



## Gary L. Karastury

January 31, 1955 - November 22, 2020

Gary Lee Karastury, 65, of Red House passed away Sunday, November 22, 2020 at Bellaire of Devonshire from complications of Frontotemporal Degeneration.

Born, January 31, 1955 a son of the late Stanley G. and Mary Ann Malcomb Karastury. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Raymond.

Gary served the citizens of West Virginia as a State Trooper, working in Kanawha County for most of his career. He served his country with the United States Army and the United States Air Force. He was a member of Winfield United Methodist Church and was active with the Winfield Boy Scout Troop 66, Winfield. In 2012, Gary thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail a total of 2,190 miles by himself in 202 days. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice through the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's degree in Occupational Health and Safety through Marshall University.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara Gregory Karastury; son, David Karastury (Heather) of Phoenix, AZ; sisters, Cindy Thompson (Ron) and Carol Youkers (Don) all of Pittsburgh, PA; grandchildren, Harrison, Daniel and Nora Karastury.

Graveside service will be held at 2pm Friday, November 27, 2020 at Lake

Lane Cemetery, 58 River Hill Rd., Heaters, WV with Pastor Chris Scott officiating. You may visit his tribute page at [ChapmanFuneralHomes.com](http://ChapmanFuneralHomes.com) to share memories and offer condolences to the family.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in his honor to UPMC Montefiore, 4 West, 400 Lothrop Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2582 ([adrc.pitt.edu](http://adrc.pitt.edu)).

Chapman Funeral Home and Crematory, family-owned and located at 3941 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane is honored to serve the Karastury family.

# Cemetery Details

## Lake Lane Cemetery

58 River Hill Road  
Heaters, WV 26627

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

NOV 27. 2:00 PM (ET)

Lake Lane Cemetery  
58 River Hill Road  
Heaters, WV 26627

# Tribute Wall

CR

“ I just seen this. I was a dispatcher at the state police in South Charleston most of his time there. We were both into Photography and I sold him a camera back then. So sad to read he is gone. Hope to see him "up there"

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**Charles Rollins** - November 16, 2025 at 06:23 PM



“ Gary L. Karastury

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October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM

RW

“ Gary and I became friends when he first moved to Allison Park. He was always good natured and easy to get along with. My friend you will be missed.

*Russell Williams*

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**Russell A Williams** - January 31, 2021 at 11:09 PM

LM

“ Gary was always a gentleman. Highly respected by all "his boys" of Troop 66. An asset to every life he touched. Thankful for the part he had in our boys lives.

*Lewy and Judy Moore and family.*

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**Lewis Moore** - December 07, 2020 at 08:37 AM

SR

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Gary’s passing. I had the pleasure and honor of working with Gary at South Charleston for several years. Gary was a tremendous asset to the WV State Police, always conducting himself in a professional manner with everyone he came in contact with.

To Barbara and the entire family please accept my sincere condolences. Gary will be missed by everyone who knew him.

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**Stan Booth, WVSP Retired** - November 29, 2020 at 11:04 PM

MS

“ I had the great chance to work with Gary when he was stationed in South Charleston. I was on the Kanawha County Sheriffs Department where we became good friends. I would ride along with him on nights as he patrolled out in the Alum Creek area; but, most of all, I remember the long talks we had while at Magistrate Court when he stopped by. I had on several occasions told my wife that when people came into the court to pay fines for speeding, expired MVI, etc., and were asked which officer had issued the ticket and the officer was described as the most polite gentleman, we knew right away that it was Gary Karastury with the State Police. Gary, you will be missed as a fine person, family man, and friend. Prayers to Barbara, David, and the family.

*Michael Stiltner and Family*

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**Michael Stiltner** - November 28, 2020 at 01:33 PM

BM

“ I’m so sorry to hear about Gary!! My heart breaks for you and your family. He was such a great guy. I remember he was so soft spoken.... almost shy, which I thought was just wonderful. He was a great guy to work with too. I can just see him standing there in his uniform with those big blue eyes. I immediately thought of the time when you and Gary, Steve and Judy and Kevin and I gathered at my moms house and had a cookout. That was a great time. Everybody helping each other move... lol. Seemed like every few months. Keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.



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**Beth McDowell** - November 27, 2020 at 10:57 AM

DB

“ Sorry to hear about Gary. We went through the state police academy together many years ago and saw each other occasionally. He was a good guy and will be missed.

*David Butler*

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**David R Butler** - November 27, 2020 at 09:20 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary L. Karastury.



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November 26, 2020 at 09:18 PM



“ *Condolence Snacks was purchased for the family of Gary L. Karastury.*



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November 26, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ *Barbara and David....Gary was such a nice person and he will be sorely missed. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*  
*Gancie Kearns*

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**Gancie Kearns** - November 26, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ *Barbara and David..... you have been in our thoughts and prayers. May you receive comfort & peace from God as you work through this difficult time. Gary was obviously loved and respected so much. I enjoyed reading about his legacy that he has left behind. Hang on to the good memories made over the years. God Bless you and your family. Jan and Leon Hilty*

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**jan hilty** - November 26, 2020 at 11:25 AM

DM

“ I had the privilege of working with Gary when I was assigned to represent the West Virginia State Police as an Assistant Attorney General (1996-2001). He was the epitome of a gentleman. His voice and manner of speaking bespoke the type of trooper who exuded an aura of professionalism and calmness. I am so sorry for your loss.

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**Dolores Martin** - November 26, 2020 at 07:29 AM

JW

“ Many memories of Sgt. Karastury from many years ago at the WVSP academy. It was rough coming back when we trained the way we trained. Sgt. Karastury was always a man of respect and would push you on those days that you did not want to run those extra miles. To his family, I know you already know how great of a man he was, but he was definitely a rare breed and someone I was blessed to have known.

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**John Wriston** - November 26, 2020 at 06:01 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of Gary L. Karastury, give you peace, comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.*

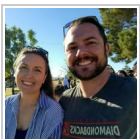
*My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....*

*US Army/ Air Force Veteran, Gary L. Karastury, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - November 26, 2020 at 03:58 AM



“ *9 files added to the album David's Pictures*



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**David Karastury** - November 25, 2020 at 12:44 PM

BV

“ I worked with Gary I was a Kanawha County deputy sheriff, and Gary was working out of the South Charleston detachment, we crossed paths many times, professional, kind, courteous, will be missed but not forgotten RIP Gary. Final 10-7.

Byron J. Vanmeter - November 25, 2020 at 01:23 AM

RL

“ Sgt. Karastury was my class adviser at the WVSP Academy. Sgt. Karastury treated every member of our class with respect and it was appreciated. I am saddened to hear of Sgt. Karastury's passing, thank you for your service to our country and the State of WV. #thinblueline

Ross Lockhart - November 24, 2020 at 11:39 PM

SS

“ Gary Karastury was one of my class supervisors when I went through the WVSP Academy in 1996. (94th Basic). RIP sir... Prayers and condolences to the Karastury Family

Sgt. Lefe H. Roberts, Cabell County SO - November 24, 2020 at 11:01 PM

DK

I used to be a dispatcher with the WV State Police. Gary was an excellent state trooper. He was an outstanding person with a fantastic sense of humor.

Doris King - November 25, 2020 at 04:53 PM

TL

“ So very sorry for your loss...you and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Terry, Karen, Jessica and Amber Layne - November 24, 2020 at 09:23 PM

GC

“ It was a pleasure to have known and worked with Gary. When I was his supervisor, he impressed me with his hard work and attitude. My condolences- Gordon Clark.

Gordon Clark - November 24, 2020 at 05:45 PM

TH

“ Many years ago Sandy and I met Barbara and Gary at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Nitro during Sunday School. Our sons (Joseph and David) were born within a year of each other. We have been friends ever since we met. Gary's untimely passing is a real loss for all of us. Our faith is strong as was Gary's and we pray for family healing and love for each other.

Terry E. Hanning - November 24, 2020 at 04:27 PM



“ When I think back & of him, I remember the morning during Inspection of The 83rd Basic Class, @ The WV State Police Academy, He said to me, "Basic Officer Wilborn, Seems To Me Like You Need A Haircut!" We're standing @ attention & couldn't help but laugh when we knew the consequences we would endure but suffered none & I had just shaved my head that morning!! He was A Great Man!!!

Wardell C Wilborn  
Retired Deputy Sheriff  
Mercer County WV

Wardell Wilborn - November 24, 2020 at 03:37 PM

ES

“ Was one of my instructors in the Academy. Fine man and Trooper. Taught us many lessons in and out of the classroom. RIP Sir!  
Respectfully  
Eddie Smith WVSP retired.

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**Eddie Smith** - November 24, 2020 at 03:15 PM

PB

“ I am so sorry for your loss, Barbara and David. Gary fought a good fight and you were there with him, loving and caring for him. He was and always will be loved and respected.  
May God bless and comfort you.

*Pam and Ed Bowman*

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**Pamela Bowman** - November 24, 2020 at 03:02 PM

BR

“ Gary and Barbara are dear friends! Gary was such a kind person and always had a smile when I visited them or met him out. He will be greatly missed! Prayers for his family during their time of grief.

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**Becky Robertson** - November 24, 2020 at 02:22 PM

WW

“ Thank you Sergeant! I say thank you! A now-retired Police Chief, who's living in Texas, remembers back to 1996, and, the 96 Basic Class, "Taking Names and Kicking Ass!" It greatly pains me to learn of the loss of the Man we knew as "Sergeant Tell-a-Story." He was the same Sergeant who could tell a story, of times of old; and, in the midst of training, in a tough (then), environment. When Sergeant Karastury spoke, every ear would bend, in order to hear his spoken words, that brought strength. God Bless you Sergeant!

*In great Respect, and Remembrance,*

*Walt, ret*

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**Walter Witherell** - November 24, 2020 at 02:00 PM

FW

“ Very sorry to hear this. Gary was always a kind man, a gentleman, and served the WVSP well. Prayers of comfort for his family. Fred Wagoner, WVSP retired Martinsburg, WV.

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**Fred Wagoner** - November 24, 2020 at 01:50 PM

AE

“ We were newlyweds together... sharing date nights and dinners. Gary was always the kindest and most honorable man. As time and changes in my life stole the years away from our friendship, I feel like we have always been , and always will be friends. Barbara and David, I can💎💎💎t imagine the pain, but knowing he is now Gary again, surely help ease some of the pain! Love to you both!

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**Ann Edele** - November 24, 2020 at 01:02 PM

SS

“ *Sincere condolences to Gary’s family. He was a good man and state trooper. Rest In Peace brother.*

*Steve Snelson, retired wvsp*

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**Stephan Snelson** - November 24, 2020 at 12:47 PM