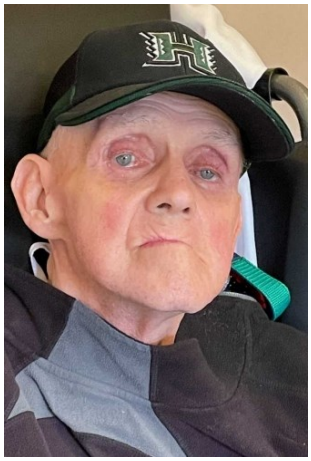

REMEMBERING

Gary Edward McMillan

August 8, 1941 - March 7, 2021

Surrounded by family, Gary Edward McMillan, born in Cumberland, BC, passed peacefully and was welcomed by his Lord in Heaven. Gary was predeceased by his parents Thomas and Isabel McMillan, formerly of Cumberland. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years Carol Ann. His legacy lives on through their four children Kari-Ann MacDonald (Randy), Traci Abbott (Richard), Jodi Mastrodonato (Mike) and Christopher McMillan. He leaves behind his two younger brothers Tom (Patsy) and Bill (Gena) respectively as well as sister-in-law Shirley Shiner and Peter and Beth Klint. Gary, (Grandpa, Papa, G-Pa) also leaves his seven grandchildren, all of whom he absolutely enjoyed, to celebrate their time spent with him, including Brittney-Ann Jordan (Sean), Brenden Macdonald, Calli-Ann and Keagen Abbott, Keaton and Cohen Mastrodonato and Oliviana McMillan, and great-grandchildren Paityn and Lucas Jordan. “Uncle Gary” will be fondly missed by numerous nieces and nephews including Daniel, Debbie, Wendy, Scott, Kelly, Troy, Brad and Lisa, and their respective families. Gary grew up in Port Alberni and spent his high school years at ADSS, and also enjoyed time outdoors, on the water and at his father’s Esso station. He moved to Powell River in 1967 after accepting a position at MacMillan Bloedel, where he served for 40 years following a transfer from the Port Alberni mill, putting his knowledge to work in the steam plant as shift engineer; he was also the health and safety rep. Gary had a passion for sports. He was athletic, keen and his dedication to youth in his community will be remembered by many in the soccer and baseball world. He was well-respected and many young athletes share fond memories of “Coach Mac,” a testament to his charismatic nature. He loved all aspects of sport including officiating, too. Gary was also recognized for his volunteering, dedicating innumerable hours to the local figure skating club, of which he served as president. He was recognized and honoured through the BC/YK

Section and then further recognized by Skate Canada in 1995, being named Volunteer of the Year for 25 years of service. Gary was actively involved in and enjoyed playing soccer, baseball, basketball, hockey, golf and fishing. Every summer you would find him on the lake water skiing or driving the boat so his family could enjoy similar adventures while making fond memories. Gary was a genuine and kind soul. He left an impression on everyone he met, always making time for them, making them laugh with his wit or smile at his dry sense of humour. He served on many boards at Westview Baptist Church and sang with the “Men of Faith.” Family was everything to Gary. He was committed to making time for family, supported many of their countless activities and provided guidance to each of them also serving as a role model. He loved his cookies and desserts of all kinds, and even enjoyed one last pudding hours before his Saviour called him home. Gary battled Alzheimer’s disease for over 12 years with dignity and grace and will be remembered for his courage and strength. Thank you to everyone who touched Gary with support, kindness and respect over the years as his health declined. We are truly blessed to have you all in our lives. We love Gary and will miss him dearly. He was a bright light for many and will be profoundly missed in the community and by extended family and friends. He is now free to walk with the Lord and will continue to shine his light on us. A celebration in honour of Gary will be held at a later date when it is safe to gather. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for all the staff who cared for Gary during his journey and time at ECU. We appreciate you all and are grateful for the love, expertise and professionalism shown.