



Henry "Hank" Gardner Jr.

August 9, 2023

Father, husband, brother, son, grandfather, uncle, friend, colleague, mentor, soldier, Henry S. (Hank) Gardner, Jr., 71, died peacefully on August 9, 2023, with his family at his side.

Hank was born October 18, 1951, in Paducah, Kentucky to Hank Sr. and Arline Gardner. While Hank attended many schools as their family followed his dad's military career, he always called the Rocky Mountains home. Hank had many passions. In sports, he was an all-conference football player in Wurzburg, Germany, a soccer player and coach and an avid baseball fan. As a ROTC student, Hank obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Biology at the University of Montana on the 6-year plan to accommodate his fishing, skiing and soccer passions.

Hank was committed to the military soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. He was honored to be an Army officer. He was first stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, and then White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. While at White Sands, Hank was the project officer for the medical support of the first landing of the Space Shuttle Columbia when it was diverted from California due to weather. As his Army career continued, Hank obtained a Master of Science in Public Health from Tulane University. He transferred to Fort Detrick, Maryland, where he was medically retired from the Army due to Multiple Sclerosis. As a civilian, he continued to work for the Army at Fort Detrick managing numerous

medical research projects and scientists. At the same time, Hank obtained a Doctorate in Public Health as a Kellogg Fellow at Johns Hopkins University.

Hank finished his professional career at Colorado State University where he was Associate Vice President for Research. He was a visionary who led the research development portfolio building collaborative research opportunities between CSU and academic, government and private sector partners.

Continuing his commitment to the military, Hank was proud of the collaborative work done with the 10th Special Forces Group and the founding of the Office of Defense Engagement at CSU.

Personally, and most importantly, Hank was devoted to his Catholic faith, so in love with his wife, Sherry, and very proud of his children: Jennifer (Brad), Kitryn and Nathan. Hank is also survived by his dad Hank Sr., brother Paul (Ann), sister Kit (Mike), brother Bud (Catherine), granddaughter Grace, extended family and many friends. Hank delighted in connecting people. He was a professional and spiritual mentor to many and a friend to all. His legacy lives on.

Recitation of the Rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m., Monday, August 21, 2023, followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Parish, 5450 S Lemay Ave, Fort Collins, CO, 80525. A lunch reception will follow Mass. A military service with interment will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Fort Logan National Cemetery, 4400 W Kenyon Ave., Denver, CO, 80236

Memorial donations may be sent in Hank's name to Marisol Health Northern Colorado: Online - www.marisolhealthnoco.com; or Check - Payable to: "Catholic Charities"; Memo line: "Marisol Health Northern Colorado"; PO Box 568; Fort Collins, CO 80522

Hank's Mass of Christian Burial will be live streamed. Please follow the instructions below:

Go to Seas-Parish.org

Scroll half-way down to "What's Happening"

About 9:55 am MDT, click on the Facebook picture (link) – You do not need to have Facebook

Click the X to skip creating an account

Scroll down to the live video screen.

Click on the video if it's not already playing. It should be live. May need to turn on the speaker on the bottom right side if it has an "x" next to it.

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG 21. 9:30 AM (MT)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
5450 South Lemay Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80525
seas@seas-parish.org
<http://seas-parish.org/>

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 21. 10:00 AM (MT)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
5450 South Lemay Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80525
seas@seas-parish.org
<http://seas-parish.org/>

Interment

AUG 21. 2:30 PM (MT)

Fort Logan National Cemetery

Tribute Wall

KT

“ Karen T. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Henry "Hank" Gardner Jr..



Karen T. - August 24, 2023 at 01:52 PM

AR

“ I met hank when I worked at Darpa and we joined forces in using animals as sentinels for environmental threats. Hank helped recruit me to my job at CSU and was a big reason I came. I will miss him.

alan rudolph - August 20, 2023 at 04:17 PM

CS

“ Hank was loved and admired by all who knew him. My family and I were blessed to have shared a small portion of our lives with Him and his wonderful family. Hanks love of country, family and his Christian faith was beyond limit. His love and support for military members had no limit as well. Hank was a good friend, mentor and kind person. We will miss him.

Clarence Shockley - August 20, 2023 at 11:45 AM

VC

Hank was very uplifting fun to be around love joking around he loved his faith and his family I'm gonna miss him. ❤️

Valerie Castillon - August 22, 2023 at 04:10 PM

WF

“ Hank was a wonderful addition to my life for over 40 years. From scheming research support for innovative ideas to heartfelt discussions of issues of the day, Hank was the friend that we all treasure. His dedication to CSU and the Land Grant principles compelled me to apply to join him in the VP for Research Office.. He was a significant driver for my "second career" and a close friend and colleague for those 10 years at CSU. Whether in a meeting or over a beer at Dominic's, I knew I would get an honest, reasoned opinion or an innovative suggestion. Hank was a man of character and a good, good friend. He will be sorely missed. Hank, Sherry and their family will be in my and Lucy's prayers.

William Farland - August 19, 2023 at 07:02 PM

JE

“ I so valued my friendship and working relationship with Hank at CSU. We shared common interests in health, graduate education in Public Health, partnerships with military projects and health, as well as my interests in people with MS. He was a tremendous asset to CSU, and will be missed in our entire community.

Jeff.McCubbin - August 17, 2023 at 05:37 PM

CS

“ A friendship that started 40 years ago in Hagerstown, MD when Hank was working at the US Army Medical Research Institute in Ft Detrick, MD, and Nif was a little girl about the same age as our daughters.

Many Sundays, we would meet after Mass at St Ann and have Nif stay with us for the day to play. Hank would come for dinner, and we would have lively discussions about everything. We remember the joy Hank shared with us upon meeting and dating Sherry.

When the call of the West pulled them back to Colorado, we visited Hank and his young family while our youngest daughter was in college at University of Colorado. It was like old times: the friendship, the lively discussions. Of course, the rivalry between CU and CSU football teams was a taboo topic!

We are thinking of you, Sherry, Nif, Dr Hank Senior, Nathan, Kitryn and the rest of your families as you mourn such a fun, smart, spiritual, courageous, dutiful man.

Charles and Agnes

Charles and Agnes Supernavage - August 17, 2023 at 02:28 PM

CJ

“ My Uncle Hank, a relationship cut too short.

Still, memories of his passion for skiing and those Rockies, both the mountains and the team.

Most of all his devotion to his little girl, Nif especially during troubled times, something I wouldn't understand until I had two of my own.

So grateful he was in our lives, more than he probably realized but carries forward.

He leaves a void but it is filled with love from him to all of us. And the Jones Family sends our love to all of the family and friends.

Christopher A Jones - August 15, 2023 at 05:11 PM

MH

“Hank was a friend, mentor, fellow pilgrim and conversation partner for 20 years. Whether it was laughs at ourselves (or others, on occasion), honest discussions about theology, parenting, dealing with grief and loss, life in the academy, or encouragement to one another, Hank was consistently a man of integrity. I will miss him dearly.

Matt Hickey - August 14, 2023 at 05:31 PM

MB

“Hank and I met in 1968, in Wurzburg Germany, our senior year of high school. He became my brother. We played football, soccer together. We both received 4 year ROTC scholarships and spent our freshman year together as roommates at Loyola University in New Orleans. However, the mountains and snow were calling him and he transferred to Missoula. We followed our own career paths but always remained brothers. We referred to him as Ichiban Tomadachi (#1 Friend in Japanese). RIP Brother.
Michael C. Bennett

Michael C. Bennett - August 14, 2023 at 03:04 PM

WI

“ I knew Hank for over 20 years as a valued colleague, fellow Army veteran and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner. Hank was a true soldier, born into the Army as an Army brat, and serving his own Army career with the Medical Service Corps. He "soldiered on" in his life in many ways - valiantly fighting his MS disease and continuing to serve the University, the ROTC programs and fellow veterans. His values, public service and contributions flowed from that love of country and his Christian faith. No doubt he will be surrounded by like-minded comrades in the next life. My deepest sympathies to Sherry and his family. We will miss the engagements, the laughter and the hard work. May it be said "Well Done, Be Thou at Peace. Dr. Bill Doe, LTC (U.S. Army, Retired) and Dr. Sue R. Doe, CSU

William W Doe III - August 14, 2023 at 01:09 PM

KB

“ Our heartfelt condolences to Sherry and the extended Gardner family. Wonderful man, will be missed by so many. May he find peace with our Lord. Love and prayers sent, Kris & Diane Busch.

Kris & Diane Busch - August 14, 2023 at 12:26 PM

EG

“ From Augustine, to the army, to the Rockies we shared stimulating and enjoyable discussions over beer and/or malbec at Dominic's. I'm sure he'll be running through the Elysian Fields.
A fine man.
God Bless Hank and His Family,
Ed Gregori

Ed Gregori - August 14, 2023 at 10:08 AM

PJ

“ 50 years of friendship starting at the University of Montana in ROTC. Only 1 short assignment together at 4th Infantry Division, 4th Medical Battalion in 1975 as Lieutenants. Although we had different career paths as US Army Medical Service Corps officers, our friendship stayed on one path over the years. He was always so proud to tell the “kids” stories and I would tell mine. Such a humble quick witted man. Our beer salutes to each other might have been far and few between, but our “build each up” phone calls were more frequent. We would solve the world problems fairly quickly, laugh and move on to discuss football, both about the UofM Griz, but the team that was closer to home, CSU. As I passed thru Fort Collins, Sherry, Hank, my wife and I went out to lunch on a short visit. Since the accident most of my calls and emails were with Sherry to check up on the old man. On a few lucky times, Hank was able to talk in the phone. I’m sure it was hard for him, but he would say, I’m fine, how are you and we would laugh. I will always respect Hank for his brilliance, humor, honesty and friendship. I love you like a brother my friend. I salute you and will see you on the other side. God Bless

Philip X Navin Jr - August 13, 2023 at 09:49 PM

DC

“ My heartfelt condolences to Sherry and family. I will always remember Hank’s warm smile and his passion to help those who served, as he did. Such a wonderful man will be missed by many.

Donna Chapel - August 13, 2023 at 09:51 AM

MB

“ I enjoyed working with Hank and being his friend. He lived his life in love and serving God, his country and his family.

Mike Bennett - August 13, 2023 at 09:08 AM

NG

“ Hank was a tremendous asset to CSU and the United States. He was a devoted public health professional and inspired us continually. I will miss him.
Neil Grigg

Neil Grigg - August 13, 2023 at 08:45 AM

MS

“ We extend our sympathy to Sherry and the Gardner family. Hank was a man of deep faith and known for acting on his convictions. He was especially respected for his dedication to supporting those who served in defense of our nation. Hank will be missed. We are keeping Hank and his family in our prayers.

Michael Czaja and Jeanne Schorsch - August 12, 2023 at 09:07 PM

KG

“ What an amazing loving funny man! The world is a better place for Hank having been in it. Love to Sherry and kids.

Kathy & Todd Genschoreck - August 11, 2023 at 03:07 PM