



Earnest Garner

April 11, 1946 - January 14, 2009

Mr. Earnest Garner, 62, died January 14, 2009 at Pathways Hospice Center after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Mr Garner was born on April 11, 1946 in Wabash, Indiana to Earnest True Garner and Katherine Louise McNeeley. He graduated from Northeast High School in St. Petersburg, FL in 1964 and received his bachelor's from Graceland University in 1968. Mr. Garner moved to Colorado in 1968 to take a position as youth minister for the Community of Christ. In 1969 he married Marilyn Jones and they moved to Denver where he worked as a regional youth minister. Mr and Mrs Garner returned to Fort Collins in 1973 and in 1976 opened the first of many businesses; beginning with The Freight Broker, then The Furniture Broker, and finally Just Office Furniture. After 28 years of retail business he sold the last of his businesses and then focused on commercial real estate in downtown Fort Collins. He was always improving and contributing to the Fort Collins community. He was an active minister in The Community of Christ, serving as pastor for a number of years, and supporting church members in many ways. He enjoyed the mountains and led many church camps over the years. He loved entertaining, being surrounded by friends, sharing the tomatoes and raspberries that he grew in his garden, and traveling with his wife and family. He was a member of Friendship Force of Northern Colorado. Among the many who will miss him are his wife, Marilyn; daughter, Susanna Garner of Fort Collins; sons, John Garner (Cinnamon) of Loveland, David Garner (Lisa) of Fort Collins and grandchildren, Emmaline, Juliette, Greyson,

Allister and Porter; sisters Carolyn Dillon (Leonard) of Evergreen, Colorado and Sheila Simons of Pennsylvania, stepfather Jim French of Florida; nieces Barbara Sweet (Laird) of Texas, Katie Davis (Andrew) of Oklahoma, April Whistler (Jason) of Pennsylvania; grandnieces Alyssa and Dana, grandnephews Nathan, Jon, Colton, and Luke. He will also be greatly missed by his wife's extended family, Joy Jones, Bill Jones (Ann), Betty Jones, Mary Jo Baker (Everett), Terral Jones (Pat), Gary Jones (Debbie), Gail Sundell (Tom), Stan Jones (Susan), and numerous nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his niece Dawn Rutledge and grandniece Robin. A Memorial Service will be held at 1 pm, Saturday January 31, in the Community of Christ Activity Center, 220 East Oak Street, Fort Collins. The family requests that memorial contributions may be made to Pathways Hospice or Community of Christ in care of Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Tribute Wall



“ *Earnest Garner*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM

SM

“ The last time I saw Ernie was August of 2008. He popped by our house with a bowl of raspberries. Just out of the blue, he popped by and said, “Hope you enjoy them.” I did, I enjoyed every morsel because I do love raspberries. More importantly however was the idea of the bowl of raspberries. The idea that a neighbor and a friend faced with great challenges and an illness so consuming and profound would take the time to bring a cup of raspberries.

As indicated by the bowl of raspberries, Ernie knew how to appreciate the simple pleasures in life. He loved family gatherings, a good chuckle with his kids, a fun moment with friends, and a night out with his wife. He valued the relationships with Lloyd and Joy, and he cherished preparing family meals in his kitchen with all who knew him. He understood the pleasures and gratification of a fine garden in your own back yard. Yes, Ernie loved his garden and the property upon which it grew.

I remember many years ago when Ernie spoke to me about his small green house on Elizabeth Street. His family had outgrown this house and he was telling me about the impending renovation. “All that will remain is the fireplace” he said. And from this idea, his dream home began to emerge; cabinets from freight salvage, dishes from abandoned residences, and furniture deals from around the country. Ernie was always looking, looking for a deal, looking for ways to use that which a culture so immersed in change, advancement and discarding of the old for the new, embodied. He knew and understood the value of recycling. He taught me that a business based on these ideas was absolutely brilliant. I learned much from him in appreciating the value of that which can be used again. I appreciate the many valuable treasures that I gained from Ernie’s explorations and finds. I honestly believe that twenty-five years from now, Ernie will be valued as the consummate environmentalist.

It’s perplexing how to write a tribute to a man who touched your life in many ways. I guess you say “thank-you”. As I

remember a small babysitting incident, I want to say, thanks Ernie for sharing your wisdom in clearing the air for what might at times be difficult. Thanks Ernie for sharing your good fortune in finding the best deal. But above all, thanks Ernie for sharing a bowl of raspberries; this bowl of raspberries that was the ultimate reminder of the simple pleasures in life; a reminder of you and your appreciation of family, friends, and a lovely garden. It was a heartfelt gesture that was much appreciated, and again brought to light your understanding of the simple pleasures of life.

Sylvia Miller

Sylvia Miller - January 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ *So very sorry to hear about your loss of Ernie. Just know you all are in our thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. Love the Anderson's*

Ed & Fran Anderson - January 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ *I remember many wonderful things about Earnie--his strong work ethic, his generous spirit, his love of family, his dedicated church service... He did so much to enrich the lives of those fortunate enough to know him. I will never forget the advice he gave me when I was about 18. He gave me \$20.00 and told me to hide it in my wallet and only spend it in the case of a real emergency. Then he told me that because I had been blessed with the ability to do well in school, I should use that gift to help others. This was good advice which has always served me well. Earnie was always eager to offer fatherly advice to me, and I always appreciated his genuine interest and concern for me. He will be missed, but he will not be forgotten!*

George Jones - January 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the Garner/Jones family. Earnie was such a wonderful, generous person, and he always made the O'Dells feel like family, too.

We love you all.

Terry and Jolene Whitney - January 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ Earnie was a pleasure to know and joy to be around. I met with him this summer, after not seeing him for a year or more. He explained to me in detail what was happening to his health, and how long he was expected to live. I told him I was sorry that this was happening to him, and he told me not to be. He told me not to feel sorry, but rather to acknowledge that any one of our time may be up unexpectedly, we never know. He said something to the effect that dieing is part of the deal when we are born, but not to be sad about it. That's just the way it is. It's going to happen to everyone, so you might as well be at peace with that notion. He seemed to have been at piece with that notion this summer when I talked to him. We all have a very limited time on this earth. I feel very privileged to have had my time overlap with Ernie's time. I'm so glad to have had the opportunity to know him. He has so many people that know and love him that he will live on through our memories of him, and through the influences his life had on ours. What a wonderful person he was.

Troy Jones - January 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ Earnest Garner

Troy Jones - January 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Marilyn and all the extended family of Earnie,
I am sorry for your loss and trust that Earnie is out of pain and potentially at rest. I say potentially because he was the ever-ready bunny while managing this property. I have had the pleasure of knowing Earnie since 2005. He really made a wonderful difference at Carriage House Office Complex as a landlord, caretaker and wonderfully caring person of these buildings and the inhabitants. No project was too big nor too difficult to handle.
I know he loved you and wanted to stay around to see everyone grow old. I trust he is watching and sending love, and potentially organizing work crews in heaven, if there is such a thing. Mary

Mary A. Whalen - January 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TZ

“ Dear Marilyn,

I read about Ernie in today's paper and wanted to send you my sympathy! I worked with Ernie only briefly and was impressed with his largesse. He was so enthusiastic and loving in everything that he did. He generously donated to the VIPS program for the schools with beautiful office furniture. He was so sincere in his wanting to do the best he could to help kids and teachers in our schools.

When I read about his extensive work with your church, I thought 'of course!' Ernie lived his faith in a way that was lovely to behold. I can only imagine the love that he brought to you and your family.

I will be sending you my thoughts and prayers as you all go through the days that are ahead.

Take care!

Fondly,

Tara

Tara Zeleny - January 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM