



# Richard Charles Gardner

OCT 10, 1934 - NOV 4, 2022



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## **Richard Charles Gardner**

OCT 10, 1934 - NOV 4, 2022

**R**ichard Charles Gardner age 88, of Centerville, passed away peacefully Friday, November 4, 2022 in the company of his loving wife, Barbara and his daughter, Julie.

Richard was born on October 10, 1934, the second child of six, born to Charles and Nadyne (Jordan) Gardner of Centerville, Iowa. As a child, Richard attended the one room "Hakes" grade school. He then went on to graduate from Centerville High School with the Class of 1952. After graduation, he joined the Iowa National Guard. On October 6, 1957, he was united in marriage to Barbara Joan Ferren, and to this union, two children were born, a son, Jordan Lee and a daughter, Julie Renee.

Richard was very talented having acquired his aircraft pilots license before his driving license. He loved row crop farming, raising both corn and soybeans. For some time, he drove a semi propane tanker hauling propane for his familys local "Gardner Supply" company. He also installed Heating and Cooling systems, as well as plumbing and electrical systems in many area homes. Richard also rebuilt salvage automobiles, remodeled homes, sold and installed carpeting, and was a satellite TV dealer and installed satellite dish systems.

In 2008, he suffered a stroke which he never fully recovered from. The family of Richard would like to thank the employees of Centerville Care Initiatives, including their hospice nurses for taking care of Richard during his final time. We believe Richard now rests in eternal peace in Heaven.

Richard will be deeply missed by his wife, Barbara Gardner of Centerville; his children, Jordan Lee Gardner of Centerville and Julie (Dan) Mihalovich of Centerville; his granddaughter, Kelsey Anne Mihalovich of Windsor Heights, Iowa; his siblings, Leroy (Janice) Gardner of Urbandale, Iowa, Phyllis (Gary) Thomas of Centerville, Rosalee (Richard) Inman of Hamilton, Ohio; as well as several extended family members.



## Obituary

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Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Nadyne Gardner; his sister, Beverly (Tom) Peckham; and a brother, Jimmy Gardner.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30AM, Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at Lange Funeral Home in Centerville with Judy Austin officiating. Burial will follow at Haines Cemetery north of Centerville. Visitation will take place Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at Lange Funeral Home in Centerville with the family greeting friends from 9-10:30AM. Memorials have been established to either Haines Cemetery or Care Initiatives Hospice, and may be mailed to Lange Funeral Home, ATTN: Gardner family, 1900 South 18th Street, Centerville, Iowa 52544. Condolences may be shared online at [www.langefh.com](http://www.langefh.com) or on our funeral home Facebook page.

### Visitation

2022-11-08 09:00:00

10:30:00

Lange Funeral Home & Crematory

1900 South 18th St

Centerville

IA

52544

### Funeral Service

2022-11-08 10:30:00

Lange Funeral Home & Crematory

1900 South 18th St

Centerville

IA

52544



## Tribute Wall

**Richard Charles Gardner**

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**Thomas Funeral Home** posted:

October 21 at 1:36 PM



**Thomas Funeral Home** shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 1:32 PM



**Jerry Power** posted:

My condolences to his family! I had a couple of dealings with Richard! I bought a vehicle from Richard for my daughter. I tried to haggle with the price and he told me I want to make X amount of dollars, so I said okay, she likes the car. He then said if anything goes wrong with that vehicle, I'll fix it no charge! Well, something did happen, the clutch hanger broke and so I took it him. His son Jody spent a few hours fixing it. I was prepared to pay, Jody said there's no charge! Richard was a man of his word! MAY HE REST IN PEACE!

November 6 at 7:00 PM



**Margery Davison** posted:

He was a good man and he is going to be missed. Our condolences to his family. From the Ewing family Matthew, Margery nd Marilyn.

November 6 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Richard Charles Gardner**

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MS

**Mrs. Deana (Inman) Snodgrass** posted:

I didn't get to grow up living close to my extended family in Centerville but we visited every summer of my childhood and often as an adult. Like my cousin, Jeff Thomas, Uncle Richard took myself and my younger brother, Darren Inman on our first airplane ride. I was very afraid but my Uncle Richard wanted me to experience the thrill of flying. Indeed I did! He took me hunting for Morel Mushrooms and how to spot them. He purchased and fixed up a 1980 GL 1600 Subaru for me. Richard told me how to remember the make and model GL1600---Good Looking 16 year old. SMILING! He gave my daughter her first taste of adult food. He cleaned off a chicken leg for her to suck on and handed it to her in her high chair. First taste, Sara had a death grip on that bone! I don't God could have gotten it from her, we all laughed so hard. Uncle Richard taught our 13 year old son, Steven, to drive his pick up, pick corn and then take it himself to town to sell. I am smiling as I write this...How many other moms would have FREAKED out! I grew up hearing many stories my mom shared about what wonderful brothers she had. Uncle Richard put his arm around my father, a quiet shy townie and welcomed him into the large and loud Gardner family. Not only did Richard connect with his generation, my generation but my children's generation. How many people accomplish that Yes, Uncle Richard touched many, many lives, I am so thankful to be one of them. As I was thinking of my Uncle Richard, I couldn't help but also remember my Aunt Barbara for she is a part of many of my memories! Aunt Barbara is a beautiful, kind, and faithful woman. Thank you Barbara for always being there when Richard needed you the most.

November 6 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Richard Charles Gardner**

OCT 10, 1934 - NOV 4, 2022

MG

**Mrs. Richard Inman (Sister, Rosalee Gardner)** posted:

This should be very easy to share memories of a good man but Richard was more than a brother, he looked out for me more as a father would. There is not enough time to share all, smile, but will hit a few high spots of fond memories. He taught me to drive and parallel park better than any man ever. He was a great patient teacher of many things beyond measure. He would never give up teaching or allowing anyone to fail. Most teacher man ever! As growing up, I was sort of in between siblings. Beverly and Phyllis had each other and Leroy (Butch) had Jimmy. And here I was alone. Richard would take me at times on his dates to have fun. He took a bunch to the reservoir to swim in moonlight of the night and made sure I was a part of it. I swam to the middle and stood on water tank where the train would go underneath for water. I didn't know there was a big hole there also. When he saw me in the moon light, he screamed hysterically not to move a step and swam fast to me and explained if I went through that hole I would have drowned. He was so scared for me. Some of my favorite times is when he would wake me up late at night with a full moon..fresh white deep snow perfect for sledding. The best sledding ever. He fixed up many cars for me and my family...there are not enough words here. At a lake he taught my bashful hubby to water ski instantly. We were all at a lake having a ball and when he found out the day before leaving that Rich was the only one that hadn't ever gotten on skis, he said to my hubby, you want to choose to go your way or my way with a firm voice. Hubby decided to go his own way and followed Richard for a skiing lesson. Hubby's first time on skis and Richard took off driving the boat. UNBELIEVABLE, MY HUBBY SKIED PERFECT NEVER FALLING AND THEN WE COULDN'T GET THE SKIS OFF OF MY HUBBY, HE FELL IN LOVE WITH WATER SKING! My brother just shook his head as he couldn't believe how my hubby was a natural, well, I tried till my hands got blisters, never did get up. Our house is full of his touches. Bars around entrance doors for me to use as I lost balance due to surgery. A roof over our deck....to escape the sun. A roof over our free standing porch swing, again escaping the sun. He built a beautiful front fence around a front entrance porch to stop package delivery theft....attached benches and side tables on our deck. I could go on for hours and hours but will close here with a wonderful story I shared with me a long time ago. He and Barbara had taken in a homeless young man but due to his ungratefulness by stealing Barbara's personal things, he was sent away. Richard then told me a good number of years later, he got a telephone call from a man stating Richard wouldn't remember him.....BUT Richard did. It was from this young homeless man now I believe from the state of Washington with a good life of which he gave all the credit to my brother, Richard. Richard has shared a number of times the way to heaven and he told Richard he was now a saved Christian because of his caring. My brother wasn't a perfect man but aren't we all one way or the other imperfect, I just I know I am not perfect but will be some day too. My brother was so blessed having Barbara for his wife. She is a caring loving person. May God bless her greatly.

November 3 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Mrs. Richard Inman (Sister, Rosalee Gardner)** posted:

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**Lori Inman Sgaraglio** posted:

It was an extra hot summer afternoon. I was hanging out at Uncle Richard and Aunt Barb's place. The rest of the family was out shopping; except Uncle Richard, who walked in and immediately offered to take me up in his airplane. Of course, I could not refuse! It seemed like only a few minutes, and we were accelerating on the runway and in midair with ease. What a view! Nothing like seeing all the acres of corn fields from the gorgeous blue sky! Then, Uncle Richard spotted a herd of cattle. He dipped down and vrrrrroooooom; he buzzed the cattle just low and long enough to get them moving fast! Then, veering this way and that way. What a ride! As we were approaching the runway, I inquired about informing the tower. Richard smiled and said Honey, there's no one to call-in. I just stick my head out the window and look to see if other planes are approaching. I make sure to fly in a circle counterclockwise and get in line and wait my turn. No doubt, he had done this many times, and with confidence the plane landed smoothly. That ride was most memorable. But most of all, I'll never forget how proud Uncle Richard was showing me his flying skills. And, remembering that big smile of his! Also, every day I see his skilled handiwork in my own home. The extra bedroom, bathroom, and kitchenette he built in the lower level with the assistance of my father and Aunt Barb has been most appreciated! The details were exceptional and too many to mention here. Richard loved to work with his hands. That summer of domestic transformation was memorable as well, along with his smile! Can you imagine the extra big smile he has now Gives me hope. And to those who hear or read this, we too, can have confidence that someday we will always be smiling and joyful, for those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Romans 52 ...through our faith, Christ has brought us into that blessing of God's grace we now enjoy. We are blessed because of the hope we have of sharing in God's glory

November 3 at 7:00 PM



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LS

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November 3 at 7:00 PM

JA

**Judy Austin** posted:

Wishing the family, extended family, and friends much love and healing. ❤️

November 5 at 7:00 PM

DT

**Deb Thom** posted:

Julie and family... so sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad... Two memories come to mind... one, he gave me my first airplane ride and promised he would not go upside down... Well.. he did... it was a thrill I will always remember. Second, he got a little perturbed with me when I would spend nights at your house and tried to be a country girl and help out on the farm. I was pretty worthless, but learned a lot about living life in the country. May your family have peace knowing he is watching down on you and your family.

November 5 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Richard Charles Gardner**

OCT 10, 1934 - NOV 4, 2022

MS

**Margery And John Sandy** posted:

Julie and Barb, So sorry for your loss.

November 4 at 7:00 PM

NT

**Nellie Thomas** lit a candle in honor of Richard.

Lit a candle in memory of Richard Charles Gardner

November 3 at 7:00 PM



DL

**Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson** posted:

We are so sorry for your loss.

November 3 at 7:00 PM

DL

**Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson** posted:

We are so sorry for your loss.

November 3 at 7:00 PM

LV

**Laurel Varner** posted:

Sorry to hear this. Richard gave me my very first airplane ride and got me hooked on flying. He used to land his Cub on the old railroad bed in Numa back in the 60's and give us kids rides. Very generous and giving person, not to mention one heck of a pilot. Always had to do loops, rolls, and tailspins. What a blast! Them were the good old days! He will be missed by all that knew him.

November 3 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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JT

**Jeffrey Thomas** posted:

I have a lot of fond memories of my Uncle Richard while growing up. I remember him as an uncle that always had a sly smile. He was instrumental in teaching me to drive my first stick shift in an old 12-ton Ford Pickup truck. Boy! was my dad surprised! He taught me what generosity was as we would help him pick sweetcorn from the field and then distribute it to older people around town that couldn't get out. I don't remember him ever taking a dime. I learned to run large farm equipment while working with the Gardner family, where I also learned to work with propane gas and work on appliances. He taught me how to install a furnace, work on air conditioning units, and how to cut and fabricate sheet metal for AHU plenums. He showed Jody and I how to make a little money scrapping out old coal furnaces that we removed from people's homes, making room for new ones. What a filthy dirty job! Where's that Dirty Jobs guy when you need him As a youth, he gave me my first motorcycle ride and helped me buy my first motor scooter. (A Honda Z-50, for those of you old enough.) He gave me my first airplane ride. That I remember anyway. He taught me to fly that old 1946 J3 Cub, and then he let me borrow it anytime I wanted. Just take care of it. was all he'd say. I thought it was the greatest toy in the world and I was able to make a few memories of my own with it; even took it on a couple of dates. I did my first take off, landing, roll, loop and grass field landing in that old plane. And yes, my parents were surprised again. Richard also taught me the basics of home wiring and plumbing, which has benefited me several times over the years. Several cousins and I learned a lot about hard work when the crops needed put in or when harvesting time came, and the weather was bearing down on us. We worked some very long days, but somewhere there was always a fun payday. He also taught me or us a lot about fear and respect when he was upset with us, he could be scary; but he was usually quick to forgive, forget, and then put on a smile. )... I will miss my uncle.... And I truly hope he's home with our Lord tonight.

November 3 at 7:00 PM



## Media

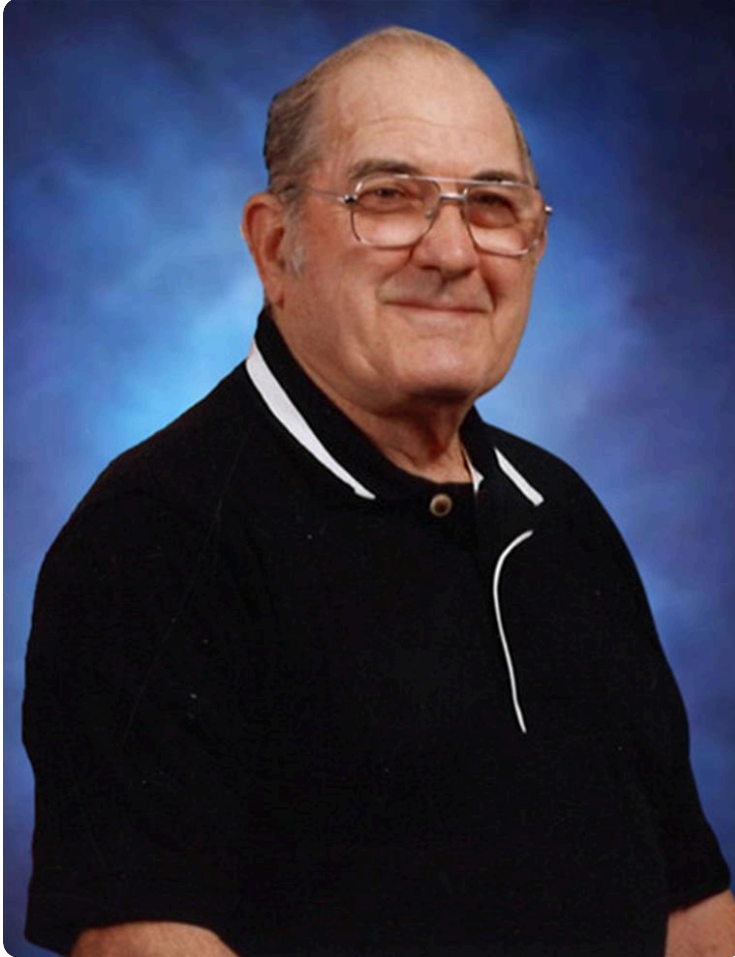
**Richard Charles Gardner**

OCT 10, 1934 - NOV 4, 2022



Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 1:32 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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