



Garry James Augustine

December 3, 1950 - March 14, 2022

Garry J. Augustine passed away surrounded by family on Monday, March 14th, 2022 at the age of 71.

Garry was a loving husband, caring father, Vietnam veteran, and lifelong veterans advocate. The Lake County, Ohio, native enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1969. Following training, Garry was assigned to the 198th Infantry Brigade in South Vietnam. He was severely wounded by a land mine explosion during a combat patrol in the Batangan Peninsula on April 9, 1970. His injuries resulted in the loss of use of his left hand and left foot, multiple shrapnel wounds to his body and the loss of his spleen. Due to the extent of his injuries, he was medically retired from the Army in December 1972.

Garry earned a bachelor's degree with honors from Ohio University in 1978 and master's degree in sociology at Cleveland State University in 1983. Garry met and married the love of his life, the former Kelly Lambing, in 1986, and lovingly raised two children, Chelsea and Kyle. He welcomed with open arms his son-in-law, Justin Canning and his daughter-in-law, Doctor Amita Jain-Augustine. He had just started his greatest journey as G-Pop to his 10 month old grandson, Austin Canning and 1 year old grand-puppy Lilly Augustine. Garry's greatest passion was spending time with loved ones and, being an avid boater, staying near the water. As a man who found joy in staying active, he could frequently be found riding in his convertible (top down), enjoying a

bike ride, kayaking on the Chester river, exploring the many outdoor restaurants on Kent Island or enjoying yappy-hour with his beloved dog, Miss Izzy.

In 2003, Garry moved the family to Washington DC, where he was appointed Associate National Service Director followed by National Service Director at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). In that role, Garry managed all activities of DAV's National Service Program, which employs approximately 270 professional national service officers (NSOs), 34 transitional service officers (TSOs) and support staff in 100 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico.

In 2013, Garry was appointed Executive Director for the more than 1 million-member DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters. His responsibilities included oversight of DAV's National Service and Legislative Programs. He was the organization's principal spokesperson before Congress, the White House and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Prior to Garry joining DAV's professional staff in 1988 as a national service officer apprentice in Cleveland, Ohio, he served as the hospital transportation coordinator for the DAV Department of Ohio at the Cleveland Wade Park VA Hospital. He remained at the Cleveland national service office where he was promoted to Assistant Supervisor in 1997 and Supervisor in 2000. He was appointed Assistant National Service Director at DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters in 2002 and was subsequently appointed Deputy National Service Director in January 2004. In July 2010, he was appointed National Service Director and served in that capacity until he was appointed Executive Director in 2013.

Garry embodied DAV's mission to serve others, always remembering to put

the disabled veteran at the center of his work. He improved the lives of untold thousands of veterans. As impactful as Garry was at work, his impact as husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, mentor, advocate, friend, and neighbor will resonate long after he's gone. His professional successes will continue to endure and improve the lives of the veteran community for years to come. His legacy will continue to live on through his wife, children, grandchildren, friends and family.

Military burial with honors will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 18. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Visitation

MAR 18. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Mass

MAR 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Mother of Sorrows Church
303 Chesterfield Avenue
Centreville, MD

Reception

MAR 19. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM.

TBD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Garry James Augustine*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 17, 2022 at 11:34 AM



“ *Garry James Augustine*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Garry James Augustine*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Garry James Augustine*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *RIP Garry. Thank you for being such a great friend, mentor and advocate for veterans. The veteran community will miss you - but know you made a mark that will live forever.*

Scott Blackburn - May 03, 2022 at 11:54 PM

MA

“ *Military Officers Association of America purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Garry James Augustine.*



Military Officers Association of America - April 26, 2022 at 04:07 PM

JJ

“ *May God Bless all of you and grant you his peace and mercy in this time of loss. Gary was a great man in every respect—we will all miss him in the days to come! Love Joe Johnston*

Joseph Johnston - April 25, 2022 at 04:13 PM

NK

“ *Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and leadership. You will be greatly missed! you were a instrumental person in so many lives.*

NSO Kelly Kyle - April 19, 2022 at 01:51 PM

LK

“ *Please accept our sympathy on your loss. Praying for your strength during this difficult time.*
Joe & Lisa Kowardy

Lisa Kowardy - April 08, 2022 at 08:33 AM

DR

“ R.I.P Garry 🙏. Thank you for your Service and Dedication to our Nation's Heroes. My sincerest condolences and sympathies to those you've left behind. Thank you for your Mentorship and Leadership.



David Reeves - April 02, 2022 at 01:10 PM

LR

“ Kelly, Chelsea, Kyle, and Family So sorry for your loss. Garry was a wonderful and generous man who dedicated his life to helping others. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Ken and Loretta Reed

Loretta Reed - March 28, 2022 at 10:26 AM

AB

“ The Department of Georgia Disabled American Veterans thanks Comrade James Garry Augustine for his honorable service to our nation, the DAV and his community. May he rest in peace, and may his memory be a blessing to his family and all who knew him. Albert Boudy, DAV Department of Georgia State Chaplain



Albert Boudy - March 21, 2022 at 05:49 AM

DM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Delphine Metcalf-Foster - March 18, 2022 at 03:43 PM

DS

“ I never met Garry but I was with the D Co.2nd Plt. in 1970. You could tell he was a stand up guy with all the years of unselfish service he did for brothers and sisters in uniform. I know his family is very proud of his service as we are, the men that walked on the same battlefield as Garry. David Sweeney

David Sweeney - March 18, 2022 at 02:43 PM

FT

“ RIP Garry.



Frank Titus - March 18, 2022 at 02:11 PM

FC

“ From your brothers at Delta Company purchased the Ringed by Love for the family of Garry James Augustine.



From your brothers at Delta Company - March 18, 2022 at 11:46 AM

BW

“ Never knew Garry but we served in the same unit, 198th Brigade. I finished my tour in June 1969 and consider him a true hero, patriot and brother-in-arms. May the Almighty bless and keep him, always .

Ben Willett (Gulfport, MS)

Ben Willett - March 18, 2022 at 12:52 AM

HF

“ Garry was a very special uncle to me. He shared in my happiest moments and helped me through some of my toughest, without judgement but with gentle guidance and encouragement to help me along. He gave of himself without expectation and always had a smile. Ian, Sara, and Julia thought of Uncle Garry as the cool uncle, James Bond cool who could handle any situation. We shared a love of sports cars and boats and travel, but most of all family. We were very happy the Augustines moved to Maryland in 2003 and our families could be closer. It was always a joy to spend Christmases and birthdays together and we will cherish these memories. I was always proud of Garry's accomplishments and his lifetime of service to veterans through his work with DAV. His was a life well lived.

Haworth Family - March 17, 2022 at 10:57 PM

MW

“ Gary was a good guy lost touch for awhile after the service got in touch a few years ago our hearts go out to the family he will be missed



Mark (woody) and patty Woodward - March 17, 2022 at 08:07 PM

AB

“ Kelly, Chelsea, Kyle, and families, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Growing up in Willowick and attending school with Garry I was very proud to have called him my friend . Here's a man who served his country, was seriously wounded, and then had a career of helping our veterans. His journey from soldier to his last position with the DAV was unbelievable. They don't make them like that anymore. I used to brag to people about his accomplishments. Garry, thank you, we love you, Rest in peace my brother. Hope to see you in the next life. Al Bindokas

Al Bindokas - March 17, 2022 at 07:16 PM



“ A true Leader and visionary for the DAV program, a great example of effective leadership to all Veterans in America.

Jim Dempsey - March 17, 2022 at 06:03 PM

WH

“ With love and sympathy, The Haworths purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Garry James Augustine.



With love and sympathy, The Haworths - March 17, 2022 at 04:31 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.



March 17, 2022 at 04:18 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.* ”



March 17, 2022 at 03:33 PM

MB

“ The great Saint Augustine, in the third century, thought about the age-old question “[W]hy do bad things happen to good people?” St. Augustine did, with simplicity and clarity answered the question, allowing many to resolve their loss.

Not being a religious scholar I will paraphrase St. Augustine's answer that he concluded as truth: "The power of God is demonstrated in Gods' ability to bring good out of bad."

Gary's good is, in fact, being demonstrated here today by these messages and memories. Everyone, you are here, now, because of one fundamental reason: your love and caring for Gary and his family. Gary's passing has brought us together, through his love. This showing of love and caring is the good coming from what may be perceived as bad.

Please remember that, Gary was given to us all, as a gift from God. And he left by the Grace of God.

When you were with Gary he made sure you were, and felt, welcome, included and part of his world. Gary had sincere affection and love that he gave, without reservation, to you family and friend.

So today, on Saint Patrick's Day, let me leave the Augustine family with an Irish proverb-

"May St. Patrick guard you wherever you go, and guide you in whatever you do— and may his loving protection be a blessing to you always."

Gary, you are missed.

Mike Bargmann - March 17, 2022 at 03:07 PM

PM

“ Patrick M. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Garry James Augustine.



Patrick M. - March 17, 2022 at 02:13 PM

PD

“ Gary and I were best friends in our early years. He lived only 4 houses away from mine. There wasn't much we did that we didn't do together. We had "the woods" and a beach at our fingertips. We built a tree house and a log fort. We explored a broken-down old cabin where we used to sit on its roof and ponder our futures and talk about girls. Gary called me summer of 2021 to tell me of a memory he had of us riding our bikes down a big gully in the woods... we were crazy then regarding some of the adventures we devised and carried out. I will forever miss him and always remember the adventurous spirit that drove him, and the kind heart at its root. These are the characteristics that carried him through the tremendous hardship from his war injuries to attaining his master's degree and finally bringing him to the Veteran's Admin. We never imagined such a future while sitting on the roof of that old cabin at age 10. Good job, my friend!

Patrick Donovan

Patrick Michael Donovan - March 17, 2022 at 02:05 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.*



March 17, 2022 at 11:11 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.*



March 17, 2022 at 10:21 AM



“ *Brandon Mckinney Togus Maine purchased the Memorial Trees for the family of Garry James Augustine.*

Darrell Brandon Mckinney - March 17, 2022 at 07:29 AM

BM

“ *My heart cry's out to you and your family. Garry and the high school gang always hung out before we all went out ways in 69. We always stayed in touch and always had good conversation when we got together.*

His life was so successful and what a great family he has. You have our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to your family RIP Garry! You will truly be missed.

Butch & Marilyn



Butch Marchinko - March 16, 2022 at 08:34 PM

DM

Ive known Gary over 55 years...showed us all how to be strong, in & out. So glad we were able to pay a little recognition to this hero at our 50th.

As the song goes, Seems The Good Die Young.

Love to Kelly and kids in their time of need.

Dennis mormile

Dennis mormile - March 17, 2022 at 05:46 PM

AL

“ *This news is devastating and totally unexpected. His passing is a major loss to many in the veterans community, but most importantly to his immediate family. To me personally, Garry was an inspiring leader and mentor, whose advice made me a better veterans advocate and person. He will be missed. My deepest sympathies go to Kelly, Kyle and Chelsea. Rest in Peace Garry. Job well done.*

Al Labelle - March 16, 2022 at 07:51 PM

PD

My family is deeply saddened by Garry's passing he was a dear and wonderful cousin we did not see each other much but the love and total appreciation for his work at the DAV speaks volumes. Our sincere sympathy goes to his ever so precious family. RIP and May the perpetual light shine upon you. Phillip and LilyAnn Del Monte.

phillip and LilyAnn DelMonte - March 16, 2022 at 08:39 PM

PD

Gary and I were best friends in our early years. He lived only 4 houses away from mine. There wasn't much we did that we didn't do together. We had a "the woods" and a beach at our fingertips. We built a tree house and a log fort. We explored a broken-down old cabin where we used to sit on its roof and ponder our futures and talk about girls. Gary called me summer of 2021 to tell me of a memory he had of us riding our bikes down a big gully in the woods... we were crazy then regarding some of the adventures we devised and carried out. I will forever miss him and always remember the adventurous spirit that drove him, and the kind heart at its root. these are the characteristics that carried him through the tremendous hardship from his war injuries to attaining his master's degree and finally bringing him to the Veteran's Admin. We never imagined that while sitting on the roof of that old cabin at age 10. Good job, my friend!

Patrick Michael Donovan - March 17, 2022 at 02:00 PM

CB

*“ Kelly, Kyle and Chelsea,
My heart is broken for you. To lose your hero in a matter of days is too hard to comprehend. We grew up in the same neighborhood, played with the same kids , ate the same food and drank out of the same hose . Heroes come in all shapes and sizes and take on different forms but Garry embodied the definition of a hero in every way . As a disabled vet Garry continued the fight for other vets and helped countless men and women. His friendship was genuine and appreciated throughout all of these years. Garry was a good man who was so very proud of his children and Kelly. There will be a void in our hearts, what will ever repair it ? Sending you love and prayer.
RIP my friend*

chrisse and carl biehl - March 16, 2022 at 07:05 PM

DV

“ Our prayers and condolences are with you during this time of sorrow.

DAV National Chaplain, Debra H. Varner

Debra Harrison Varner - March 16, 2022 at 06:40 PM

TN

“ I first met Garry when he returned from Viet Nam. He was in a wheel chair, bandaged, and had one hand and arm in wires. But, he was smiling. As time passed i got to know him better and we became friends. We double dated, played racquetball and handball. Garry did not let his injuries stop him from being active. He taught me about boating, we talked about sports, and cars, and we both owned bars. I bought a used car from Garry-a rambler. When I hit the brake it turned right by itself. And the tires were bald as brussel sprouts. But he gave me a great deal.

In all the years I have known Garry, he never complained, had a great attitude, loved to learn and was so proud of his wife Kelli and his children Kyle and Chelsea. He loved his dogs just as much. His dedication and drive to help not only his friends who were veterans but every veteran made a significant difference in so many lives. His fulfillment didn't come from his salary, but from the results of his helping hand that he always offered to those in need.

He has left us with so many good memories that will last our lifetimes. We can honor Garry by continuing his work and reaching out and helping those in need.

His passing hurts and stings quite a bit. Kim and I are proud to say he was a good friend.

We love and miss you very much Auggie!

Tony and Kim Newman

Tony Newman - March 16, 2022 at 06:37 PM

KP

“ *My deepest condolences. We lose a tireless advocate for veterans. We will miss you Garry.*

Kristy Park - March 16, 2022 at 05:23 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.*



March 16, 2022 at 03:40 PM

PP

“ *Garry was my great friend, former racquetball partner and fellow boater. We grew up on the same street in Willowick Ohio and re-connected back in 1979. Though we were 7 years apart in age, we shared a unique and close friendship for many, many years.*

We were in each others' wedding and shared some incredible times together. Heartbroken is an understatement to describe how our family feels relative to Garry's passing. He was an incredibly special person to so many - respected, admired and loved. He helped tons of people and was so passionate about the DAV. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kelly, Kyle, Chelsea and all of Garry's extended family.

Rest in Peace my friend. You will be sorely missed by so many.

Pat Perry - March 16, 2022 at 03:27 PM

ML

“ Garry was a friend, leader, and valued confidant in/among the entire VSO community. He shared time with me as the new guy on the block in 2016 when I joined WWP, and helped build bridges between our organizations in service to Veterans for many years that followed. His passing leaves a hole that can only be filled by those he taught, trained, and inspired through his years of service both in and out of uniform. God's peace and blessing on Kelly, his family, and the entire DAV organization.

*Honoring and empowering,
Mike Linnington, CEO/WWP*

Mike Linnington - March 16, 2022 at 03:26 PM

LK

“ We were just young teens together back in Willowick but in retrospect you could tell even then he would do something extraordinary with his life. I remember the night we got word he had been seriously wounded and will never forget the trip my mom and I made to Walter Reed to visit him. All of those young men with beds lined up against the wall in a huge medical ward. After a long recovery he could have felt sorry for himself but instead chose to help others and make something of his self both personally and professionally. I am so saddened for this new chapter of his life to be cut so short but grateful he was not sick for very long as he had already suffered enough for one lifetime. Cancer sucks. We are all going to miss you Garry with two R's Lynn Kernz Kelly

Lynn Kelly - March 16, 2022 at 03:22 PM

BM

“ Garry was a huge help and friend to me when I was Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I inherited a crisis, and Garry took me under his wing, taught me the ropes, and was very supportive. That friendship continued after his retirement. As I have told many, Garry always made fun of my wife and me for being the last ones to leave from DAV events. We loved being with the members. One of the last DAV events I attended as Secretary, I can remember as Diane and I were walking out, I could hear Garry yelling to the people in the room behind me, "OK, he's left. Now we can go!" He and I got many laughs out of that later. I loved Garry, all he represented, our collaboration, and more. Diane and I will miss him. Our prayers are with Kelly and the family.

Bob McDonald

Bob McDonald - March 16, 2022 at 02:53 PM

D1

“ I am stunned to learn of Gary's passing at such a young age. Gary was an instrumental player in my effort to change the direction of DAV in 1993-1994 when I ran for National Commander and was successful in being elected. His heart was always utmost in DAV and its Auxiliary, along with his wonderful family. His knowledge and understanding of issues facing disabled veterans will be sorely missed, but certainly, he left a legacy for those of us who knew him to respect and uphold. RIP my friend.

Dick Marbes, PNC 1993-1994 - March 16, 2022 at 02:50 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.*



March 16, 2022 at 02:48 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Amanda Evans - March 16, 2022 at 02:34 PM



“ *Karen Martin NSO Assistant Supervisor in Florida, send condolences and prayers to the Family.*



Karen Martin - March 16, 2022 at 02:16 PM



“ *Sheretta Latham DAV NSO Supervisor AL lit a candle in memory of Garry James Augustine*



Sheretta Latham DAV NSO Supervisor AL - March 16, 2022 at 02:11 PM

AM

Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman/CEO, National League of POW/MIA Families, offers our sincere condolences to Gary's family and friends. His lifetime of service to fellow Veterans is a tribute to the kind of American we all admire and respect.

Ann Mills-Griffiths - March 16, 2022 at 03:02 PM

WT

“Joan and I send our sympathies and and prayers to the Augustine family today. Garry was always most helpful when I called upon him as a Department Adjutant (NC) and as the DAV National Commander 2010-2011. May he rest in Peace in the Lord's House.

Wally & Joan Tyson

Wally Tyson - March 16, 2022 at 02:06 PM

TP

“Sending my sympathy and prayers. Gary is a great loss to your family, the nation, and DAV. Gary was instrumental in helping me in my orientation as a new employee. I will cherish the memory of having known him as a great man who was always willing to help us understand the importance of never forgetting the sacrifices of our veterans.

May God keep you and comfort you during this time of grief. Trisa Paschal, DAV staff

Trisa Paschal - March 16, 2022 at 01:57 PM

HC

“Hank Myers DAV NSO Supervisor Cheyenne lit a candle in memory of Garry James Augustine



Hank Myers DAV NSO Supervisor Cheyenne - March 16, 2022 at 01:51 PM



“ *Always Adored Casket Spray* was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.



March 16, 2022 at 12:59 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.



March 16, 2022 at 12:53 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.



March 16, 2022 at 11:24 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Garry James Augustine.



March 16, 2022 at 11:14 AM