



Mr. Gary John Klessens

July 1, 1946 - March 22, 2014

Gary John Klessens, 67, passed away in Nanton, AB on Saturday, March 22, 2014. He was born on July 31, 1946, in Billings, MT to Peter and Irma Klessens of Red Lodge. Gary attended grade school in Fox and high school in Red Lodge, MT. It was there he met his high school sweetheart, Rita Niemi. They were married on November 3, 1962, in St. Anthony, ID.

The first few years were spent working on local ranches. In 1968 they embarked on a pioneer adventure and traveled north to the Peace River country in northern British Columbia, Canada. After spending two years in Fort St. John, B.C. and another two years in Grande Prairie, AB they moved to Nanton, AB which became their permanent residence. It was at this time that Gary began a career of over 35 years in the livestock order buying business. His lifelong love of cattle and ranching led him to acquiring their ranch outside of Roy, MT.

Gary enjoyed all sports; especially golf, fishing, and team roping. He also took pride in coaching his daughters' fastball teams and cheering on his grandchildren at their hockey games. Gary and Rita were very fortunate to have travelled extensively. Surprisingly, being a small town country boy, Gary made every trip an adventure.

Gary is survived by his wife of 51 years, Rita. His two daughters, Kateri (Bill)

Holmes and Ashli (Mark) Wright both of Nanton. Grandchildren; Jordon Klessens-Nichols, Mike and Lorelle Holmes, Ty and Makena Wright. Sisters, Mary Ann (George) Mathes of Roberts, MT, Patricia (Allen) Eik of Joliet, MT. and numerous nieces and nephews. Gary was predeceased by his parents, his brother Ronald and his grandson Lane Holmes.

At Gary's request no funeral service will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Mosquito Creek Foundation, Box 40, Nanton AB Canada, T0L 1R0 or the Roy Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Department, Roy, MT 59471. To send condolences and view Gary's Tribute Page please visit www.lylereeves.com . Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (403.652.4242).

Tribute Wall

MA

“ Hi papa still missing u 🥺💕💕

makena - June 12, 2015 at 05:31 PM

MW

“ Missing you everyday papa <3 I love you!!<3

makena wright - July 21, 2014 at 12:09 AM

MS

“ *Rita and family,
It was with sorrow that we read of your loss. We have such fond and funny memories of our time with both of you. Those times were long ago but they will always be with us and always bring a smile. We send you our heartfelt thoughts at such a sad time.
Sincerely,
Bob and Mavis*

mavis swann - April 20, 2014 at 10:53 AM

BD

“ *Rita and Family*

We are very sorry to hear of Gary's untimely passing. Thanks, Ashli, for calling.

In the early 70s Gary was recommended to us, as a dependable order buyer to source our calves from Alberta. Our first meeting with Gary and Rita, would have been about 1977, when they were on a PR trip to Ontario.

Many trips to their beautiful Ranch at Nanton followed, the last time being in 2001, when Gary drove us around the pasture to show us his latest venture "the raising of Rodeo Bulls" He knew all of their names, and what their attributes were.

Gary's memory was amazing; being able to remember cattle that he bought for us in prior years, as well as knowing all of his customer's phone numbers.

To the Klessens Family -- Thank you for your friendship, hospitality, and being a

wonderful "cattle partner" over so many years.

Rita Kateri, and Ashli-- Our thoughts are with you at this 'sad time'

Bill & Susan Dykes

Bill Dykes - March 28, 2014 at 09:39 AM

CL

“ *Cheryl & Sten Lundberg lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary John Klessens*



Cheryl & Sten Lundberg - March 26, 2014 at 06:30 PM

CL

Thoughts and prayers go out to you in this time of sorrow, and we hope faith and friendship will guide you through each new tomorrow! May fond memories of Gary always live on in your hearts! Blessings to all the family!

Cheryl & Sten Lundberg - March 26, 2014 at 06:39 PM

WT

“ *Rita and Family*

We always had so much fun were ever we would run into you and Gary,A few sipirts,lots of laughs and many good memories! Always fun doing bussiness with Gary, he truly was one of the good guys. We send our sincerest sympathy from Casa Grande

Wayne & Faye Thurber

wayne thurber - March 26, 2014 at 04:26 PM

RB

“ *Rita, Kateri, Ashley:*

I am so sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of the times I did get to spend with Uncle Gary as well as with all of you. May he rest in peace now. Love to you all!

Ronda Klessens Bell

Ronda Klessens Bell - March 26, 2014 at 01:24 PM

RE

“ Memories??---I'll say:

----thinking it a good idea to just not go to bed at 5 when we had a 7 tee time

----the 'infamous' 9 day diet when we all decided to get skinny---my poor friend dreaming of eating a worm off his pillow.

----toiling late into the wee hours planning the First nite rodeo--LOL

----counting cattle of liners when we probably couldn't count our fingers.

----beating the girls at golf at Sedona thanks to his 'well practiced' foot wedge.

Yes---the memories flow free when you lose a soul mate

Be well girls---We love you all!

Ross and Gail

Ross Edey - March 26, 2014 at 11:26 AM

JC

“ Rita, Kateri, Ashley and families - so sorry to hear of the loss of your husband and father Gary was an outstanding cattleman and a good straight up man to deal with. I was pleased to know him and hear some of the stories.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you to have the strength you need to find peace and comfort.

John and Tami Cartwright



John and Tami Cartwright - March 25, 2014 at 09:45 PM

LK

“ Rita, Katerri, Ashley and families, It was a shock to hear about Gary's passing, our sincere sympathy I worked with Gary for a lot of years, and he will be truly missed by all that new him. I truly respected the man. Linda and Rick Kohlruss



Linda Kohlruss - March 25, 2014 at 08:12 PM

DD

“ Rita and family With our sympathy Duane and Lois Duncan

Duane duncan - March 25, 2014 at 02:50 PM

LD

“ *Rita and family,
Wow, so darn hard. Yes we all had some great times.
Remember when you guys lived at the Rudd place, just down the
road. Jerry and I stopped by & picked you up and we headed to
Bozeman for the College Rodeo..... we had a few beverages along
the way and you and I really needed a pit stop. Road construction
and all...Bozeman hill..... you and I went down over the bank,
unknowingly grabed an electric fence wire - Yes the ground was
wet from rain....wearing mocs. - Yikes!! We took care of business,
back up the bank giggling and on to Bozeman we went. Yes, good
times were had by all. Gary was a mans man and a wonderful
friend. So special!!*

Cherish those special memories.....

God Bless you all.

Jerry and Loretta Hoines Dell

Loretta Dell - March 25, 2014 at 02:38 PM

DM

“ *RIP Uncle Gary*



Darla, Harold & Sabrina Morgan - March 25, 2014 at 12:13 PM

JL

“ Rita and Family, Teri Marie pointed out to me Gary's OB. My memories of Gary are the times we enjoyed telling our life stories over a few glasses of spirits. You can be sure I'll carry on telling the story of when the two of you moved north and the heifers escaped and Gary had to leave you alone while he had to pursue them behind the wolves that were already tracking them. Gary was a man's man and I just know he was tuff to the end. I will honor and respect him in my memory and would enjoy sitting down with him (but not real soon) and sharing stories over some good whiskey. I'll always remember the relationship you and he have as being very special. We wish and Pray your family the strength to find peace and comfort. There has to be a GOD!!! Men and Women like Gary didn't come from Evolution. Johnny e. Berger and Teri Marie Lincoln

Johnny e. Berger Teri Marie Lincoln - March 25, 2014 at 11:47 AM

JB

“ Jack & Carol Ball lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary John Klessens



Jack & Carol Ball - March 25, 2014 at 10:55 AM

BM

“ Rita, Having just read in the Gazette about Gary my heart fell to my knees, I am so sorry, words can not relate how one feels and I can only say I am so damn sorry. Remembering the two of you when you lived at the Rudd place, his being an inspiration to just life, his love for you and always a damn good chuckle. He was just a damn good person and man and my heart felt sympathy goes out to you.

Branger Miller

Branger Miller - March 25, 2014 at 03:26 AM

TS

“ *Ted & Samantha Sell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary John Klessens*



Ted & Samantha Sell - March 25, 2014 at 02:15 AM

GW

“ *Glen & Helen Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary John Klessens*



Glen & Helen Williams - March 25, 2014 at 12:57 AM

SL

“ *Rita , Kateri , Ashley and family's.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time of your great loss.

Gary will truly be missed.

Bernie & Susan Lalonde

Susan & Bernie Lalonde - March 24, 2014 at 11:40 PM

RN

“ Dear Kateri:

We were sad to hear of the passing of Gary. It seems so unfair that he left everyone at such a young age. I have fond memories of the good times we shared. He truly was an outstanding man and well respected in the cattle industry. Hold the memories of him close to your heart and he will always be with you.

Rob & Ericka Nichols



Rob & Ericka Nichols - March 24, 2014 at 08:24 PM

RN

This message should have been addressed to Kateri & Family. Realized it had not been after it was shared. Our thoughts are with all of you during this difficult time. Rob & Ericka

Rob & Ericka Nichols - March 24, 2014 at 08:36 PM

CH

“ Rita, Katerri, Ashley and families - so sorry to hear of the loss of your husband and father - cherish the memories.

Eric and Cheryl Heinz

Cheryl Heinz - March 24, 2014 at 07:24 PM

CC

“ Cathy Couey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary John Klessens



Cathy Couey - March 24, 2014 at 09:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Lyle Reeves Funerals - March 23, 2014 at 12:56 PM

BS

“ Dear Rita, Katerri, Ashley and family. We are so saddened in the loss of Gary. He was an awesome man and we feel so blessed to have been a friend of his and your family. We had a lot wonderful times together and we will always cherish those memories. He was the best in the cattle business and we were always so pleased dealing with you & Gary.. Please take care and our thoughts and prayers are with you .Love
Bruce & Bonnie



Bruce & Bonnie Smith - March 23, 2014 at 11:24 AM

FW

“ Rita
I am so sorry to learn of Gary's passing. I enjoyed our many years of business association and the times I enjoyed your hospitality at your residence. He was certainly one of my favorite people and we all had many laughs when we had occasion to meet. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Fran Wong

Fran Wong - March 23, 2014 at 10:41 AM

KC

“ *Dear Klessens Family*

We want to send our sincere sympathy on the passing of Gary. We knew that our cattle would be in the best of care when Gary was onboard to get the job done, even though we only had a few. A good neighbor and community member, Prayers for comfort at this very sad time.

sincerely, Dick Perks and Karen Crawford



karen crawford - March 23, 2014 at 09:49 AM

PA

“ *Dear Rita, Kateri, Ashley and Families;*

We were very sorry to hear of Gary's passing, and want to offer our sincerest sympathies. The Gary we all knew, and the one you will forever cherish in your memories, left you a while ago. However, that makes it no easier to say that final good-bye. Gary will be remembered for his phenomenal memory, his twinkling eyes as he smiled, and his chuckle as he laughed. Terry will always remember enjoying golfing with Gary, and the chance meeting of Gary and Rita in San Francisco, as well as Gary's mother's lecture, etc. May memories of earlier times such as these, those that make you laugh, soon replace the sadness and grief you now endure. Gary's life was much too short. Pride yourselves in knowing that Gary loved his daughters and grandchildren, and that all of you enriched his 68 years. May you soon have the warmth of fond memories to fill this void, and may the thoughts of others help to support you through this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Patty and Terry Atkinson



Patty and Terry Atkinson - March 23, 2014 at 01:50 AM