



Gordon Cheniae

November 17, 1946 - January 20, 2019

Gordon L. Cheniae, 72, passed away Sunday, January 20 at his home in rural Cobden following a battle with cancer.

Gordon was born November 17, 1946 in Carbondale to Everett C. and Mildred (Lindsey) Cheniae. He grew up in Carbondale and was a student of the CCHS Class of 1964. He married Patricia (Patti) Thormeyer in 1973, and together they enjoyed 46 years of creating lifelong memories and friendships.

Gordon received a B.S. degree in Park Administration and Recreation from Western Illinois University and a M.S. degree in Forestry from SIU. He worked for the Bureau of Land Management (US Dept. of the Interior) in Washington, DC; Arizona; Nevada and Oregon. Upon retiring he created a consulting business to assist companies maneuver through the Federal land law process.

Gordon possessed a quick wit, and a unique way with words whenever sharing his opinion. He enjoyed fishing, traveling, reading historical biographies, and crossing items off his "bucket list." However, his favorite activity was spending time with family and friends at his rural home.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Patti; his daughter, Jessica Cheniae of Carbondale; his son, Christopher Cheniae and wife, Amanda, of Chandler, AZ; and grandson, Lucas and Dylan Cheniae.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Robert.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Southern Illinois.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Comments



“ Dear PJ and all Chenaise's, We remember all the great times we had with you, especially the Diamondback's and the Crispy Creme's. It was so much fun. Gordy will always be in our hearts; he was one of a kind. We wish you all strength and peace. PJ, our email is lynnengd@yahoo.com. Please drop us a line as you can. Blessings to all, Lynn and Tanna Engdahl.



Lynn Engdahl - February 07 at 12:55 PM



“ Patti: I am deeply saddened by your loss. Gordon and I had a great working relationship as well as at a personal level. I admired him for his ability to be able to say exactly what was on his mind. He was an inspiration. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family for strength during these difficult times. He truly will be missed.
Dave Miller

Dave Miller - February 01 at 03:20 PM



“ Deepest condolences to Gordon's family. Gordon was generous, thoughtful, kind and had the best sense of humor! It was such a pleasure to reconnect through Facebook and trips to Southern Illinois. Gordon will be terribly missed not only by his loving family, but by his 1964 CCHS classmates and many, many friends. Cynthia Weller

Cynthia Weller - January 31 at 08:47 AM



“ Sorry Patti for the loss of Gordon, my thoughts go out to you and your family. Jim Greer

Jim Greer - January 28 at 08:55 AM



“ I first met Gordon when we were around 11 or 12, playing in the Carbondale Junior Baseball League, he from the NW section of town and I from the SW. Gordon (or "Cheniae" as we always called him) was a pitcher and what a pitcher he was. From the first time I hit against him and for many more years after, he was the guy I least liked to bat against! He was the littlest guy on the field for almost all the years we played against one another and as teammates, but he could really throw the fastball and had more "stuff" on the ball than any pitcher of any age group in town! I saw him at one of my class of '63 reunions a few years ago and remember telling him then how much I dreaded batting against him because of the great stuff he had on his fastball. I've told my own sons when they were young baseball players and later when we talked about major league pitchers, how size didn't really make all that much difference when it came to pitching and how I had known, batted against, and caught a scrawny little kid from Carbondale who had the liveliest fastball I had ever faced and his name was....Rest in Peace old buddy, and give 'em the high hard one when you're on that big mound in the sky!

Pete Lenzini

Pete Lenzini - January 27 at 01:53 PM



“ Gordon and I were friends/buddies from our first day of kindergarten through our high school graduation day. I enjoyed our renewed friendship through Facebook and class reunions. He was a good guy

Cheryl McBride Mueller - January 26 at 02:05 PM



“ I had the pleasure of reconnecting with Gordon when we worked together planning our 50th high school reunion. I admired his wit, his leadership skills, and his ability to get things done. He was very easy to talk to and was a great friend to many. It was obvious how much he adored and loved Patti and his family. He will be missed not only by his family but his many friends.

Pat Murden Bramlet - January 26 at 07:02 AM



“ Gordon and I go way back from the beginning and we had the unique experience of being college roommates in the Chicago area. We each helped each other launch interesting and different careers. It was a great honor to have been his first cousin.

David Lindsey

David Lindsey - January 25 at 09:04 AM



“ I have so many wonderful memories of times Gordon and I spent together over many years. I feel extremely privileged to have been his friend. RWC

Bob Crawshaw - January 24 at 08:10 PM