



Mr. Garret Richard Swihart

January 4, 1941 - January 14, 2022

Garret Richard Swihart, aged 81, passed away peacefully in the afternoon of Friday, January 14, 2022 at the Oilfields General Hospital in Black Diamond after a long and courageous battle with C.O.P.D. He died with his devoted wife and best friend of 30 years, Karen by his side.

Garret was born in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan on January 4, 1941. In 1943, his parents Gene and Emma Swihart moved with their three children to Fort Macleod, Alberta. They then moved to Lethbridge in 1957.

Garret met Karen in 1992, and they were wed in April of 2011. They made their home in High River.

Garret loved his children and had a special way with all children. He made friends with them wherever he went, and they gravitated towards him. It was such a joy to observe those relationships. He was ever the teacher and friend; every moment was a teaching moment. He was a kind, caring, and gentle man with impeccable manners, he was loving and deeply loved in turn. He was a beautiful man in every way, and a well-respected member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Sunshine Branch, High River. He was an avid fly fisherman and loved the outdoors, camping and golfing.

Garret retired from teaching in June of 1998. He taught Building Construction

at St. Francis High School in Calgary for over 30 years. Garret was more than a teacher to his students and made a difference in their lives; he became a father figure and mentor because he truly cared about the whole person. He taught them a trade but a recent comment from a former student was that, "He taught me more than wood; he taught me how to be a man." We will never know how many lives Garret touched, or the life lessons that are still with his students today.

After retiring from teaching, Garret worked for City Links Calgary working with seniors. He loved working with seniors as much as working with children and he stayed there for 7 years. The impact he left on his clients remained well after his retirement and they continued to seek out his help even after he no longer worked there - he would of course help them.

Garret is survived by his wife Karen, his two children Garret Jr. (Marianne) Swihart and Gayla (John) DeHart, as well as three grandchildren, Ty Swihart, Daisy DeHart and Aja DeHart. He was a stepfather and grandfather to Karen's daughters; Nicole Crawford and her 4 children, Devon, Ashlyn, Myka, and Seth, and Glenda Crawford and her 3 children Gregory, Jesse and Trey.

He is also survived by his sister Novajean and her 6 children; Ben (Arlene), Bonnie (Brent), Yvonne, Dale (Susan), Renae, as well as 13 nephews and nieces, and 17 great-nephews and nieces.

Garret was predeceased by his nephew Gord in 2014, and his niece Gloria in 2015.

We are grateful to the nursing staff at the Oilfields General Hospital and the Palliative Care Team who made Garret's last days comfortable. He felt well cared for and would often comment how good they were to him. Thank you for your compassion.

A Graveside Service has been delayed. Further information will be made available at a later time.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals (Craig Snodgrass) of High River
403.652.4242.

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I have great memories of Garret, in his shop at St Francis, on the ice at Friday Hockey games and on the Golf course in High River.. He was always teaching some fine points in all of those activities related to St Francis High School.

John Phillips

John Phillips - January 26, 2022 at 02:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Adam Uncle Garret



Adam Bell Schmidt - January 26, 2022 at 01:03 PM

AB

My understanding loving uncle he have wonderful memories that he deserves it and he got beautiful wife Karen he love all his kids wife and he is loving sister my grandmother Novajean swihart uncle whatever you go my heart alway stay with you no matter you are in my family and I love you so very much and I really do and I really appreciate what you do and heaven god please take good care my loving uncle thank you

Adam Bell - March 26, 2024 at 11:26 PM

DM

“ Condolences to Karen and family! ❤️

dave manley - January 25, 2022 at 09:33 PM

JB

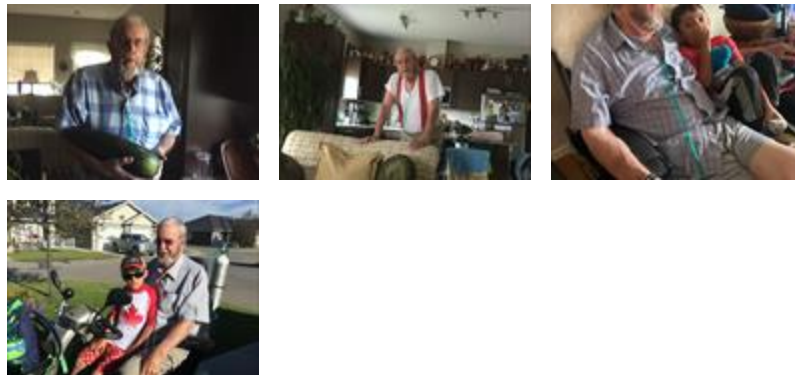
“ Greetings to Garret’s family at this difficult time. I was privileged to have Garret as a colleague and friend at St. Francis High School and regret that we lost touch after our retirements. While at St. Francis I enjoyed dropping in on his meticulously kept shop. It was pleasing to witness the remarkable relationships he developed with his shop students. They had great respect for him and his craftsmanship.

Sincere condolences. Jerome Berger

Jerome Berger - January 24, 2022 at 12:32 PM

KS

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Karen Swihart - January 23, 2022 at 05:35 PM

KE

“ Deepest condolences in your loss. Lon ,Kelly, and Pam Bakken.

Kelly - January 23, 2022 at 01:24 PM

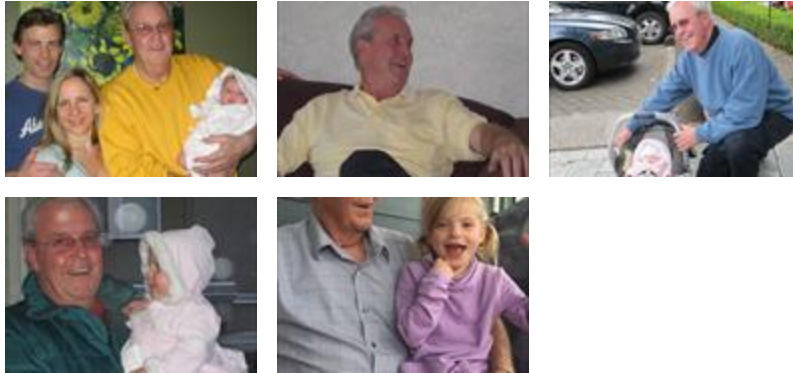
AW

“ I am sorry to hear Garrett passed away. My sincere condolences to all of his loved ones. Arlene (Teigen) Washburn

Arlene (Teigen) Washburn - January 23, 2022 at 01:18 AM

GD

“ 23 files added to the album Memories Album



Gayla Swihart DeHart - January 22, 2022 at 08:25 AM

GS

My father Born in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, on Jan. 4, 1941, Garret attended Hamilton Junior High School in Lethbridge, Lethbridge Collegiate Institute high school, and SAIT where he received his Carpenter/building constructor journeyman certificate. He studied at University of Alberta for his teacher's certificate before taking his young family to St. Lucia, West Indies (1970-1973) where he taught at a British college, organized through the Canadian International Development Agency.

Garret was a long-time shop teacher at St Francis High School in Calgary, known as "Mr. Swihart" until he retired (??). He then worked as a carpenter and as a civil servant for the City of Calgary, helping seniors make their homes safe. Garret was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For much of his life, he was an athlete, an accomplished golfer, basketball player, a hockey goaltender and boxer. He enjoyed fishing and could use a machete to hack open a coconut with ease and precision. He was a hard-working, detail-oriented man who loved children, enjoyed dancing, cooking and working with his hands. He also had a beautiful singing voice. Garret excelled at everything he did and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Garret Arthur Swihart - January 22, 2022 at 12:57 PM

DS

So sorry Garret, your father was so proud of you and your father always gave me a update on how his children were doing.
Don Summersgill

Donald Summersgill - January 24, 2022 at 08:29 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lyle Reeves Funerals - January 21, 2022 at 04:41 PM

GS

Garret was a beloved husband, father, Papa, uncle, teacher and friend.

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Garret Arthur Swihart - January 21, 2022 at 07:56 PM

SF

“ Hello: I used to work with Garret at The City of Calgary. He was such a great mentor, teacher and friend. I am so sorry to hear this news. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. May he Rest in Peace. Susan Fernando

Susan Fernando - January 19, 2022 at 01:41 PM

KS

Thank you for this Susan. Mentor, teacher and friend. Lovely tribute. He was the best man I have ever known. Sincerely, Karen Swihart

Karen Swihart - January 23, 2022 at 05:27 PM



I be here for uncle funeral Love you

Adam Bell Schmidt - January 26, 2022 at 12:59 PM