



## Gary James Sumner

March 3, 1955 - November 13, 2023

Gary James Sumner was born on March 3, 1955 in Price, Utah to Ernest Ray Sumner and Jideen Gardner. He is survived by his mother Jideen, wife Karen, son Ryan (Jen) Sumner, daughters Rachelle Sumner, Andrea (Andi) Bai, Brianna (Robbie) Carter, and 8 loving grandchildren with one more on the way. He is also survived by all of his siblings Renie Williams, Diane Davidson, and Kent Sumner.

Gary grew up in Salt Lake City, UT and graduated from Highland High School. When he was 19 he served a 2 year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Oakland, CA. While serving his mission he caught the eye of a woman home for the summer from BYU. She was sure to look him up when his mission was done and attended his homecoming in Salt Lake City. They then dated and Gary and Karen were later married in the Salt Lake Temple on June 18, 1977. They raised their 4 children primarily in Antioch, CA and lived there for 34 years. Gary spent the majority of his working life alongside his wife running and operating their business Sunshine Carpet Cleaners for 40 years in the San Francisco Bay Area. This is a skill he learned from his own father who also had a carpet cleaning business. Gary and Karen moved to Utah in 2020 and have loved being closer to 3 of their 4 children and half of their grandchildren.

Gary had a very creative and active mind. He was always thinking of new and

inventive ways of improving the things around him. He was the hardest working man his family has ever known and was always willing to lend a hand even when he was exhausted or in pain. Karen was always grateful for the large and small tasks that he would often be doing to help her and their family. Gary's true passion has been history and our nation. He has spent considerable time researching, writing, and self-publishing a historical fiction novel, "From Fear to Freedom" and was close to publishing his second novel, "My Dear Nikki." Gary will be sorely missed by all who are left behind.

Gary's life was tragically cut short at the age of 68 on November 13, 2023 after being in a car accident on November 9th while he was stopped at a red light in Salt Lake City. He was working at the time as a courier for a printing and copying company. Even though he was only with this company for a short time he made many friends due to his charismatic and warm personality. While his family is heartbroken to have him unexpectedly taken away, we know that he is with loved ones in heaven and that we will see him again. Gary's testimony of our Savior was strong and unwavering. He was truly a righteous man who loved the Gospel and our Lord.

When Gary graduated with honors from this mortal life, part of the light and laughter in this world went with him. To help the light and laughter live on please share memories and condolences at [www.serenityfhs.com](http://www.serenityfhs.com). His family would love to hear all of your stories. Gary's viewing and funeral services will be on Monday, November 20, 2023 at their ward building located at 15429 Iron Horse Blvd. Bluffdale, UT. The viewing will be from 9-10:30 am with the funeral from 11-12. Following the services the interment will be at the Orem City Cemetery in the lower lot.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating so that we can help finish and publish Gary's book that he was in the final stages of completing. We would love nothing more than to help his legacy live on through his work.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/Gary-Sumner>

To join this meeting remotely please click the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93090879620#success>

# Cemetery Details

## Orem City Cemetery

1520 N 800 E  
Orem, UT

# Previous Events

## Viewing

NOV **20**. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Bluffdale 1st Ward  
15429 South Iron Horse Blvd  
Bluffdale, UT 84065

## Funeral Service

NOV **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Bluffdale 1st Ward  
15429 South Iron Horse Blvd  
Bluffdale, UT 84065

## Graveside Service

NOV **20**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Orem City Cemetery  
1520 N 800 E  
Orem, UT



# Tribute Wall



“ I was just sitting in my backyard this morning reading the novel that Gary signed and gave to me back in 2014, when he first published it: “From Fear To Freedom”. As the son of a Holocaust survivor who lost my grandmother, great grandparents and a number of other family members to the Nazis, he felt I should have this book and I am enjoying it immensely. I decided to find out what Gary was doing today when I just came upon this tragic news! In the short time I met him I found him to be a very sincere and wonderful man. My heart goes out to his family and all of the people he impacted and will continue to impact through his wonderful novel. 🙏❤️  
Ralph R

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Ralph Rechnitz - August 10, 2024 at 11:27 AM

DR

“ Oh Karen, We just happened to see this on facebook tonight. We're so sorry for you and your family. Gary was always so friendly. The last time we saw him was in Nov 2017 when we stopped by while we were in Antioch for Thomas & Kalina's wedding. He was outside working on re-doing the whole front yard of your home while you were in Utah caring for your mom. He took time to visit with us. What would we do without our faith? We can all look forward to that wonderful day when we'll be together again.  
With Love, John & Dorothy Ryan  
Cedar City, Utah

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Dorothy Ryan - November 24, 2023 at 11:02 PM

PD

“ We were so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. We attended the same Ward in Antioch for many years. Gary was always cheerful and ready to serve. Ed and I want to send our heartfelt condolences to Karen and family. May the knowledge of our Lord's plan help to ease your loss. Love, Ed and Peggy Diaz

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**Peggy Diaz** - November 20, 2023 at 12:41 PM

AS

“ Gary was a big lovable teddy bear. He worked hard and had a big smile to share. Since he moved back to Utah, Kent and he went to lunch together and talked a lot. He will be sorely missed. We love you Gary!

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**Aleta Sumner** - November 18, 2023 at 01:21 PM

KS

“ My memories of Gary are mostly from when I was young, as he and I lived far apart for most of our adult lives and he was not able to make it to most family reunions.

*So my memories are of him being the much older cousin who would give me rides on the snowmobiles at the cabin, or who would, with his younger brother Kent, talk through the heat vents in their house and pretend to be ghosts to torment me. (They always apologized if I actually got scared.)*

*And I remember their pet chipmunks they used to let me feed.*

*I have fond memories of Gary and was so sorry to hear of his passing.*

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**Kristy Sumner Seither** - November 18, 2023 at 11:38 AM

AB

*They had pet chipmunks?! I did not know this! I love the memories you're sharing because it reminds me of when we got to go up to that cabin and our older cousins (Kent's kids) gave us the rides on the snowmobiles. My kids also talk through the vents but they haven't pretended to be ghosts yet. Please share anymore memories that you think of!*

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**Andrea Bai** - November 18, 2023 at 06:59 PM

KS

“ Thank you Gary for being the best big brother a guy could ever have, we had a ton of fun growing up together, because of our wonderful dad, he taught us how to fly and lake fish, how to snow ski, shoot guns and took us hunting and hiking and camping. We also had a blast riding our motorcycles up at the cabin and other trips we took with friends. ( the love of motor bikes was dads fault he had a moped when we were little, and then bought a Yamaha 100 to use at the cabin) He showed us by example how to work hard and do our best job, Gary learned the carpet cleaning business from our father and perhaps the most important lesson Gary learned was to be honest in his dealings with his fellow man and treat them right. I always was amazed at how easy he could talk to anyone about anything as I stood silently by ( I'm still mostly quiet ) My big strong brother would protect me if someone was going to hurt me, he would step in and tell them they had go through him first. Gary you were and still are a great man and I will miss you very very much, you were called home way to early for me, we had many more projects to work on together, I love you forever brother. Hey when my time comes grab some tools and cut a hole in the floor in heaven and pull me up !!! Forever your little bro. Kent.

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**Kent Sumner** - November 17, 2023 at 06:34 PM

DD

*I loved reading my brother Kent's memories of Gary and his attestation of our big brother's goodness and talents that he shared so generously! I say "amen". I am going to miss his laugh and positive attitude no matter what difficult circumstance presented itself. Yesterday I was deleting old messages on mom's answering machine and nearly forgot to breathe when suddenly I heard Gary's happy greeting and laugh as he told mom he was just thinking about her and was sorry she wasn't home but that he loved her and would call again soon. I'm so glad to have that recording of his cheerful voice. Gary and I were only 14 months apart and growing up, we were the siblings who fought periodically but he grew into a kind, loving man whom I adore! After my husband passed away, my two wonderful brothers stepped up and gladly did repair jobs on my home that I couldn't do myself even with the help of youtube! I already miss him so much that the only way I can cope with this loss is to picture him doing the things he enjoyed with the loved ones who passed before him. I'm so thankful for him and the beautiful family he left behind. They are his true legacy and I know he will continue to influence all of us for good. I'm also thankful for his good friends who brought joy to his life. Let's all try to make him proud. I love you big brother! Diane*

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**Diane Davidson** - November 17, 2023 at 07:15 PM

AS

*Such a sweet tribute. I know how much you loved him! Love you honey!*

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**Aleta Sumner** - November 18, 2023 at 01:19 PM

JC

*Thanks for always being the absolute best brother I have ever had. You always took the time to listen, and you helped so many in life. You will be so missed. Remember to keep smiling your sunshine down on us. I'm so sad you have gone home. You are loved Gary. Jeanette and Carter family.*

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**Jeanette Carter** - November 20, 2023 at 12:11 PM

GW

*I knew Gary from our years together at Highland High School. We did not run in the same circles, but we shared classes and incidental meetings through activities at the school. I am glad that I could attend his services through Zoom and hear his children speak of their father. And though I have always had fond memories of our time together I must add that at that time in our lives, he was a bit of a cut up, a bit on the boisterous side. He was no shrinking violet. It is good to hear from those close to him that he was a good guy and made wonderful memories with his family and those that he associated with. God speed to you my friend, until we meet again*

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**Glen Williams** - November 20, 2023 at 02:42 PM

RT

*My name is Russell Tredrea from Australia. Gary was my missionary trainer in the Oakland mission in 1975. I was shocked to hear of Gary's passing. Even though we had lost contact over the years, I have always remembered his kind heart and example to me. He was fearless in his testimony and hard working. We had some amazing experiences together and thank him for those.. My condolences to his family.*

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**Russell Tredrea** - November 09, 2024 at 09:43 AM