



## Gary Owen Knowles

September 24, 1931 - July 16, 2020

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS--Gary Owen Knowles, 88, passed away Thursday, July 16, 2020, surrounded by his loving family.

Gary was born September 24, 1931, in Galveston, Texas, to Elbert Knowles and Ruth Dahlgreen Knowles. He started his career in high school where he joined the ROTC and advanced to the rank of Lieutenant. Gary joined the Air Force in June of 1953 and served for eight years. He served as an Automated Tracking Radar Specialist and also served in the Korean War. Gary received a National Defense medal, United Nations service medal, Korean Service medal, and Good Conduct medal. He eventually left the military and worked for the Department of Defense/FAA for 50 years. He went on to receive many other awards including "The Best in Southwest" for supervising the installation of two major automated flight service stations. Gary also served as a ward missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Elbert Bryan Knowles; sister, Betty Ruth Knowles (Oberkich); and son, Gary O. Knowles, Jr.

Gary married the love of his life, Antionette M. Ciesynski (Knowles) on April 26, 1980. The two of them together had ten children: Kathleen Y. Knowles Clark, Gary O. Knowles, Jr., Pamela L. Knowles Johnston, Randy O. Knowles (Christina Burns), Jennifer A. Wilske Echols (Charlie), Roxanne J. Knowles Pack, Elizabeth Wilske Roten (Donny), Bryant E. Wilske, Dean P. Wilske, Kent N. Wilske; their 18 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

The leader of our pack will be greatly missed and remembered fondly as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

# Events

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**JUL** **Graveside** 02:00PM

**24**

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Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, TX, US, 75211

# Comments

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“ I owe a lot to this man, Gary helped me get my career started when I began at Raytheon before he retired from the FAA. After he retired he was a contractor with Raytheon and continued working at the Air Route Traffic Control Center where he and I worked together on many projects. He was “old school” in his ways but “good school” for someone as green as I was. He taught me many things along the way about work but many life lessons that made me a better person. Once Gary left work for good he always would come back for the annual Christmas parties and we would talk about old times. Those of you who knew him well know that Gary could tell a story about the good ole days better than anyone and I dare you to try and get a word in edgewise. I was a better person for knowing him and I wish I could have been there to send him off to the next plane. I know my father in-law George Baskerville and Gary are now together yucking it up and telling old war stories now. I will miss him.



**John Odell** - July 29 at 03:28 PM



“ Sorry I didn't mean to add a giant pic of myself. I meant to place it next to my name.

**John Odell** - July 29 at 03:48 PM



“ I met Gary when I was hired as a secretary at FAA in 1988. He was always so nice to me and at times was a buffer between George Baskerville (our boss) and myself. I still have a conka shell he and Toni brought me back from vacation. It was a pleasure to always see him and Toni at my annual Christmas luncheons at ZFW. My prayers are with each of his friends and family.

Karen Burgamy

**Karen Burgamy** - July 29 at 09:42 AM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this time of sorrow. Continue to rely on God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Truly sorry for your loss.

Evans family - July 28 at 04:17 AM

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“ Charlie & Jennifer Echols purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Gary Owen Knowles.



Charlie & Jennifer Echols - July 22 at 04:33 PM

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“ Gary was a wonderful husband to my mother. He loved her unconditionally and took on her 5 children when they married. My first memory of Gary was when my family still lived in Las Vegas and he took me and my mom out to dinner. I don't remember the occasion or if there was one but he took me to what I thought was a “fancy” restaurant and he bought me shrimp which I'd never eaten before. He also took care of me during many trying times in my life and always showed me love and support.

jennifer echols - July 22 at 04:20 PM