



Gary R. Houk

August 18, 2008

Gary R. Houk, age 56, of Dublin, Ohio, lost his courageous battle with cancer on August 18, 2008, at his residence, surrounded by the family he loved. Born September 7, 1951, in Akron, Ohio, Gary is survived by his devoted wife, Randi and daughter, Shannon (Ben) Stenberg. He also leaves behind his parents, Maureen and Joe Savely of Roanoke, Virginia, and Robert and Carolyn Houk of Fleming Island, Florida; and his sisters, Paula (Charlie) Tate, Karen (Jeff) Barger; his brother, James (Susan) Houk; half-sister, Robyn (Charles) Bailey; and step-sisters, Sindy (Joe) Wilson, Renee (Steve) Miller and Susan (Fred) Douglas. In addition, he will be greatly missed by many in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and countless dear friends. A 1973 graduate of The Ohio State University, he received a B.S. in Computer Science and earned his Master's in Business Administration at OSU in 1984. Gary was a passionate Buckeye, rooting for the "Scarlet and Gray" all of his life. For the past 34 years, he worked at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio. In the first 18 years of his career, he held various technical and management positions in product development, quality assurance and systems engineering and served most recently as the Vice President of Corporate Information Technology and Business Integration. In that capacity, he played a key leadership role in the evolution of OCLC from a technological environment based on proprietary systems to a globally networked, Web-based information resource based on open architectural models. Always active in local civic affairs, Gary served as President of the Dublin A.M. Rotary (1997-1998), President of the Dublin

Chamber of Commerce (2003-2004) and later as a board member of the Board of Governors for the Dublin Foundation. At the time of his death, he was also serving on the boards of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and the Business Technology Center, Columbus, Ohio, as well as the City of Columbus Mayor's Advisory Council for Volunteer Service. An avid golfer, Gary was a longtime member of Wedgewood Country Club, where he also served on the club's board. Quick with a joke and at all times a great and loving man, he will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Family and friends may call 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, August 20, 2008, at RUTHERFORD FUNERAL HOME AT POWELL, 450 W. Olentangy Street, (Powell Rd./St. Rt. 750/1/4 mile east of Sawmill Pkwy.), Powell, Ohio. A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Thursday, August 21, 2008, at Northwest Chapel, 6700 Rings Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017. Pastor Terry Hofecker officiating. (www.northwestchapel.org). In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Kobacker House/HomeReach Hospice, 3595 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, OH 43214 or the Dublin A.M. Rotary Charitable Foundation, P.O. Box 671, Dublin OH 43017. Condolences to www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com. Sign the online guestbook at www.dispatch.com/obituaries

Tribute Wall



“ Gary R. Houk

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I miss you Uncle Gary I wish you were here to keep everyone straight and honest, but I'm glad Grandma can finally be by your side once more. She missed you dearly and the pain of you going before her was always ever present. Rest well both of you. Shannon has grown into a wonderful adult, mom and worker. I just wanted to say although time passes it does not heal old wounds like they say. Some subjects will always be touchy. But family will always be family and when you left it took a piece of us all now Grandma is gone and nobody is acting like family...I know you would of tried to change that.*



Kelly Dooley - December 18, 2021 at 11:16 PM



“ *My heart goes to Gary's family as I know you will dearly miss Gary. I was fortunate to work with Gary through OCLC and had a great respect for his knowledge of and commitment to libraries. A quick wit matched by a sharp intelligence. I am thinking of you during this time.*

Maggie Farrell - August 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ *Randi and Shannon; Marian and I were deeply saddened to hear of Gary's death. We always enjoyed the social gatherings when we could talk with you both. Gary was always so gracious in helping me get acquainted with new software and inovations I never would have used without his encouragement. We know he will be greatly missed by you and his many Rotary friends. Go Bucks! Vic Feldmiller*

Victor and Marian Feldmiller - August 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *Randi: Our prayers are with you during this sad time for you and your family. Gary had the special ability to put a smile on everyone's face. We will miss him, but we will always remember fondly his friendship and goodwill. May you find strength from all your family and friends who are there to surround you in their arms. Blessings, Phyllis & John Spies*

Phyllis and John Spies - August 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *My thoughts are with you and Shannon. Sincerely, Stacy*

Stacy Holliday and Family - August 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Dear Randi, Shannon and Ben, Thinking of you in this time of sadness and hoping the fond memories that you have of Gary will melt away the sorrow that you feel today. With sympathy, Mary J*

Mary Jo Sbrochi - August 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Gary was a valued colleague, and we will miss him. All of us at INCOLSA, the OCLC network serving Indiana, are thinking of you during this sad time. Best wishes.

Michael C. Piper - August 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Randi, I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. As you know, Gary was my supervisor many years ago. He earned my respect and admiration. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues at OCLC.

Craig J. Wright - August 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ I was deeply sorry to hear of Gary's illness and passing. He was a kind man, had an wonderful sense of humor, and was excellent to work with at OCLC. It was easy to see how much he loved his family, work and life. He often spoke of Shannon with great pride. I am glad I had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Nancy and John London - August 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ I am a former Executive Director of NELINET, the OCLC regional affiliate for the New England area. In twelve years of working with OCLC, I never met anyone I liked more or found more intelligent or cooperative than Gary. He was brilliant innovator, but he was at his best as a manager, where he not only could talk the theoretical talk, but he could also walk the practical walk. Gary was a person who made things happen for OCLC and for libraries everywhere. When I saw him in February, he was managing his illness with the same humor, practicality, and tough-mindedness with which he managed everything he did. I felt fortunate to know such a courageous man, and I can only hope that I could follow his example if the time comes. To Gary's family, he was someone whom you have every right to be proud of and someone whom other people loved. We will miss him terribly. Marshall Keys Nantucket, Massachusetts

Marshall Keys - August 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ My condolences on your loss. I knew Gary through his work at OCLC and always thought him "one of the good guys." He will be sorely missed by his colleagues.

Rosario Garza - August 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ My deepest condolences to all those whose lives were touched by Gary and especially to the Houk family. Gary's sense of humor and enthusiasm for life spread immediately to those around him. Peace and God's grace to Gary.

Mitch Grant - August 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ I first met Gary 15 years ago at a library conference in 1993, then had the privilege of working with him at OCLC shortly thereafter. I always enjoyed his great sense of humor and fair play, and will cherish many great memories we generated playing golf in each other's member-guest tournaments at Wedgewood and Castle Pines, and in the annual Beauly Invitational.

Rick Noble - August 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ I first met Gary when I joined OCLC in 2004. I was lucky enough to have Gary as a sponsor on several projects. I have always said that if you looked up the word champion in the dictionary you should see Gary's picture. I have never worked with a better or more fair leader.

Jeff Young - August 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM