli.

Gary was a loving and generous husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Louise, his son Andrew and his wife Yolanda, his daughter Jeanette and her husband Jeff, grandchildren Peter and Lydia Vance, and Alex and Calli Errett, and his sister Janet and her husband Larry. Please consider a donation in his memory to the Food Bank for Larimer County, Pathways Hospice, or a favorite charity.

Tribute Wall

YF

“ When I think of Gary, I think of how much he loved sharing his love of boating and gardening with his friends and family. In fact, one of my early memories of Gary was him teaching me how to waterski. Gary took special delight in sharing these joys with his grandchildren♥♥.



Yolanda Fintschenko - March 17 at 09:17 PM

PV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Peter Vance - March 11 at 08:33 PM

LV

“ When I was maybe 6 years old I had a loose tooth that was bothering me. Grandpa sat me down, numbed me up, and yanked it out. Then, we sat outside the RV and ate chocolate covered bananas.

He was a man of action, and a lover of simple pleasures like reading a 600 page non-fiction book and having a midday bowl of ice cream.

What fantastic traits he taught me, and what precious memories he gave me.



Lydia Vance - March 03 at 08:52 PM

JE

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Jen Errett - March 04 at 11:01 AM

EA

“ We pool people at EPIC are saddened to have lost Gary and send heartfelt condolences to Gary's family. He was a good man and is sorely misses. May he rest in peace. A memorial gift to the Food Bank is on its way. Elva and our "Twinges" group.

Elva Alden - March 03 at 03:48 PM

BE

It was always great to see Gary at EPIC and talk sports - especially Nebraska football -- with him. He will be missed.

Brent Eskew - March 03 at 07:39 PM

MR

Gary and I would talk “tomatoes” at Epic. I failed at it, despite his many recommendations. We also sang in the Silvertones. He will be sorely missed . Marta Rose

marta rose - March 06 at 01:42 PM

DW

Gary sat next to me throughout medical school since we all sat alphabetically. We enjoyed the good times and worked together the tough times. They lived across from us in our apartment as we attended residency at the U of Washington Seattle. Gary was always special to us and we visited them many times over the years. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and the family. Dennis and Jane Wright

DENNIS WRIGHT - March 07 at 10:06 AM

YF

It was such a pleasure getting to swim with Gary and the Twinges group when I was visiting. He sure loved your group❤️

Yolanda Fintschenko - March 17 at 09:10 PM

JE

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Jen Errett - March 03 at 10:29 AM

AV

“ 8 files added to the album Gary's album



Andy Vance - March 03 at 09:31 AM