



John Joseph Gavin

October 19, 1928 - January 16, 2012

John J. Gavin, Sr., of Winter Springs, FL, and previously of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died on Jan. 16 with his family by his side. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Winifred (Fisch) Gavin; his beloved wife, Geraldine Garvey Gavin; sisters Anne Niebrugge, Rita Gavin and Barbara Stuber and brother Lawrence Gavin.

John is survived by his children John Gavin Jr. and his wife, Kristin, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Molly Gavin, of Kansas City, Mo; and Daniel Gavin and his wife, Mary, of Winter Springs, FL; grandchildren Tricia, Megan, Briana, Maureen and Seamus Gavin and great grandson Ethan Boll. John was the loving brother to his last surviving sister, Joan Connolly, and is survived by numerous adoring nieces and nephews.

John was born in Ottumwa, Iowa on Oct. 19, 1928 and was always proud to share his birthday with Mickey Mouse. He served in the U.S. Army from 1950 – 1952 during the Korean War. He was awarded the Commendation Ribbon for his service. Following his military service, John graduated from Indiana State Teachers College in 1955. He was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus 909 and the Elks Club.

John was a born salesman and businessman, starting out as a pharmaceutical representative for Pfizer and went on to become a successful

entrepreneur and business owner. He owned Gavin Communications and Manpower Temporary Services where he had offices in Cedar Rapids, Ottumwa, Iowa City, Burlington, Marshalltown, Waterloo, Dubuque, Decorah, Mason City, Fairfield and Grinnell, Iowa; St. Joseph and Kirksville, MO.

John's generosity touched the lives of so many, especially his family. He was truly the "go to guy," always willing to lend advice, a kind word or laugh as well as moral or financial support to almost anyone who needed it. He was a loving father and role model not only to his three children, but also to his grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews. He loved a good joke and a hearty laugh, and his quick wit and Irish charm will be missed by everyone who knew him. His number one priority can be summed up in one word - family. The lessons he taught leave with us wisdom, a greater understanding of life, selflessness, and how to be better people. He was the epitome of a proud, true gentleman.

Family will receive visitors on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at All Saints Catholic Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa followed by a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at the church; interment, Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cedar Rapids.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to , St. Stephen's Catholic Church, 575 Tuskawilla Road, Winter Springs, FL 32708 or All Saints Catholic Church, 720 29th St. S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52403.

Arrangements entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home and Crematory, 9001 N Orlando Ave, Maitland, FL 32751. 407-695-CARE (2273)

Previous Events

Graveside

JAN **28**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
375 32nd Street
Cedar Rapids, IA

Tribute Wall

DD

“ I will always remember John coming to our aid when we were a bunch of 18 year old kids thousands of miles from home with a broken down car. He helped us get taken care of and on our way back home. He was a gracious host also to us while we were visiting Florida. He was fun to be around, very charismatic and made you feel comfortable. I'll stop to say thanks again next time I am at Mt Calvary visiting my mom. God bless John.

David Downey

david downey - January 31, 2012 at 12:20 PM

ES

“ To John (Gav), Kristin, Dan and Family,

I am very sorry to hear of your Father's passing.

I had the pleasure of meeting John Sr in my early years at Manpower. He struck me as a very smart, personable, likable and funny man. He had that pioneering, entrepreneurial spirit that was shared by other early Manpower Franchisees.

The Gavin Family must have many great memories to treasure.

Ernie Schaefer

Ernie Schaefer - January 31, 2012 at 08:34 AM

RD

“ Good bye to an railroad buddy. To the family you have my sympathy. Good going John.

Bob Downey

Robert J Downey - January 30, 2012 at 08:10 PM

JS

“ We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of John Sr. We have great memories while through the days with Manpower. I believe the last time we saw John was at Dan's wedding. He was a great guy and will be missed.

*John & Peggy Simon
Hernando, FL*

John & Peggy Simon - January 30, 2012 at 11:55 AM

TR

“ John and Kristin, Molly and Dan. Please accept our heartfelt condolences at the loss of your father. Although we never met him, we get a sense of him from the wonderful outpouring of love and affection that we have read on the tribute wall. We hope the pain of your loss will eventually be replaced by the comfort and knowledge of the legacy that he left behind.

Tom and Suzanne Renner

Tom Renner - January 30, 2012 at 10:49 AM

SM

“ Our deepest sympathy John, Molly, and Dan. I can't help but remember your dad cheering you on Molly down at the old St. Wenceslaus gym, or at the softball field. His kind ways and smile will always be remembered. "Manpower" was a great name for his successful business because he was a man with a powerful love of family. It was very evident. May you all find comfort and peace in his everlasting love.

Dennis and Sheri (Jennings) Miller

Sheri Miller - January 28, 2012 at 08:18 AM

SH

“ To the Gavin family,
Precious thoughts are with all of you at this time. My remembrance of John Sr. were of a being a gentlemen and great business person. He was the kind of man that knew how to encourage and teach at the same time without running over you. That was great for those of us new comers to his Manpower business and it helped us become better people too. I am glad to have known him and the family.

A former Service Rep.

Susan Halstead

Susan Halstead - January 28, 2012 at 07:58 AM

LB

“ John Sr was like my 2nd father when I moved to CR from Clinton. He had a very kind heart and I still remember how he would bring in special donuts to the weekly staff meetings at Gavin Communications. I enjoyed working for Sr and I knew if I needed anything that I could count on him. For the 6 months in which I commuted from Waterloo to CR, he and Jr. made sure I had a mobile phone with me in case I had car trouble. He was the best and he will be strongly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to the whole Gavin family.

Lois Byers

Lois Byers - January 27, 2012 at 11:46 PM

SK

“ John Jr..

I was sorry to hear about your Dad's passing. He was such a great guy, full of energy and had an uncanny ability to make others around him feel good about themselves. I am thankful to have known him and live with great memories of my time at Manpower. I offer mine and my family's condolences to you all.

Susan Koranda-D'Arezzo

Susan Koranda-D'Arezzo - January 27, 2012 at 07:16 PM

AP

“ John, Molly, and Dan, My deepest condolences on the passing of John Sr. These tributes pretty much say it all. A real gentleman and person. My family's thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Anton Petrzelka.

Anton Petrzelka - January 27, 2012 at 03:31 PM

CW

“ *John Jr, and family*

I am truly sorry for the loss of such a SUPER GENTLEMAN, and a great Boss as well. My Sister and I are so grateful to have had the pleasure of knowing and working for this man. Molly, you were so young when we were there, but I bet you are a terrific lady now. and John Jr. just as dashing as ever. Please know you are in our thoughts, even though we can not be there with you for the Mass. Donna has to work and I live to far away to make the drive as I now have MS. Your friends always, Donna Enneking Banks and Connie Prucha Wilbanks, both from the Answering Service in Cedar Rapids.

Connie (Prucha) Wilbanks - January 26, 2012 at 08:07 PM

CA

“ *John Jr.*

his obituary sums it up.....he was indeed a true gentleman. I had the pleasure of working for your father at Gavin Communications in Davenport, Iowa. He was a joy to work for and it was my pleasure to also feel like his friend. I have thought of him often through the years wondering what he was doing. Please accept my condolences.....he was always fair, a lot of fun to be with and indeed a great man. Carole Dettman

Carole - January 26, 2012 at 01:01 PM

TM

“ *John, Dan and family,*

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy on the loss of your Dad. He was a stand up guy and a real gentleman. I am great full to have known him. You have a lifetime of memories to cherish and you will think of him often in the days and years to come.

All the best to all of you.

Tom Maher

Tom Maher - January 26, 2012 at 12:13 PM

JJ

“ *A note for Joan. I was sorry to hear of the loss of your brother. You may remember that you used to baby sit me in Clinton.*

Jack Gilmour

John H. Gilmour, Jr. - January 26, 2012 at 09:06 AM

DF

“ *Molly, John and Dan - I was sad to hear about your Dad. I lived next door to Manpower on 1st Avenue when I was a little girl. I would see him often going in and out of the building. One day I saw he had a phone (bag, remember those?!) in his car! I was just amazed and had to run inside and tell my parents all about it. I thought it was so cool that he would have one of those. John did a wonderful job raising the three of you. Your memories of him will be with you forever. The Angels are keeping him safe now.*

Deb Frese. Cedar Rapids

Deb Frese - January 26, 2012 at 06:54 AM

CM

“ John Jr.-I was sorry to see your dad's obituary in the Gazette. The first thought that sprang to my mind was of the Irish coffee at our desks on St. Patrick's day and of the twinkle in his eye when he had mischief on his mind. He was a joker and loved a good laugh. It's been a long time since I worked for you two gentlemen but I think about those day with fondness. May God welcome him home with open arms and may you find peace. Cheryl Mayfield former Payroll Supervisor Manpower, CR

Cheryl Mayfield - January 25, 2012 at 06:19 PM

JC

“ Our sympathy to the family. May God surround you with His love and peace. Your dad sounds like a wonderful man. Jim and Percy Caviness

Jim Caviness - January 25, 2012 at 03:15 PM

FK

“ I am very sorry to hear of your loss today in the Gazette. Your Dad and I crossed paths several years ago I worked for the telephone company and Your Dad and I met when I first did some telephone work for him . It might have been on A ave down town. From there we worked several orders for him. He was such a great person to work for. We enjoyed him so much. Over the years I have wonder where he was.I will hold him in memories with great pride. May God bless you.

Francis King - January 25, 2012 at 10:15 AM

CF

“ So very sorry for your loss :(I had the honor of meeting the "Godfather", as he was so lovingly referred to by Carl, only once but I will always remember it. He welcomed us with open arms and an open door! I have heard nothing but great things about John Sr and am sorry for the void his passing will leave in your hearts and your lives . . . but for everything he has left you you are so very fortunate and time will help heal the wounds and then the great memories will flourish!

Cherryl Van Fleet, CR IA

Cherryl Van Fleet - January 24, 2012 at 01:23 PM

BK

“ Molly, Dan and John Jr,
My thought and prayers are with you. He was such a great man and I have such fond memories with him and all of you! That room brightning smile he had, which was the sincerity of his heart. I was always checking on him to see if his car was still at Casa Park, but now that we have moved to the beach, I wasn't able to and sorry that I had to find out through Kathy's facebook. Please know how deeply sorry I am for your loss.

*Sincerely,
Brenda Berry Keel*

Brenda Keel - January 23, 2012 at 04:23 PM

TF

“ All our sympathy and prayers to all of the Gavin family. Your Dad was a wonderful man who always had a kind thing to say when you saw him and a smile to brighten others day. God Bless all of you on your loss.

*Sincerely,
Tom and Cindy Fagan and family*

Tom Fagan - January 23, 2012 at 12:03 PM

AF

“ Dear Gavin Family: I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I pray that "the God of all comfort" be with you during this difficult time and that His trustworthy promises fill you with hope until you can be reunited. I found the following scriptures to be of special comfort, and hope you will too: 2 Corinthians 1:3, Acts 24:15; Isaiah 25:8,26:19; Revelation 21:4.

Amber Wilson, Winter Springs, FL - January 23, 2012 at 09:38 AM

AS

“ John, Kristen, Dan and the rest of the Gavin family,

I had the pleasure of meeting John early in my Manpower career and was impressed with what a cool guy he was. I know that term seems strange but that's what I thought of him. He carried himself with class and confidence.

I remember him telling me about his answering service business and of course that's all it took because my father was also in the phone answering business.

You have our deepest sympathies and prayers.

Alex & Lisa Seltzer, Manpower Altoona, Pa

Alex J. Seltzer - January 20, 2012 at 08:51 PM

KK

“ Dan, Molly and John Jr. & your beautiful families,

On behalf of the Keel family, we send our sincere condolences on the loss of such a wonderful man! We have amazing memories: from Random Rd. to the Villa Serena in Lauderdale by the Sea. Your father was a very thoughtful and kind man! We were so grateful to him for his help with our Dad when he was so ill. There has to be some peace in knowing he and Gerry are reunited in Eternal life. I'm sure Dick Keel met him with open arms. Talk about the great memories often, it will bring a smile to your face. RIP my Dear Godfather!

Kathy Keel-Moeder, Rick Keel, Randy Keel, and Mike Keel

Kathy Keel-Moeder - January 20, 2012 at 03:28 PM

ML

“ John my friend, from one news junkie to another I will miss you and our talks--many, many chats about the politcal scenes! Molly, you are John's only child I had the pleasure of meeting and I know how hard this is for you and the family. I know John was one of the "good guys", such fun and always the gentleman! What a guy!

Mary Beth Lawler

Mary Beth Lawler - January 20, 2012 at 02:00 PM

KC

“ Dan and family,

You are in our thoughts and prayers. Your dad was a wonderful man! You have our deepest sympathy.

Pat and Kara (Denny) Callanan

Kara Callanan - January 20, 2012 at 08:11 AM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mike Gavin - January 19, 2012 at 03:10 PM

AK

“ *I did not know John Sr., but I imagine he lived a gregarious and full life. His kids all know how to enjoy life and make people smile -- that generally comes down from the boss. Dan, Molly and John, I hope you hold onto all the great lessons from your dad.*

Dan, no more golf balls into the lake.

-aaron kennedy

Aaron Kennedy - January 19, 2012 at 02:50 PM

LE

“ *John, Dan and Molly, I am so sincerely sorry for your loss. John Sr. was so good to me when I worked at Manpower for those years. God bless all of you.*

With love and hugs-Liz Weiland Efting

Liz Weiland Efting - January 18, 2012 at 09:24 PM

RS

“ We will never forget the wonderful time we had in Pompano Beach with John Sr. & Dan in 1981. RJ, Pat, Brian & Laurie were on a trip in our motor home, and we stopped for a couple of days to see John & Dan.

RJ & Pat Stephan



RJ & Pat Stephan - January 18, 2012 at 07:42 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



RJ & Pat Stephan - January 18, 2012 at 07:33 PM

MG

“ John, my grandpa was an amazing person. He taught me so many lessons on how to be a good person and a great family member. Grandpa was so special to me because he was the only one I had. Even though he is gone he is still here watching over us from heaven. It was his time to go and he will forever be in our hearts.

*I love you Grandpa,
Maureen - one of the GGG's*

MG - January 18, 2012 at 05:32 PM

BG

GGG's forever.

*Love you Mo
Bri - another one of GGG's*

Briana Lynn Gavin - January 19, 2012 at 10:54 AM

KS

“ *John,
My condolences to you and your family. I lost my father this past
September so I know the emotions that surround this difficult time.
Take comfort in knowing that "Heaven is for Real".
Karen Stellflug
Manpower-Eau Claire*

Karen Stellflug - January 18, 2012 at 05:13 PM

KC

“ *4 files added to the album New Album Name*



Katie Sanford Caris - January 18, 2012 at 04:52 PM

LC

“ John,
I'm sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I know he was a big part of your life and he is remembered fondly by his Manpower family, too.
God Bless, Lisa Coblentz

Lisa Coblentz - January 18, 2012 at 04:00 PM

SH

“ John and Kristen,
Our prayers and condolences to you and your family. What a terrific man. I wish I would have had the opportunity to have met him. I guess in a way you can say that I did when I met you John. I will say a prayer for your family. Take care. Hugs.
Stacy Hammer

Stacy Hammer - January 18, 2012 at 12:34 PM

TR

It seemed as though John would live forever. He will be in my thoughts and prayers for a long time to come. For John, Jr., Molly and Danny, I can't imagine this huge loss. I will pray for all of you and wish that this time can be used to focus on all your memories and the things he taught you that make you who you are today. Continue to pass this legacy to your children. Much love, Therese Rafferty-McKenzie

Therese Ann Rafferty-McKenzie - January 18, 2012 at 03:58 PM

DC

“ I Met John in the summer of 1978 at the AMFO summer meeting (use to have 3 meetings per year) in Chicago. He was a great mentor to me and helped me in my first years with Manpower. I always enjoyed seeing his smiling face and warm greetings at the various meetings throughout my years with Manpower. Our condolences go out to the family. Don & Karen Cormack

Don Cormack - January 18, 2012 at 11:58 AM

KT

“ *Though I wasn't as close to John as I was in the past; I continued to appreciate his kindness through the years. He was a good grandfather to our three girls, Tricia, Megan, and Briana. I will remember him with fond memories. Peace to all~*

Kelly Carstensen Trachta - January 18, 2012 at 11:07 AM

GP

My thought and prayers are with the Gavin family. John Sr. was the true meaning of a gentleman, I always had the utmost respect for him. John Sr. always had a smile on his face and greeted everyone as if they were a personal friend. He was a very confident and classy man. God Bless Gloria Porter

Gloria Porter - January 24, 2012 at 11:08 AM

KC

“ *Oh Uncle John ... was simply the perfect uncle. He always greeted you with his huge smile, a big hug and if you timed the visit right, a good bloody to start the day. John Jr., Molly, Dan and Mary my heart just hurts when I think of you guys. I wish I was there with you now, but know that I'm sending you all of my love. I can't help but smile though when I think of the party up in heaven these days. Love - Katie*

Katie Sanford Caris - January 18, 2012 at 07:39 AM

LF

WE ARE SO VERY SORRY TO HEAR OF JOHN'S PASSING. WE WERE GREAT FRIENDS OF GERRY AND JOHN AND THE FAMILY. HE WAS SUCH A GREAT MAN AND LOVED HIS FAMILY SO MUCH. BOB AND DOLLY SULLIVAN , LEN AND I, AND THE GAVINS WENT TO SOME FUN IOWA GAMES TOGETHER!!! REST IN PEACE JOHN. OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY, BERNIE AND LEN FOX

Leonard Fox - January 19, 2012 at 11:21 AM

MV

John Jr., Kristen, & Family,

Our heartfelt sympathy for your family's loss. May the peace that comes from the memories of your father, comfort you now and in the days ahead.

Mike Vorse & Michelle Peel

Michelle Peel & Mike Vorse - January 23, 2012 at 09:37 AM