



Gary Jay Baartman was born December 12, 1951, in Tyler, Minnesota, the son of Gerald and Mathilda (Klomp) Baartman. He grew up on a farm near Ward, South Dakota until he was 8 years old. They moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota where he attended Sioux Falls Christian and Patrick Henry Middle School, before graduating from Lincoln High School. He lived in Sioux Center, Iowa where he worked for Sioux-Preme Packing for a few years before returning to Sioux Falls.

Gary married Marcella “Marcie” Kroll on September 29, 1972, in Colton, South Dakota. He worked for Mielman Food until they moved to Rock Valley, Iowa on April 1, 1975, where they raised their family and served as foster parents for three years. Gary worked at Doorn Paint and later as a machinist at Kooimas (now TCS) until September of 2017. Gary also drove school bus for Rock Valley Christian School for almost 38 years.

Gary was a longtime member of Trinity Christian Reformed Church where he was the sound technician for many years. He spent many hours working to improve the sound system at the church. If he couldn’t find a part he needed, he scrounged until he found it. He was on a first name basis with anyone who knew anything about “sound”. He enjoyed doing yard work, gardening, and sitting in the gazebo having a cold drink or coffee and having a fire in the firepit with family and friends. Camping was a big part of his life, family and friends were always welcome to join. Gary also played bass guitar in the band “Covenant” for several years. Gary passed away Sunday, June 11, 2023, under the care of hospice at his home in Rock Valley at the age of 71.

Gary is lovingly survived by his wife, Marcie; four children, Jennifer Baartman and her two daughters, Sienna and Haylie of Leota, Minnesota, Jason (Lindsay Bleile) Baartman of Sioux Falls, Nathan Baartman and his children, Bentlee, Olivier, and Willamena of Adel, Iowa, and Brian (Amanda) Baartman and their sons, Judah and Bennett also of Adel; his siblings, Jeff (Rene) Baartman of Sioux Falls and Bruce (Vicki) Baartman of Fort Myers, Florida; sister-in-law, Phyllis (Dick) Stratton of Hartford, South Dakota; and Marcie’s family: Roger (Marlys) Kroll of Sioux Center, Sherri Vostad of Sioux Falls, Glenda (Henry) Kraayenbrink of Sioux Center, Randy (Rachel) Kroll of New Brighton, Minnesota, Dennis (Rose) Kroll of Edgerton, Minnesota, and Bethany Haywood of Catonsville, Maryland.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Gerald and Till; brother, Don Baartman; Marcie’s parents, Egbert and Willie Kroll; her brothers, Gary Kroll and Robert Kroll; and grandson, Josiah Levi Baartman.

In Loving Memory
Gary Jay Baartman

FUNERAL SERVICE

10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 15, 2023
Trinity Christian Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIATING

Rev. Henry Lengkeek
Rev. Stanley Groothof

PIANIST

Natalie Ysselstein

ORGANIST

Sharon Visser

SOLOIST

Merle Wynia
“I Can Only Imagine”

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

“How Great Thou Art”
“It Is Well” Bethel Music

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah Chorus”

HONOARARY CASKET BEARERS

Sienna Tripp ~ Haylie Tripp ~ Bentlee Baartman
Judah Baartman ~ Olivier Baartman
Willamena Baartman ~ Bennett Baartman

CASKET BEARERS

Jeff Baartman ~ Bruce Baartmann
Matt Baartman ~ Roger Kroll
Randy Kroll ~ Dennis Kroll
Henry Kraayenbrink ~ Tim Kroll

INTERMENT

Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

Please join Gary’s family for lunch and fellowship in the church hall following the committal service.



Remembering the Life of



A very special thank you to all of those who provided meals and support to us during these last few weeks. We ask that you continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we will greatly miss our Husband, Dad, and Grandpa.

Gary Jay Baartman

December 12, 1951 ~ June 11, 2023

