



Tim Gardner

September 2, 1948 - August 26, 2014

Tim Lee Gardner, formerly of Walkerton, Indiana, died in Fort Myers, Florida at the age of 65.

He was born on September 2, 1948 to Bob and Lucille "Cille" Gardner who preceded him in death. He had one older brother, Terry, who died in 1986.

Tim grew up in the Walkerton area and graduated from John Glenn High School in 1966. He loved playing Little League and Babe Ruth youth baseball and being a pitcher for his high school baseball team.

He was an avid Chicago White Sox fan. When he was 14 years old Tim entered a White Sox bat boy contest sponsored by the Chicago Daily Newspaper. Contestants were asked to write why they were a White Sox fan. Tim won first place out of 3500 entrants and served as a White Sox batboy for the entire 1963 baseball season with the following poem:

"In fifty words I will tell you how
being a batboy would be swell.
I'll get a chance to see you play,
and also earn a little pay.
The best batboy I'd try to be;
Efficient, Loyal, and Trustworthy,
Win or Lose, 'Sox for me'
A faithful fan I'll always be."

That Sox team included Nellie Fox, Sherman Lollar, Pete Ward, and Jim Landis plus manager, Al Lopez. That year they finished in second place to the New York Yankees whose players included Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Roger Maris, and Whitey Ford. Tim often commented that his world was immensely enriched by his experience as a batboy.

Tim received his BS degree in radio/television from Indiana University. During his time on the Bloomington campus he was a walk-on for the IU baseball team and a member of the Acacia Fraternity.

After college Tim's first job was as a news writer and broadcaster at radio station, WHBO, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The warm temperatures of Florida beckoned and he moved to Punta Gorda. He wrote sports stories for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune Newspaper for several years and then moved to Fort Myers where he was a sports writer for the Fort Myers News Press. In recent years he was a substitute teacher in the high schools of Lee County.

Tim attended a Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers and traveled with a church group on a mission trip to South America several years ago.

He enjoyed the French language, which he spoke fluently, bicycling to the beach, reading, listening to music, and cheering for his Chicago White Sox and Indiana University Hoosiers.

Tim is survived by uncles, aunts, and many cousins and friends who will greatly miss him.

Per Tim's wishes, there will be no memorial service. Because of his love of baseball, memorial gifts may be given to the youth sports organization where Tim played as a boy. Contributions may be sent to the following: Walkerton Park Department, Attn: Brittnie Whitaker, 71636 Walkerton Trail, Walkerton, IN, 46574.

Tribute Wall

LL

“ WE ARE SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT TIM PASSING AWAY HE LOVED THE WHITE SOXS AND THE NICE WARM WEATHER IN FLORIDA THE LYCZYNSKI FAMILY JOE LINDA JOEY BRIAN @ COURTNEY GOD BLESS

LINDA LYCZYNSKI - April 29, 2018 at 07:18 PM

JY

“ I am so sorry about Tim"s passing. He was such a kind and gentle man. My condolences!
Jean Yuhasz
If you need to contact me for any reason My phone #
is 239-849-6755

Jean Yuhasz - April 29, 2018 at 07:18 PM

TH

“ My law partner , friend & other fraternity brother , Mick Tuesley , & I both share our sincere condolences on Tim's passing .
We lived with him at the Acacia house , in Bloomington, IN ,from 1967 - 1970 ,. My wife & I had visited Tim when he was in WI., & then a couple of times after he moved to FL, where we also visited his mother . He was a good , & gentle man & soul. May he rest in peace ! Tom Hall

Tom Hall - April 29, 2018 at 07:18 PM

DS

“ Remember Tim very fondly serving with him at our Mision Peniel in Immokalee. This is a Mission that serves the Farmworkers a hot meal on Friday. I know Tim went down several times to help. He was a hard worker with a smile on his face. I will miss seeing him at church. So sorry to hear about his passing.

DeAnne Sawyer - April 29, 2018 at 07:18 PM

RH

“ Tim was my fraternity brother at IU and a great friend. He had a pure soul and a kind heart. I'll never forget the gentle man we called "Coach". God bless him.

*Robin Humphrey
Bloomington*

Robin Humphrey - April 29, 2018 at 07:18 PM

RS

“ Tim was a kind, gentle and good-hearted colleague and friend. He always had a smile and hello for me in the crazy world of our newsroom. I'm so sorry I didn't get to see him again. He was a good man.

Ray Sarracino - April 29, 2018 at 07:18 PM

GR

“ First, let me say that it saddens me to hear of Tim's passing. I have nothing but fond memories of Tim and Legion Post 189 Baseball. Tim was a pitcher and I was a catcher. I will never forget time because as we were warming up before a game; I turned my head to talk to someone else and Tim hit me square in the face. A memory I will never forget!!

Gene Reese - April 29, 2018 at 07:18 PM

NP

“ I remember Tim so well. He was my first boyfriend in 4th grade! My family knew his family in Walkerton IN. Cille and my Mom taught together. A kind and intelligent man who struggled like all of us. I hope he is at peace. The Gardners were good good people. RIP, Tim.

Neva Rae Powers - April 29, 2018 at 07:18 PM

DH

“ Tim came into the Charlotte High School teams lives as a reporter for our high school teams in Punta Gorda, FL. in the mid 1970's. He was passionate about his coverage and years later I realized through his coverage of the teams just how much encouragement he provided the athletes at Charlotte High School through his writing. We had so much fun together during those days and it was exciting to read his sports stories on the recap of the games. After that time Tim and I later reconnected in Vermont and again when I was back to Florida. He even generously helped me pack and move. I will always remember his big smile and soft spirited ways while also talking passionately about his beloved White Sox. Thanks Tim for being such a good guy and friend!

Daniel Huntington - April 29, 2018 at 07:18 PM