



Richard Custer

August 20, 1931 - December 15, 2020

Richard Lyle "Gus" Custer, 89, Worthington, OH, passed away peacefully on December 15 surrounded by his family. Born in Terre Haute, Indiana on August 20, 1931 to Walter and Katherine Custer, Gus was a storyteller, a master builder and technician, and a friend to all. A graduate of Dublin High School, class of '49, Gus married the love of his life, Nancy Wilcox, in 1950 and settled in Worthington to raise their family. After working various jobs in the construction field, Gus was hired into the maintenance division at The Ohio State University Airport in 1964, and moved his family to Dublin. He enjoyed his time at the airport and eventually rose to director of operations before retiring in 1996. Some of the highlights of Gus' career were assisting with state-wide snow removal during the blizzard of 1978 with the airport's equipment; dealing with the accidental landing of a TWA 707 jet that had mistaken Don Scott Airport for Port Columbus; being on hand for the arrival of the first two giant pandas to visit the Columbus Zoo; riding in the Goodyear Blimp; welcoming home the Ohio State basketball teams; and arranging personal helicopter rides for his children, where they were picked up from their yard on Sawmill Road. Being married to an avid garage sale junkie, Gus and Nancy found themselves at an auction in Vinton County in 1994. When they left, they were the proud owners of 30 acres and an old farmhouse. Two years later, Gus retired, and he and Nancy moved to Vinton County and got to work. After a couple of years, with the help of numerous friends and family, Nancy had another dream home. They resided there for 12 years of bliss before

returning to central Ohio, after making many new friends, planting over 3,000 pine trees and hosting many family gatherings. Over the years, Gus and Nancy traveled the country – usually the back roads – drove to Alaska in a VW van, wintered in Venice, Florida, and even spent time in South Korea visiting son Chris and daughter-in-law, Kay. Gus was a member of the Dublin Historical Society, Dublin PTA, Linworth United Methodist Church, Ohio Nurserymen's Association, chair of The Ohio State University Society of Technicians and served on the board of the Vinton Soil and Water Conservation District. He is preceded in death by his parents; son, Richard "Dickie" Jr.; daughter, Cynthia Smith; brother, Don (Mary); and sister, Shirley (Bob). Gus is survived by Nancy, his wife of 70 and a half years; children, Candace (Steven Righter), Charles (Maureen Miller) and Christopher (Kyong "Kay"); grandchildren, Christopher "Skip" Smith, Todd Smith, Cory (Brad) Guindon and Kyle (Jenna) Righter; two great grandchildren, Milo Guindon and Theodore Gus Righter; brother John (Tama) and sister Lynne (Dwight) Lingenfelter; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Many thanks to all of Gus' caregivers, especially Candace Righter who was a constant presence and great source of strength and love, always. A celebration of Gus' life will be held on Sunday August 8, 2021 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at the RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, where a service will be held at 5:00pm where everyone will gather together to share their favorite stories about the man we lovingly called Dad, Safety, Pappy and Pa Pa. A Graveside Service will be held at Union Cemetery on Monday August 9, 2021 at 10:00am with Pastor John Girard officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the James Cancer Hospital. To send an online condolence, please visit www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering:

AUG 8. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-4006
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Service

AUG 8. 5:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
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Graveside Service

AUG 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

Union Cemetery
3349 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, OH 43202
(614) 267-5471

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Custer*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Candy, I am so sorry for your loss. It's so very hard to have to say goodbye. But we can have hope and faith we will be reunited. Love you Linda Hickman*

Linda Hickman - December 29, 2020 at 11:07 AM



“ *I am sorry to hear of Gus's passing. My mother, Pat Osborn, worked with Gus at Don Scott. He was without a doubt, one of her favorite people. I worked at the airport one summer while attending Ohio State and was also blessed with knowing Gus. I will be praying for your family during this difficult time.*
Debbie Osborn

Debbie Osborn - December 23, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ *Nancy,*
I was sad to hear the news that Gus had passed away. Those of us that worked for the Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility at OSU held him in high regard. Whenever we had a particularly challenging situation Gus was always there to help us sort it out. The blizzards of 77 and 78 offered plenty of opportunity to see his leadership and “let's get it fixed” attitude in action. He was a remarkable man and those of us that worked for the Guard crossed paths with him often. His legacy lives on at OSU.
Lynn Coriell

Lynn V. Coriell - December 23, 2020 at 10:48 PM

RF

“ *Nancy and the Custer Family*

So sorry to hear of Gus passing. He was something special. When I think about how good things used to be, his image is one of the first that I see. Please remember me when you decide on a memorial service, I would make every attempt to attend. In the meantime, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Craig Fendrick
fendrick.1@osu.edu
740/816-7878*

R Craig Fendrick - December 23, 2020 at 08:51 AM

TE

“ *Dear Aunt Nancy, Cousins, and Kids, and the Custer relatives, So very sad to lose Uncle Gus! He was a great guy and loved very much! I'm sharing in your sorrow and praying for each of you. I hold you all so very dear in my heart. With so much love to all of you, Teri*

Teri Easterday - December 21, 2020 at 07:06 AM

PR

“ *Nancy, In the short time that I knew Gus he touched me in so many ways with his strength, kindness, his humor and his love for you. I will always cherish him in my heart. If there is anything I can do I will be here for you. With love , Paul Ross*

Paul Ross - December 20, 2020 at 12:24 PM

CR

“ Nancy , I was so sorry to hear that Gus had passed. I have so many fond and fun memories of our times together over the years especially weekends on Lake Erie! I do have sad regrets we didn't continue to make more as time passed but will always smile and hold dear the ones I have. Gus was a wonderful guy and the love you shared was so very special. Sending love, thoughts and prayers for you and the rest of the family. Gone but never to be forgotten 🙏



P.S. sure hope there are no snakes in heaven 😊

Candi Rotolo - December 19, 2020 at 03:34 PM

CA

Heartfelt condolences to Gus's family. There's an ache in my heart for someone who was a friend for almost 60 years. Gus and Nancy were my neighbors in Colonial Hills, Worthington. It was a privilege to know him. Love you, Nancy

Carolyn Anderson - December 24, 2020 at 02:43 PM

TS

The Dublin Historical Society was built and sustained with the support of couples like Gus and Nancy Custer. I did not know them but I have heard of them and have seen their names on our roles for many years as life members. I am certain they were involved during the time they lived in and near Dublin.

Tom Holton, Pres. Dub Hist Soc - December 27, 2020 at 12:56 PM

FM

Nancy so sorry to hear of the loss of Gus. The two of you were so supportive of Ken and me. God bless you in this most difficult time.

Fred E. Mayer

Fred Mayer - December 28, 2020 at 12:14 PM