



## Gary Lee Bumgardner

July 21, 1942 - March 15, 2026

Gary Lee Bumgardner

Age 83, of Braidwood, IL, passed away Sunday, March 15, 2026 at Serenity Estates in Morris, IL.

Born July 21, 1942 in Ramsey, IL, Gary was the son of Dan and Iola (née Carter) Bumgardner. He married Linda Kay Austin on December 23, 1962 in Herrick, IL, and together they shared more than 63 years of marriage devoted to family, community, and faith.

Gary worked as a millwright at Caterpillar Tractor Company in Joliet, IL. Known for his mechanical ability and willingness to lend a hand, he also enjoyed repairing small engines.

Gary was a dedicated member of the Braidwood Lions Club for 52 years and remained actively involved in supporting the organization's service to the community. He was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Braidwood, where he served as an Elder.

Above all, Gary treasured his role within his family as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Kay Bumgardner of Braidwood; one son, Trent (Tania) Bumgardner of Libertyville, IL; one daughter, Katrina Hadley (Kevin Dillon) of Streator, IL; three grandchildren, Vincent (Elise) Botta, Julie Botta, and Tyler Bumgardner; and five great-grandchildren, Vivian, Maxwell, Roman, and Ezra Botta, and Julian Baez.

He is also survived by his sister, Carol Ann (Dennis) Schmitt of Vandalia, IL;

his brother, Darrel (Patty) Bumgardner of Oconee, IL; and his sister-in-law, Sherry Bumgardner.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Dan and Lola Bumgardner, and his brother, Gerald Bumgardner.

Visitation will be held Thursday, March 19, 2026 at First Presbyterian Church in Braidwood from 2:00 p.m. until the time of service at 3:00 p.m. Funeral services will begin at 3:00 p.m. with Reverend Dale Tolley officiating. In accordance with Gary's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded following the services, with inurnment at Myers Cemetery in Herrick, IL at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Gary's name may be made to the Braidwood Lions Club, honoring his 52 years of service and commitment to the club's mission of helping others in the community.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory  
401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336  
[www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 19. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church-Braidwood  
106 South Lincoln Street  
Braidwood, IL 60408

## Service

MAR 19. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church-Braidwood  
106 South Lincoln Street  
Braidwood, IL 60408

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Butch and Beverly Smart lit a candle in memory of Gary Bumgardner*



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**Butch and Beverly Smart** - March 17 at 11:29 PM

BS

“ *So sorry for your loss Linda and Gary's family and friends. Can't believe it has been 63 years since I was bridesmaid at you and Gary's wedding. Gary was one of the best!*

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**Butch and Beverly Smart** - March 17 at 11:27 PM

LB

*Thank YOU! I have problems believing he is gone, within four months no longer in our lives! During the many hours setting with him, my mind "continued" south which comforted me.....since it all began there! The funeral is expected to be huge due to his part in Braidwood's history; my hope is that I can keep myself together! Lift prayers for all of us! Love you both.....*

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**Linda Bumgardner** - March 19 at 09:16 AM

BS

*Linda, let us know when you bring Gary to Herrick for a small service. We will be there if we know when.*

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**Beverly Smart** - March 26 at 05:16 PM

BS

“ *Butch and Beverly Smart lit a candle in memory of Gary Bumgardner*



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**Butch and Beverly Smart** - March 17 at 11:21 PM

TC

“ *Our deepest condolences  
The family of Bobby Cox*



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**Tricia Cox-Giron** - March 17 at 07:11 PM

RS

“ *I am sorry to hear this sad news. All my condolences to Linda and the family. Gary was very kind hearted, friendly and overall great guy. He and Linda were good neighbors of my parents and were especially kind and helpful to my mother in her times of need. RIP Gary.*

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**Ray Stahl** - March 17 at 02:56 PM

DS

“ *Thoughts & Prayers!*

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**Dean Shepherd** - March 17 at 01:41 PM

DL

*So sorry for your loss. My dad Merle Wren talked very highly about Gary. He would enjoy seeing him when we were out and about in town.*



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**Debra Lavicka** - March 21 at 02:45 PM

GH

“ Grace Hert lit a candle in memory of Gary Bumgardner



Grace Hert - March 16 at 11:41 PM

CP

“ Christine Patterson lit a candle in memory of Gary Bumgardner



Christine Patterson - March 16 at 10:16 PM

SK

“ SUE KELLEHER lit a candle in memory of Gary Bumgardner



SUE KELLEHER - March 16 at 07:29 PM

BE

“ Bob Ellis lit a candle in memory of Gary Bumgardner



Bob Ellis - March 16 at 07:18 PM

TD

“ *Tim Duran lit a candle in memory of Gary Bumgardner*



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**Tim Duran** - March 16 at 02:12 PM