



## Gary R. Rawlings

November 30, 1955 - April 2, 2021

Gary R. Rawlings, 65, of Portland CT, cherished husband of Wendy (Paradise) Rawlings, suffered a heart attack, and died on April 2, 2021. Gary was a kind and gentle soul, that loved his family, and looked for the good in everyone he met. Born in New Britain, he grew up in Berlin, and graduated the class of 1974. Gary recently retired, but was formerly employed at Stanley Works, and most recently as an auditor for Lantern Energy, working with Craig Frankel, a very dear friend that he admired immensely. He met Wendy, his best friend, while volunteering to help shelter pets, at Conn. K-9 in Newington. They married in 2002, and moved to Portland to create their special paradise on a small farm, surrounded by the best neighbors in the world! They spent the happiest of times doting on their many rescue animals, and riding horses in the forest. Although Gary shared his love with many creatures in his lifetime, his story would not be complete without the mention of a very special few, Stout, his beautiful horse that healed him during his toughest days, and Hunter, Dibs, Zeus, and Arlo, his ever faithful dogs.

Besides his wife Wendy, he leaves his parents, Robert and Jean (Mabie) Rawlings, of Berlin; in-laws Francis and Joyce Paradise of Newington; his sons, Robert Corrigan, wife Crystal, of Burlington; Kyle Rawlings, fiancé' Lindsey, of Oakdale; and step-son, Justin Casey of Southington; daughters Tessa Campbell, husband Dallas, of St. Paul MN; and step-daughter Jordan Wills, husband Chris, of Ballston Spa NY; six beautiful grandchildren, Colton, Declan, Spencer, Landon, Ella, and Mason; two special cousins, Sandy

(Douglas) O'Dell, of NV, and Cindy (Dan) Odell of CA.

Calling hours will be held Thursday from 4-7 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Funeral services are private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, his family asks that you make a donation to any animal organization of the donor's choice, or to spread acts of kindness. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

APR 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home  
45 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
(860) 225-6361  
carlsonfh@aol.com  
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

PC

“ Dear Wendy, family & friends,  
This is such heart-breaking news. I only knew Gary from our brief visits at the family picnics and I recall that he was a very nice and caring person. My deepest condolences, Wendy. You will be in my prayers.  
Love and hugs,  
Paula

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**Paula W. Curran** - April 10, 2021 at 06:06 AM

SD

“ I am utterly shocked to hear of Gary's passing. There are just no words. He was one of the sweetest, kindest gentlest man I've had the honor of knowing. His passion for life and animals was true to his soul.  
My deepest condolences to you Wendy and the rest of his family.  
RIP Gary.

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**Sherry DeGenova** - April 09, 2021 at 12:59 PM

JM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Gary for a number of years...Such a great guy who worked hard and enjoyed helping people reduce their energy costs and making their home more comfortable. Gary had such a nice easy going personality you could not help but like him. A lover of animals (how many dogs??) and of course his greatest pleasure riding his beloved horse. We will miss you Gary..  
Jose Macho

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**Jose Macho** - April 08, 2021 at 12:24 PM

AB

“ Dear Wendy, Rawlins family, and Paradise family. My sincere sympathy for your loss. We all got to know Gary and what a sweet man he was at the annual Paradise picnics and although we all missed summer of 2020, but we will never forget Gary and the picnics. May God bless you Wendy and bring you peace. Much love to you. April Buchwald

April Buchwald - April 08, 2021 at 02:36 AM

AB

“ Dear Wendy, Rawlings family, Paradise family, and extended family. I am very sad to read this news. The annual family picnic was missed this year but it was how we all got to know Gary and what a sweet man he was, may he rest in peace. God Bless you Wendy, You will be in my prayers

April Buchwald - April 08, 2021 at 02:26 AM

DC

“ Sending our prayers and love to the Rawlings family. Your family in Minnesota are praying and thinking of you all.

Debbie and Danielle Campbell - April 06, 2021 at 08:00 PM

KB

“ Gary was always a joy to speak with. His love for Wendy and his horses was always present. He will be missed 💔



Karrie Bolas - April 06, 2021 at 02:22 PM

MA

“ Sending you all prayers of strength to help you through this very difficult time.

*Gary was a kind and gentle soul who will be missed by many. Many fun memories of way back in the Rocky days. RIP Gary I hope your riding off in the sunset with your Stout!*

*Wendy & Family our prayers are with you all.*

*Marie Aparo*

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**Marie Aparo** - April 06, 2021 at 01:49 PM

GC

“ To Rob, Kyle and Tess,

*Please accept my sincerest sympathy in the passing of your Dad. I do remember meeting him a few times many years ago when I was driving Kyle and Tess to pre-school way back when you were about 4 or 5. Kyle, you must remember me as we share the same birthday!*

*I know it has been years since I saw any of you, but I still felt I had to express my condolences to all of you! You are in my thoughts and prayers!*

*Always*

*Ginny Chant*

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**Ginny Chant** - April 06, 2021 at 08:29 AM

KN

“ I wish to extend my most sincerest condolences to Gary's family and friends. I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing. Growing up together in Berlin was a wonderful time of life; and Gary's warm & easy going personality made for many special relationships in our neighborhood...that have continued to grow throughout our lives. We shared it all, came away with a smile and always longed for more. Tearful to let go and say goodbye... but the fond memories will always make me smile and I know he will be smiling upon all his loved ones for eternity...

*Keith Nappi*

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**KEITH NAPPI** - April 05, 2021 at 10:47 PM

VL

*So shocked and saddened hearing about our dearest of friends we spent so much time together from Ox Yoke to the cottage in the Berkshire's for many years we spent together and so happy we got connected again Gary will always be remembered with love and laughter and we will always be indebted to his sharing of Stout to Susie to race barrel racing at Berlin Fair. He brought laughter and deep friendship to our family we loved when he and Kevin went duck hunting and they would cook the whole meal which was excellent so many lovely memories to draw from. You left us too soon but we cherish the times we had over all those years. To your family and Your Mom and Dad we send our sympathy and also thank you for sharing all those years with us. Blessings to you and to Gary we will cherish our memories of you. Much love Veronica Linn and family*

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**Veronica Linn** - April 06, 2021 at 02:33 PM