Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
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Gary William Hefner

Aug. 11, 1955 - Oct. 19, 2020

Gary William Hefner, 65, of Morganton, NC passed away on Monday October19, 2020 at 9:24 PM after a brief stay in the hospital. He was born August 11, 1955 to George William Hefner and Jessie Piercy Hefner. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Kenneth and Eddie Hefner.

He is survived by his sister Rebecca Hefner McMahan; niece Crystal Hefner; nephews Rob McMahan, Shayne McMahan, and Timothy Hefner; and his huge family at J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center (JIRDC).

At a young age, Gary was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Although this meant significant physical and mental disability, Gary surpassed expectations, living his life to the fullest and bringing joy and light into this world. He was adored by his family and had a special bond with his “Sissy”, being born when she was just 5, he was “her baby” always and he thought she could fix anything.

Gary lived at JIRDC in Morganton for over 50 years in a loving and caring atmosphere. He had a very good life and thrived there. His days were full of activities, enrichment and fun. He enjoyed interacting with the staff and his friends and family. His joy of eating was evident in his favorite phrase, “I wanna eat.” It was rare seeing him without a favorite car or truck to roll across his wheelchair tray table.

One of the highlights of his year was the gingerbread house that his sister Rebecca would make for him at Christmas. Even as he got older and had certain food restrictions, the staff made adjustments so as not to interrupt this lifelong tradition of being able to eat some of his gingerbread house.

Gary's smile was contagious and he had a way of endearing himself to all who met him. He was well loved and he gave much love in return to all who were fortunate enough to interact with him.

Gary was a strong individual and lived three times longer than expected when he was first diagnosed with cerebral palsy. He will be missed by so many.

Gary will be available for viewing from 2 to 4 p.m., Monday, Monday, October 26, 2020 at Sossoman Funeral Home. His graveside service will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at Gethsemane Memorial Gardens in Charlotte.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

No tributes added yet.