



Gary Daniel Penkilo

July 7, 1967 - March 30, 2025

Gary Daniel Penkilo, 57, went to his eternal home to be with his Lord and Savior on March 30, 2025 in Tyler, TX after a three years and three month journey with pancreatic cancer.

Born July 7, 1967 in Parkville, Maryland to Daniel Frank Penkilo and Mary Janet Penkilo, Gary's family moved to Kerrville, TX in 1978 where he graduated Tivy High School in 1985. He graduated with a BBA in 1990 from the McCombs Business School at The University of Texas at Austin.

Gary began a 28 year career with Henry and Peters accounting firm in 1996. He passed the CPA examination in 1998. Gary's father was an accountant and was proud of Gary for choosing the same profession and passed the CPA exam. In 2004, Gary was named a partner at the firm. He was described by his co-workers as not outspoken but when he spoke, everyone listened. Gary was everyone's biggest fan and encourager at the firm. He was the calm in the room with steady advice and counsel. Gary was truly blessed to work with so many wonderful clients over the years. They loved working alongside him and became treasured friends.

In February 2002, Gary met the love of his life on a blind date at Jake's in Tyler, TX. It was love at first sight. Gary's gorgeous blue eyes and peaceful spirit stole Monica's heart. They were engaged five months later, and married

May 31, 2003. They welcomed their cherished daughters, Ava Hope in 2006 and Anna Grace in 2008.

He was a faithful member of Green Acres Baptist Church where he and Monica served in the Children's Ministry teaching three year old Sunday School. He loved his community and served in the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce Contact Club, Order of the Rose, Leadership Tyler Class XV, and Treasurer for the American Cancer Society Cattle Baron's Gala, Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, Literacy Council of Tyler, Champions for Children and Tyler Rose Museum.

Gary was the most compassionate son and caretaker to his mother starting in 2001 when his father passed away from acute leukemia and until she entered assisted living in 2022. He was a loving brother to his sister, Jeannine and stood by her side after her husband passed away suddenly from a heart attack in 2021.

Gary cherished family adventures. Some highlights after his diagnosis were family trips to Pebble Beach, a spontaneous New York City Christmas, 4th of July at The Broadmoor, and beach trips to Watercolor, Florida.

He was a proud Texas Ex. He followed all Longhorn sports, and was passionate about college football, especially his Texas Longhorns. He was always looking for chances to attend games with family and friends. Recent family Longhorn game memories included the Sugar Bowl, the Cotton Bowl, and the TX/OU game.

Gary's love for golf started in Kerrville when his dad would drop him off at the driving range for the entire day. His friends remember his many VHS golf tapes, with the 1986 Masters being his favorite. From Gary's home course in Texas at Willow Brook Country Club to Whistling Straits in Wisconsin and from

Sea Island on the east coast to Pebble Beach on the west coast, Gary was always ready to enjoy the outdoors in God's beauty and play the game he loved most. Gary played golf as a gentleman just as he lived his life. A true professional. He loved that golf was a game of etiquette and sportsmanship, and he loved its history and tradition. Golf has its ups & downs similar to life. Gary was able to handle the highs and lows without others knowing if he was playing his best round or his worst. He always made sure everyone was having fun, and it was always about fellow golfers, not himself. The game of golf teaches so many inherent values like honesty, integrity, patience, courtesy, and perseverance; Gary bestowed all of these qualities.

A devoted husband, father, brother and friend, Gary was always more interested in others. If you inquired about him, he'd turn the conversation to hear about you and your family. Even in his last days, visitors and friends admired his commitment to love and care for them. Gary leaves a family who cherished him and will miss him deeply. He modeled faith and deep trust in the Lord that will forever bless both his girls and his friends.

Gary was preceded in death by his father, Dan Penkilo, his mother, Janet Penkilo and brother-in-law, Mark Luenser. Gary is survived by his devoted wife of 21 years, Monica Phillips Penkilo, and his two adored daughters, Ava Hope Penkilo and Anna Grace Penkilo, his sister, Jeannine Luenser of Denton, TX, nephews, Kenneth Luenser and wife Lilly and great niece Poppy, Steven Luenser and Matthew Luenser, brother by marriage Chris Phillips of Frisco, TX and wife Lindsay, and nieces and nephew, Hailey Phillips, Caden Phillips and Hannah Phillips.

The family would like to express gratitude to Gary's compassionate health care teams at UT Southwestern, MD Anderson, and UT Health Hope Cancer Center. The

family is thankful for the support and care the Hospice of East Texas extended to Gary and his family in his last month of his life. Monica, Ava and Anna would like to extend their utmost gratitude to friends and family who prayed fervently and who loved, encouraged, and supported Gary and the Penkilo family during his cancer journey.

Pallbearers: Robert Herr, Kenneth Luenser, Matthew Luenser, Steven Luenser, Caden Phillips, Chris Phillips, Clint Roxburgh

Honorary Pallbearers: The current officers of Henry and Peters, Tom Brown, Joe Freeman, Michael Harrison, Greg Kiblinger, Gary Miller, Rogers Pope, Thomas Smith, Ken Waits, Jay Ward, Walter Wilhelmi, Bryan Ziegler

Funeral services for Gary Penkilo will be held on Friday, April 11, 2025 at 11 a.m. in the Green Acres Baptist Church Chapel with Hixon Frank officiating. A reception will follow. A private family graveside burial will take place at Rose Hill Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in memory of Gary Penkilo to the Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701, <https://hospiceofeasttexas.org>. Please note Penkilo Place in the online giving donation page for a very special project honoring Gary.

Previous Events

Service

APR 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church - Chapel
1607 Troup Hwy
Tyler, TX 75701

Reception following service

APR 11 (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church
1607 Troup Hwy.
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary Daniel Penkilo*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - April 08, 2025 at 10:42 AM

SH

Oh how i remember the penkilos. We lived down the road on palma ct. Ms janet, mr dan, gary and jeanine and their dog tippy. What a great family. So sad

Saundra Herdock - April 22, 2025 at 05:15 PM

NC

“ *I was so sorry to hear about Gary. He was a great guy and a great board member. I could always count on him to help me with any non-profit financial questions. What a smart guy he was, but also caring and easy to get to know. My sincere condolences to his beautiful wife and daughters.*

*Nancy Crawford
Former Executive Director of Literacy Council of Tyler*

Nancy Crawford - April 12, 2025 at 01:17 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.



April 10, 2025 at 12:50 PM



“ *Betsy Clark & Stacy Macia* purchased the *Basket Full of Wishes* for the family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.



Betsy Clark & Stacy Macia - April 10, 2025 at 09:04 AM



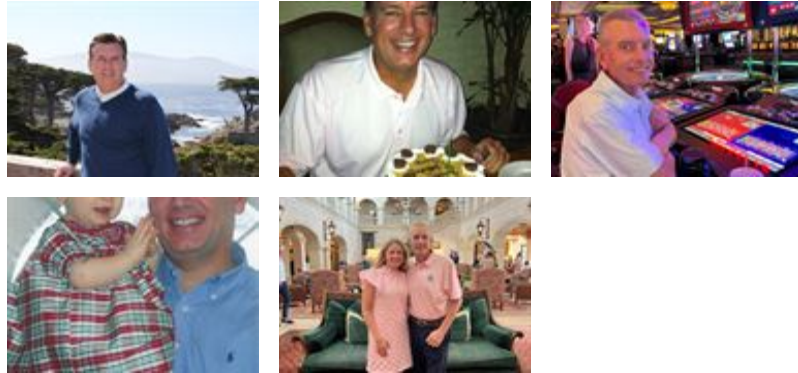
“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.



April 09, 2025 at 11:17 PM



“ 372 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - April 08, 2025 at 10:33 AM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.



April 08, 2025 at 09:43 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Daniel Penkilo.

April 08, 2025 at 09:43 AM



“ *Brad, Betsy, and Cayden* purchased the *Love's Journey* for the family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.



Brad, Betsy, and Cayden - April 07, 2025 at 05:32 PM

KC

“ Karen Clark purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.




Karen Clark - April 03, 2025 at 08:13 PM

SM

“ There are not enough words to express my gratitude for the help Gary gave me the first time I met him and he helped me with my taxes and my husband had passed. He was always so kind and knew what to say to pick your spirits up. He was able to calm you and you felt peace with him. We both found out we had cancer around the same time and we both prayed for one another the last few years.



Gary, was always a gentleman, a great husband and he loved his daughters dearly. I pray the Lord has lifted him up and he is at peace. May his family find comfort in the great memories he has left behind.

Deepest Sympathy
Sheryl Miller 

Sheryl Miller - April 03, 2025 at 03:14 PM

WF

“ *With Love, The David McMahon Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.*



With Love, The David McMahon Family - April 03, 2025 at 12:59 PM

HM

“ *Holly Glenn Methvin purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.*



Holly Glenn Methvin - April 03, 2025 at 12:07 PM

HM

“ *Holly Glenn Methvin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Daniel Penkilo.*

Holly Glenn Methvin - April 03, 2025 at 12:07 PM

HM

“ *Holly Glenn Methvin lit a candle in memory of Gary Daniel Penkilo*



Holly Glenn Methvin - April 03, 2025 at 12:00 PM

NK

Wanted to express my condolences to Gary's family. I attend high school with Gary, class of 1985 and also The University of Texas. He was always so nice and kind.

Nancy Kevorkian Kevorkian - April 03, 2025 at 08:34 PM

OG

*My condolences to Gary and the family 🙏🙏🙏
He was a unique person who was very shy and quiet, but when he spoke to everybody listened. And when he did speak, he had a beautiful sound that was always behind him. He will always be remembered in the class of 1985 of one of the best all around guy that any one could meet or have as a friend.*

I enjoyed playing football with you in junior high days in the high school as we played the same position gone too soon my friend until we meet again in the future 🙏🙏🙏

oaul Gonzales - April 05, 2025 at 10:04 AM

PG

*My condolences to Gary and the family 🙏🙏🙏
He was a unique person who was very shy and quiet, but when he spoke to everybody listened. And when he did speak, he had a beautiful sound that was always behind him. He will always be remembered in the class of 1985 of one of the best all around guy that any one could meet or have as a friend.*

I enjoyed playing football with you in junior high days in the high school as we played the same position gone too soon my friend until we meet again in the future 🙏🙏

Paul Gonzales - April 05, 2025 at 10:08 AM

CS

“ *Cassie Spalding lit a candle in memory of Gary Daniel Penkilo*



Cassie Spalding - April 03, 2025 at 09:40 AM

AB

“ Alliance Bank purchased the Simply Elegant Spat
hiphyllum for the family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.



Alliance Bank - April 03, 2025 at 09:20 AM

TF

“ The John McMahon family purchased the Emeral
d Garden Basket for the family of Gary Daniel
Penkilo.



The John McMahon family - April 02, 2025 at 05:19 PM

TF

“ The John McMahon family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Daniel
Penkilo.

The John McMahon family - April 02, 2025 at 05:19 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Gary Daniel Penkilo.



April 02, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Daniel Penkilo.

April 02, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ Melanie Hayes lit a candle in memory of Gary Daniel Penkilo



Melanie Hayes - April 02, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ Kelley Uzzell lit a candle in memory of Gary Daniel Penkilo



Kelley Uzzell - April 02, 2025 at 10:02 AM



“ I really hate to hear this. Way too soon! What a great guy! I can honestly say that Gary was always kind, engaging and thoughtful every time I saw him. My thoughts and prayers go out to Monica and the girls!

Kevin W. Williams
McKinney, Texas

Kevin W. Williams - April 02, 2025 at 09:24 AM