

GARY A. RUNYON, 63. Our beloved son, brother, former spouse, father, grandfather, uncle and cherished friend passed away peacefully from cancer on Friday, June 5, 2015, in Fort Wayne. A private memorial and celebration will be held in his honor. Read about his life and share memories and condolences at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/garyrunyon/>



Runyon

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Gary Allen Runyon, a hair stylist, entrepreneur, designer, and realtor, died on June 5, 2015 of cancer. He was 63.

Born May 18, 1952 in Portland, Indiana to Mary Helen (Runyon) Rigby and the late Arthur Runyon, Gary was extremely dedicated to his family, his career, and helping those in need in any way he could.

As the second oldest of four children, Gary showed dedication to hard work at an early age, working odd jobs and at Richards Restaurants in Portland and Decatur. After graduating from Portland High School in 1970, Gary enlisted in the United States Army where he served for three years with a two-year tour based in Berlin, Germany. Although he always dreamed of attending medical school, he moved to Ft. Wayne, Indiana to attend Ravenscroft Beauty College from which he went on to have 40+ year career as a hair stylist and owner of two successful salons, Garbo's and Gary's Lions Den. In addition, he enjoyed moonlighting as a realtor with Century 21 Bradley Realty.

Gary loved Christmas and was active with the Festival of Trees at the historic Embassy Theatre and Indiana Hotel. He designed several award winning trees over the years and actively participated in the Festival until last November.

Gary will be especially remembered for his incredible work ethic, a wonderfully positive outlook on life, and an irreverent sense of humor which he exercised until his last days. He especially enjoyed entertaining, gardening, time at the lake, good stories, and spending time with dear friends, characters of all kinds, and close family.

Gary died peacefully at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana after a seven-year battle with lung cancer. Gary is survived by his former spouse of 36 years, Rena Runyon of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, his daughter Tanya Barnett of Athens, Ohio, spouse Matt Barnett and granddaughters Ava and Arden; Also surviving is his mother Mary Helen Rigby, stepfather John Rigby, older brother Greg Runyon, and younger sisters Sandy (Runyon) Brackman, and Candy Runyon all of Portland, Indiana, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and cherished friends.

A special thanks to the VA Northern Indiana Healthcare System and Heartland Hospice, along with many wonderful family members and friends for their help and support. A private memorial and celebration will be held in his honor.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/garyrunyon/> (accessed 2/22/2016)