



## Gary Cripe

December 15, 1952 - February 13, 2021

Gary Edwin Cripe, 68, passed away on Saturday, February 13, 2021 in Provo, Utah as a result of pulmonary complications from Covid-19. Gary was known to those who loved him best as 'Buck,' a childhood nickname and nod to his toothy grin. He was born in Los Angeles, California at Queen of Angels Hospital, to parents James Lowell and Dorothy Gloyd Cripe and named after Gary Cooper, his vibrant mother's favorite actor.

He was raised, along with his three brothers, Steve, Robbie and Rick, in the idyllic, palm tree lined streets of Mar Vista, nestled between Culver City and Venice, California, where he graduated from Venice High School in 1971.

Those early days found Gary pursuing his love of fast wheels and rock and roll. He and his friends loved to tinker with tools and instruments, even forming their own garage band, Thunder Creek. The hair was always flowing and the sun was always shining, a truly singular time to grow up on the coast. His love for his brothers and for his dear parents was as deep and golden as the California sun.

Shortly after high school, Gary dutifully served as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Alberta-Saskatchewan mission from 1971-1973. A decidedly colder climate than that of his origins, but a place for which he had great warmth and affection, and where he enjoyed enduring friendships.

In 1974, he married the love of his life, Julie Kay (Biddulph) Cripe and they began their young family life together, pursuing education in the Los Angeles area, trying their hands at alfalfa farming in Delta, Colorado (complete with a favorite cow named Bossy), and welcoming their first two children, Brian and Angela.

Mirroring his own father's interests and career in medicine and genuine love of helping others, Gary moved his young family to St. Louis, Missouri in 1982 to attend St. Louis University's (then-newfound) Physician Assistant (PA) program. Gary and Julie welcomed their youngest daughter, Carolyn, just before heading to the midwest.

Upon his graduation in 1984, the family returned to Colorado where Gary worked in an orthopedic surgery practice before ultimately relocating and settling in Provo, Utah in 1986, where he was one of the first practicing PAs in the region.

During their decades in Provo, they resided in the Edgemont area, where they enjoyed many years of raising their children alongside friends and neighbors. There, Gary continued his medical career, primarily with Cherry Tree Family Practice in Orem.

Between 1999-2007, Gary found great joy and purpose in serving on various LDS high councils and as a bishop of the Brigham Young University 118th Ward. His time spent in these pastoral callings was some of the most rewarding of his life, and once concluded, he quickly sought to find new ways to offer his time and talents, serving as a volunteer medical practitioner for the uninsured and underprivileged. The determination to help others in need was a quality instilled in Gary by his parents through their example.

Gary offered deeply personal and empathic attention to those struggling with addiction and those in recovery, a focus that factored significantly in both his professional and volunteer pursuits during recent years. The family wishes to acknowledge his own bravery and struggle and extends their sincere love and optimism for all who have experienced a similar journey.

Gary also loved caring for those of the animal kingdom, enthusiastically greeting ALL neighborhood dogs (and extended family pets) with treats and happily volunteering in recent years with the Humane Society.

Above all, Gary simply adored his children and grandchildren. Their progress and passions were always of interest and import to him. He was affectionate, funny, caring, uniquely perceptive, witty, and famously stubborn...character qualities that are reflected in his posterity. We will miss him fiercely, but take incredible comfort in the peaceful rest he now enjoys and in our faith that we will one day see him again, reunited with loved ones.

Gary is preceded in death by his parents, Lowell and Dorothy Cripe, his brother Robbie, and his infant daughter Janet. He is survived by his wife, Julie; his brothers Steve and Rick (Lori Pierson) Cripe; his brother Dennis (Carol) Lockhart; his sister Martha "Marty" (Mike) Lane; his children: Brian (Whitney Smith) Cripe, Angela (Joe) Averitte; Carolyn (Billy) Palmer; and seven beloved grandchildren, Kylie, Charles, Donovan, Dawson, George, Kale and Oliver.

Gary will be interred in a graveside service with family at Eastlawn Memorial in Provo. A memorial/remembrance event will be planned for a later date when it is safe for groups to gather.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to the Volunteer Care Clinic that was so dear to Gary's heart, and where he volunteered weekly for over a decade, providing free medical care to the uninsured. To support the Clinic, please visit <https://unitedwayuc.org/give/donate-now>, select "General Donation" in the campaign field, and designate "Volunteer Care Clinic" as the beneficiary in the comments field.

# Cemetery

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## **East Lawn Memorial Hills**

4800 North 650 East

Provo, UT, 84604

# Comments

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“ I was blessed to be Gary's medical assistant for a couple of years and I'm just now finding out about his passing. I loved working with Gary so much. I loved listening to his stories about his family and growing up in California. Gary always had the best jokes, was so happy and such a good medical provider. I will miss you, Gary, and forever cherish the time we had together at Cirque Lodge.

**Hailey Graham** - September 08, 2021 at 12:22 PM

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“ I served at the Mt. Timp temple briefly with Gary. I didn't get to know him very well but I was impressed with his kindness and love for the youth that came into do baptisms for the dead. Reading his obituary, he was obviously a blessing to many. "When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure." He's only a thought away!

**Joan Washburn** - March 11, 2021 at 10:30 AM

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“ I was so lucky to live down the street from the Cripe family. Carolyn and I played together all the time. Gary was so helpful to me when I had any health concerns, he would always care for me when I was sick. Julie was the best young women's leader ever! Wonderful loving family that blessed my life tremendously. Much love to you all!

**Richelle Ferguson Moon** - February 26, 2021 at 09:06 AM

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“ We were so saddened to hear about Gary! We so enjoyed our time together with you guys in the 7th ward. The Elder Quorum activities and working in Primary with our kids. Plus, we also saw both of you at FHP, where Gary was a PA and you were the receptionist there, Julie. It was so fun to bring the kids in for their appointments and see you. So many good memories! Sending love and prayers your way,  
Brian & Kim Snelson

**kim snelson** - February 24, 2021 at 07:41 PM

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“ Dear Julie, I worked with Gary at FHP. He was always sunshine! He was so caring of everyone, not just the patients. He was also so pleasant to work with. And he adored you! Wishing you the comfort of memories and the warmth of love. Cathy Jorgenson

**Cathy Jorgenson** - February 22, 2021 at 05:00 PM

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“ I was one of Gary's patients at Cherry Tree. I absolutely loved him! He was so kind and so patient and humble. He knew how much I loved learning, so whenever something new came up he took the time to teach me about it.

One day he was wearing an adorable mouse pocket clip in his coat pocket. It looked very much like a real mouse peeking out. I commented on it, as I love all things mouse. Next thing I know, he gave it to me! I've loved, cherished, and worn it ever since!

My sincere condolences and prayers go out to Gary's family and friends. May God surround you with His comfort and peace.

**Paula Criman** - February 22, 2021 at 02:14 PM



“ Thank you so much for sharing this sweet story, Paula. Sounds just like my dad.

**Carolyn Palmer** - February 23, 2021 at 06:50 PM

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“ Gary(buck ) is my brother in law. He was much more. He was a second dad since my dad passed in 1986 when I was just 18. Buck and Julie moved to Provo to get closer to mom and family. As it turns out it was a good move for everybody including me. As I went away to college and later to serve a mission, I was eternally thankful they would help Mom through this time. It turns out that Buck was one of the first PA's in Utah Valley to practice with a doctor. He was hired by FHP and eventually landed at Dr Preston's office in Cheery Tree. I knew Buck growing up as a brother in law but it was much more after I returned home and got married and started my own family. I often went to Buck for advise and help with many things. He would give me advise and often said after 'I think that is what I would do'. Before I was married and after my mission we would watch movies, tv shows with always a Pepsi and popcorn at the families home just around the block from moms. Buck would often have a guitar pick playing his guitar between commercials . We also loved the Dodgers. We had many extended family gatherings in the backyard playing catch and horsing around. Buck gave me my priesthood as a young 12 year old boy. He set me apart as a 19 year old missionary and gave me the Melchizedek priesthood and help me leave for Columbus Ohio mission. Buck never missed a month of writing me a letter while I was in the field as I could tell that was important to him. About 6 weeks ago he was able to give me the highest priesthood and ordain me to high priest on the high council in our area of Lehi where we live. Buck was much more than a brother in law and I will miss him until that great and glorious day when we will meet again and we'll be a eternal family once again forever. Love you Buck

jeff biddulph - February 21, 2021 at 11:55 AM



“ Bless you dearest Cripe family! My friend who used to live in MarVista , Lorie Haskins , just sent me notice if Gary's passing. It is hard to realize that my dear friend and neighbor has departed. Julie you are LOVED by our whole GibsonDoxey family. We send big hugs and prayers for all of you dear, dear — almost family— friends— the Cripe and Biddulph families . Thank You for the beautiful writ- ups which I received. It just seemed like we were around visiting like usual . Thank you Jeff, especially for sharing that Gary served much like your Dad in his absence. Julie I LOVE YOU!! Please know how sorry I am to hear of Gary's passing. You and he have accomplished sooo much good in serving so many people. I end my warm hugs to your beautiful kids. How could they be grown and have kids if their own?? Carolyn I will send this write- up to Emily . She will love you forever— well, we ALL feel so sad. Thank goodness for the Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ— all the things we learned in the Edgemont 7 th ward, now become so real as we face these life challenges. I KNOW YOU WILL SEE YOUR HUSBAND and DAD and UNCLE AGAIN!! We LOVE you all with ALL our Hearts. Gary will be missed by your whole family. We are praying fir you tonight.. And Gary will continue to look after you from the other side of the veil, sendingour family's love for you, Carol Gibson

Gibson Carol Doxey - February 21, 2021 at 10:38 PM

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“ Gary was my counselor in an elders quorum presidency and in the bishopric of the BYU 92nd Ward. His counsel was always on-point, but his humor made our meetings truly enjoyable. He was a true friend. CE Zobell, Memphis, TN.

**claude Zobell** - February 21, 2021 at 07:51 AM

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“ Gary was my doctor at Cherry Tree Family Practice for over 20 years!! I always enjoyed visiting with him, and every time I went in he told me the best jokes. He will be deeply missed. My condolences to the family.  
-Marisa Strong

**Marisa Strong** - February 20, 2021 at 11:06 PM

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“ I worked with Gary in the late 80's-early 90's at FHP in Orem and he was indeed most caring and competent in his work as a Physician Assistant. Though we lost contact as we went our separate ways, I never forgot him. -  
Jonathan Koehler

**Jonathan Koehler** - February 20, 2021 at 08:28 AM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Julie Cripe** - February 20, 2021 at 12:49 AM

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“ Julie, I am heart-broken for you, and your children in the loss of your dear husband, and loving father Gary!

It seems like only yesterday that you and Gary, Don and I, all had an opportunity to serve the valiant young men and women from all corners of the world residing within the BYU 4th Stake together. That was an opportunity of a life-time for us all! I hope that you can now bring back those sweet experiences to your remembrance; those beautiful memories of sharing your testimony of the Savior with eager hearts and minds.

I pray that as you love and serve your beautiful children, along with sweet memories of joyous times spent together, you will feel the peace and joy your heart is seeking. Perhaps Gary and Don are now once again serving together! My love to you and your family, always!

Lynnnette Dowdle

Lynnnette Dowdle - February 19, 2021 at 11:16 PM



“ So sad to hear about your sweet husband. It has been a long time since I have seen you, no more Macy's. Hope you and your family are able to make it through these coming sad days. Time heals some of the hurt eventually. Love to all of you.

Joyce Krause - February 20, 2021 at 04:18 PM

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“ I had many a good chuckle with Gary when he was at Cherry Tree. I would go in with a sinus infection and would leave feeling better after a good joke or story. Rest In Peace Gary.

Nathan Criman - February 19, 2021 at 04:57 PM



“ Nathan so glad you got to know Gary(Buck). He was my brother in law. He will be greatly missed . I also enjoyed my time with Buck. He taught me many things and had a part in the person I am today. Thanks for all the memories teaching together at Mountain View High School. It was so nice to run over to Cheery Tree to see Buck.

jeff biddulph - February 21, 2021 at 11:18 AM

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“ I am so saddened to hear of Gary passing away! I worked with him for a number of years at Dr. Preston's office. He was so fun and nice. My mom crocheted him his last name many years ago and we gave it to him and Julie for all his love and kindness. A great man he was! My prayers and love to Juile and all the family. You will be missed Gary!  
Love,  
Linda Easley

Linda Easley - February 19, 2021 at 02:52 PM

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“ Our family is just devastated about losing our dear Gary. I'm so full of love and emotion for Julie and kids but esp about those sweet grand kids. Dr. Gary served as a constant reminder of seeing the good and the bad in time of crisis and always had the right cure to get our family back on track health wise. He was so calming and so right in all his diagnosis over 25 yrs. That's what's making this so sad and bitter is that he saved us yet couldn't save himself. Gary we love you and appreciate all you did for us. You were a loyal friend. We'll see you in the eternities Buck! All our love to sweet Julie and kids. Love Steve and Lori Bird

Lori Bird - February 19, 2021 at 12:14 PM

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“ I worked with Gary at True North Recovery & Wellness Center. He was so loved by staff and clients. Such a good man...I will miss him so much.

Seanna Williams - February 19, 2021 at 11:26 AM

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“ We were sorry to read of the passing of Gary. We loved him as our PA at Cherry Tree Family Practice. He always made us feel comfortable and we could ask any questions we had. He would be able to answer them or find the answer. We had our physicals for our mission by him and he said he would be there when we returned. When we came home in 2016 he had left Cherry Tree and we were very sad. We missed him. Our prayers and thoughts are with your family. He was a wonderful person. He will be greatly missed.

Jim and Norma Brookes - February 19, 2021 at 11:00 AM

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“ I loved going to the office and eating lunch with the staff. Gary always made us laugh and he was always so up beat. So sorry for your loss.

Maxine Preston

Maxine Preston - February 19, 2021 at 10:58 AM

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“ Oh Julie,  
we were so sad to see of Gary's passing.. Our hearts go out to you all. May heavens comfort be with you all. David and Dee Whitlark and family

dee - February 19, 2021 at 09:52 AM

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“ I loved working with Gary at Cherry Tree Family Practice. We sat next to each other at lunch nearly everyday for about 4 years. Most of those lunches were filled with hilarious “Gary jokes” that often included questionable medical humor. Gary enjoyed making people laugh and helping people heal. He loved his patients and always did his best to help them. Gary’s awesome sense of humor and gentleness will be missed. - Mark Preston

Mark Preston - February 19, 2021 at 12:04 AM



“ Thank you, Mark. I can totally picture that. My dad always had a glint in his eye and loved to make people laugh/squirm.

Brian Cripe - February 19, 2021 at 12:59 AM



“ Gary always did have a joke! After I left Cherry Tree he was one I would like to see when I had a medical problem. He always made me laugh. He was my friend and will be missed.

Linda Easley - February 19, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ Thank you Mark. Yes Buck was a great brother in law. He was a father to me that I went to for advice, wisdom and help. He will be greatly missed. Heaven got a little better today. Thanks for the baseball memories as well. Stop by and say hi whenever your in the area.

jeff biddulph - February 21, 2021 at 10:46 AM

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“ I was so sad when I received the news of Bucky's passing. I still find it hard to think about it. Jan and I are in Washington state, we have been here for some time. We wish we could be there. Julie i'm so sorry. Our prayers are with you and your family. When I was young, Bucky was my best friend. We went to school, scouts, young men's (mutual) and had a cool band. We went on family trips too. Bucky was always there. It was good to be his friend.

At Christmas time, I was always so excited to go to Buckys house to see his gifts. The Cripe's always did Christmas in a big way. One Christmas I came over and was fascinated with one of his gifts. He noticed my interest and said, Rich do you like that, I said...yes. His reply was Merry Christmas, it's yours. That was the best Christmas!

I could see how happy he was to be on the giving end. He was always like that. We never argued about anything. Those memories are so good because of Bucky. I was always amazed at how well he got along with people. He would tell jokes recite facts and generally get along with others. I wished I could be like that. I looked up to him...thinking, some day I want to be like that. I'm still working on it. Bucky was a natural at it.

I will miss him so much. In the eternal view, it will all work out..

sincerely, Richard

**Richard Klingman** - February 18, 2021 at 09:07 PM



“ Richard, thank you so much for sharing these memories. It's so touching to hear stories like this that add even more dimension to the man I knew and loved.

**Brian Cripe** - February 19, 2021 at 12:57 AM

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“ We had the privilege of meeting and getting to know Buck just a bit at his brother Rick's birthday party. Our prayers are with all of his family at this time.

**Trisha and Charlie MacQueen** - February 18, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ Thank you.

**Brian Cripe** - February 19, 2021 at 12:59 AM

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**Brian Cripe** - February 18, 2021 at 02:46 PM



“ Volunteering at this clinic was a kind, selfless thing for Gary to do!

**kim snelson** - February 24, 2021 at 07:11 PM

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“ Gary was my dad's best friend as a kid(Richard) and my PA when I was younger. He was always so good to me and I have always loved his unique personality.

**BreAnne Klingman** - February 18, 2021 at 02:18 PM



“ Sorry supposed to say Gary but wont let me edit. I have yall in my thoughts

**BreAnne** - February 18, 2021 at 02:18 PM

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Brian Cripe - February 18, 2021 at 01:25 PM



“ Omg wow I think my dad might be in that Richard. We love Gary so sorry for your loss

BreAnne - February 18, 2021 at 02:14 PM



“ If that is my dad in back there it's so cool to see this thx for posting

BreAnne - February 18, 2021 at 02:15 PM



“ Yep, BreAnne, that is indeed your dad. My dad and yours still saw each other on occasion in last decade or so and jammed. They went to at least one rock concert that I know of in the last few years, as well. They were tight.

Brian - February 18, 2021 at 03:28 PM

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Brian Cripe - February 18, 2021 at 01:21 PM

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Brian Cripe - February 18, 2021 at 01:06 PM

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**Brian Cripe** - February 18, 2021 at 01:05 PM



“ I was a long time patient of Gary's at Cherry Tree. Not only was he a total professional, but he was a caring friend. I was sad to see him retire early. Prayers to his family on his untimely passing.

Phil Skousen

**Phil Skousen** - February 22, 2021 at 10:43 AM



“ There's my brother Rick Myers! Oh the memories of these guys and the band!  
Julie, I'm so very sorry for such a heartbreaking loss. I am certain that Bucky and Rick are playing tunes together in heaven! So grateful for Forever families! Much love to you and your family! Jane Myers Lynn

Please let me know if there will be a memorial service!

**jane Lynn** - July 22, 2021 at 08:37 PM