



Gary A Semmler

May 22, 1941 - September 24, 2020

Gary A. Semmler, 79 of Cape Girardeau, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, passed away Thursday, September 24, 2020, at Southeast Missouri Hospital.

Gary was born May 22, 1941 in Metamora, Ohio to John and Sarah Isabella (Clark) Semmler. He married Terri Guilliams on June 4, 1979 and she survives.

Gary worked for DANA Corporation for over 40 years. He had previously taught at a VoTech School in Toledo. He enjoyed playing music, especially his drums. He was of the Methodist faith and attended church in Metamora.

He is survived by his wife, Terri, two daughters, Sarah Semmler and Pamela Semmler, all of Cape Girardeau.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorials for Mr. Semmler may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

Tribute Wall



“ Gary A Semmler

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ Hi Terri, I came out to visit you and Gary Sept 3, 2015 - I know because I just heard about Gary's passing and found the picture we took that day did a tribute to him on my Facebook wall - rather than post it here since there is a lot that many wouldn't get I will just copy and paste a few things, but he was a huge father figure to me as I was growing up in Sylvania (outside of Toledo) OH in the 70s.

One of the greatest days of my young teenage life was walking in downtown Sylvania with my friends and coming up the hill over the train track and seeing that there was actual music store in our little town. We went in very excited and I literally think Gary, then a young man in his later 20s that played drums and sang in a local rock duo with an organist called "the Outlaws", was literally still taking guitars out of the cardboard boxes that they had come in and hanging them on the wall.

I was over there literally every afternoon I could after school, and I loved the extremely advanced and off the wall humor that Gary and all the older (probably no more than 30s) musicians had, and I learned it and got right in there with him. On the day of my 16th birthday, I started work at the Sylvania store as their guitar teacher, after having taken lessons for their old teacher who told Gary that he had already taught me everything he knew. Gary employed me as a guitar teacher at both of his stores and wrote my letter of recommendation to Berklee College of Music in Boston.

After decades in the Los Angeles music scene, when I moved to Kansas City 6 years ago I went out to go visit you and he. He couldn't talk that well but he still remembered me and I took a guitar and played for him and he still made the same extremely dry and hilarious jokes that I had come to know and love.

I'm sorry that I found out about this so late, but if you want the pictures from that visit let me know. If you are on Facebook let me know as well and I can add you to the tribute post, you would love to see everything that everyone is saying there - he was hugely

influential in launching a lot of young musicians by his care and love towards us all.

Doug Perkins

Doug Perkins - April 04, 2021 at 08:01 PM

JD

“ *Terri and family. It was only 3 weeks ago I had talked to Gary. I was so shocked to hear this news. It had only been 3 weeks ago I chatted with him about our upcoming class reunion> I graduated with Gary in 1959 from Metamora High school. .At that time only about 400 people lived in our little village We had been class mates all 12 years of school. You have my deepest Sympathy on Your loss of Your Husband and Father. I will miss our little chats of memories. Janet Barnaby Doyle. and I am a cousin of Gary Doyle who use to work with Dana in Missouri also.*

Janet Doyle - October 04, 2020 at 07:10 PM

GB

*Terry and your family.
This is George and Janis Becker. We are so sorry and shocked to hear that Gary has passed. I have known him and Larry Sipperley since the early days of the Outlaws. He was a great guy and friend. He spent so much time at our place at Devil's Lake. Always loved their music I still had a couple recorded cassettes and 1CD I was just playing today.
Prayers sent to all 🙏🙏*

George and Janis Becker - December 04, 2020 at 07:13 PM

RR

I just heard of Gary's passing. He & Charlie Mewhort were a great influence & help in my Musician Union activities back in Toledo in the late 70s..".time to get the old guys out & us yes ones IN"....which ultimately led to my 35 year career (in production). I remember jamming with him one time on one of his Outlaws gig - he was solid but afterwards he exclaimed "Jazz & Rock! Not the same!" And he saved our family 1964 vacation recording for us (which we still have) by transferring it from reel-to-reel to a cassette. I am so sorry to have not reconnected with him to let him know of his key help in my life's journey.

Randy Richie - April 05, 2021 at 11:47 AM