



## Gary E. LeBlanc

October 2, 1944 - March 25, 2016

Brigadier General (Ret.) Gary E. LeBlanc, 71 year old resident of Little Falls, MN, passed away on Friday, March 25, 2016 at his residence. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, April 1, 2016 at the Camp Ripley Chapel inside the gates of Camp Ripley (Must have a photo I.D. to enter into Camp Ripley). Father Joe Herzing and Pastor Dean Johnson will be officiating. Burial will take place at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls, MN. A visitation will be held from 4-8 P.M. on Thursday at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN and from 10-11 A. M. on Friday at the Camp Ripley Chapel. A parish prayer service will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Thursday at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN. Military honors will be provided by the Minnesota National Guard Honors Team and the Little Falls American Legion Post #46. Arrangements are with Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls.

Gary was born on October 2, 1944 and was the oldest of three sons born to Elvin and Bernette LeBlanc. He grew up in Little Falls, MN on a farm and attended Country School in his elementary years. He then graduated from Little Falls Community High School in 1962. Following high school, Gary enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard in July of 1963. On May 15, 1965 he was united in marriage to Anita Marie Paulsen at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierz, MN. They were blessed with two children, Brenda and Ron.

Gary's career in the Minnesota National Guard spanned 37 years from Private to Brigadier General. He retired as Deputy Adjutant General in 2000. Gary worked in a variety of maintenance positions at Camp Ripley until 1984 when he moved to the National Guard State Headquarters in St. Paul to work as a Support Personnel Management Officer. He returned to Camp Ripley in 1986 and became the Camp Commander. Gary served in that position until he was selected to be the Chief of Staff of the Minnesota Army National Guard in May of 1990. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Army War College and the Army Air Assault School. Gary was a life member of the National Guard Association (U.S) and the Minnesota National Guard. He was also a Past President of the Minnesota National Guard Association. As part of Gary's career, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Cloud State University with a self-directed emphasis in International Relations. He graduated from the U.S Army War College in Carlisle, PA in 1986. Gary was a lifelong member of the Little Falls American Legion Post #46.

Following his retirement, Gary and his wife Anita began spending their winters in Arizona. They loved the sunshine and made many wonderful friends in their Mesa and Florence communities. Gary enjoyed playing softball and tennis. He also developed a passion as a Knifemaker in his retirement years and spent many hours crafting knives by hand. He was a constant perfectionist and took great pride in his work. There was up to a two-year waiting list for his high-end hunting and filet knives. He was accepted as a probationary member of the Knifemaker's Guild in 2004. He achieved voting member status in 2006.

Gary had many other hobbies he pursued throughout his life. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. Some of his best times were spent elk hunting in Colorado and deer hunting/fishing up at the shack in Northern Minnesota. Gary enjoyed downhill, cross-country and waterskiing. He looked forward to his golf outings with his Little Falls friends. Gary spent many years with his

family camping and spending time at their cabin on Nokay Sebie Lake. He loved to play guitar and sing and would perform for family and friends. His wife Anita often sang with him.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Anita LeBlanc of Little Falls, MN; children, Brenda (Tony) Hansen of West Fargo, ND and Ron (Shannon) LeBlanc of White Bear Lake, MN; grandchildren, Ryan, Jamie and Tanner Hansen as well as Morgan, Grace and Samuel LeBlanc; father, Elvin 'Charlie' LeBlanc of Little Falls, MN; brothers, Gale (Linda) LeBlanc and Gregg (Jeanna) LeBlanc all of Little Falls, MN.

Gary was preceded in death by his mother, Bernette LeBlanc; nephew, Joshua LeBlanc; and mother and father-in-law, Victor and Erma Paulsen.

Those interested in a memorial contribution can consider the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery Mural Project or Camp Ripley Youth Camp.

# Cemetery Details

## Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115  
Little Falls, MN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Camp Ripley Chapel  
15000 Highway #115  
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173  
(320) 616-2708

## Service

APR 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Camp Ripley Chapel  
15000 Highway #115  
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173  
(320) 616-2708

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc*



**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - March 29, 2016 at 11:50 AM



*What a beautiful tribute. My deepest sympathy Anita and family. I will be remembering you in my prayers through this trying time in your life. I always admired you both. God's Blessings to you all.*

**Gloria Kjorsvik** - March 30, 2016 at 03:22 AM

AS

*That tribute is so beautiful! Brings back so many memories of days in Little Falls--next door to you as our kids grew up. I send my deepest sympathy and love to you Anita, and Brenda & Ron. Until we all meet again--Love, Audrey (Aldrich) Schafer*

**Audrey Schafer** - March 30, 2016 at 10:40 AM

LH

*A beautiful tribute to not only my uncle but my godfather. May you be in peace. Thoughts and Prayers for strength Anita, Brenda, Ron and the rest of the family. With love LuAnn*

**LuAnn Herzog** - March 30, 2016 at 10:01 PM

SB

*Ron, Shannon, Morgan, Grace, and Sam,*

*We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your father and grandfather. We will be praying for him and your family at this most difficult time.*

*Deepest sympathies,  
Scott, Shereen, Jeff, Jake, Joe and Katie Bance*

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**Shereen Bance** - March 30, 2016 at 10:33 PM

BN

*Our deepest sympathy to you, Anita, and to your whole extended family. The tribute is beautiful. Prayers for all.*

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**Bill and Chris Nissen** - March 31, 2016 at 03:38 AM



“ *Gary E. LeBlanc*

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January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM

LG

“ *Anita,  
We are thinking you and your family during this difficult time. Our prayers  
are with you.*

*Your Arizona neighbors,  
Leon and Judy Gregory*

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**Leon Gregory** - April 03, 2016 at 11:24 PM

KS

“ Dear Anita,  
We are truly saddened by the loss of Gary. You are in our prayers and thoughts!  
He was a wonderful person and good friend and neighbor that we always enjoyed to be with. We will truly miss him and will forever remember him and we know he is with the Lord Jesus and we will one day be with him in eternity!  
Our Love, Kay & Gerry Stoneburner, Florence, AZ

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**Kay & Gerry Stoneburner** - April 01, 2016 at 05:28 AM

JW

“ My sympathy to all of Gary's family. Gary became like a younger brother to me when he showed to work in the State Maintenance Office as the OMO - Oh so many years ago. We shared a wonderful friendship for many years. I had not seen him much in recent years but loved him all the same. I wish you all love and peace in dealing with this loss of Son, husband, father and grandfather. He's playing that guitar for the angels now and no doubt his Mom is with them

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**Joyce Wedel** - March 31, 2016 at 11:28 AM

 Stacie Hatten

“ Anita, and Family: I was saddened to hear of his passing today. I am forever grateful to have known your husband and father. He was my first Supervisor in the MN National Guard many years ago. I speak of him often still to this day, because I have learned so many things from him there at Camp Ripley and finally when he was the Assistant TAG.. He was a true Patriot and American Hero. Heaven is receiving another Hero Angel to protect us all. My deepest condolences, Stacie Hatten (Mallak)

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**Stacie Hatten** - March 31, 2016 at 06:50 AM

SS

“ Anita, Brenda and Ronnie- our deepest sympathies to you. Gary was an amazing husband, father and patriot. May you find comfort in the wonderful memories and the legacy he has left behind.

*Cary, Susan, Sydney and Pvt. Joshua Stanton*

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**Susan (Happke) Stanton** - March 30, 2016 at 05:39 PM

BL

“ Our hearts go out to all at this very difficult time. Please know that all our thoughts and prayers are with you all always.

*Brad & Karin LeBlanc*

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**Brad & Karin LeBlanc** - March 30, 2016 at 01:32 PM

SS

“ STEVE AND BRENDA SMUDE lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc



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**STEVE AND BRENDA SMUDE** - March 30, 2016 at 12:23 PM

NP

“ Brenda and Family: So sorry to hear of the death of your dad. From reading his obituary, he was quite a well-diverse man. Thank you for his service to our country and all the soldiers he helped a long the way. God Bless his memory. May you find comfort in the thoughts and prayers being sent to you at this difficult time.

*Nancy Peterson*

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**Nancy Peterson** - March 30, 2016 at 09:10 AM

TN

“ Rest in peace, and our thoughts and prayers for you and your family Anita.

*Tom & Nancy Nissen*

Tom Nissen - March 29, 2016 at 06:09 PM

JR

“ Jim and Reed Roth purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary E. LeBlanc.



Jim and Reed Roth - March 29, 2016 at 01:59 PM



“ 54 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lemieur Funeral Homes - March 29, 2016 at 11:42 AM

CF

“ *Chuck Forss lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc*



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**Chuck Forss** - March 29, 2016 at 09:16 AM

RE

“ *Dear Ron and Shannon,*

*I am so sorry to hear of his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time.*

*Sincerely,  
Renee Dugas*



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**Renee** - March 28, 2016 at 11:57 PM

JW

“ *What a great soldier and friend Gary was!  
Prayers for Anita and extended family.*

*Rich and Jodi Weaver*



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**jodi Weaver** - March 28, 2016 at 10:40 PM

HG

“ *Rest in Peace Sir!*

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**Hal and Kamilla Gorder** - March 28, 2016 at 08:36 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gary E. LeBlanc.*



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March 28, 2016 at 07:56 PM



“ *Bill And Chris Nissen lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc*



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**Bill and Chris Nissen** - March 28, 2016 at 06:53 PM



“ *Tom and Sherry Rogers purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Gary E. LeBlanc.*



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**Tom and Sherry Rogers** - March 28, 2016 at 04:04 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gary E. LeBlanc.*



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March 28, 2016 at 02:50 PM

CP

“ Charles L. Parins lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc



Charles L. Parins - March 28, 2016 at 09:21 AM

RE

“ Gary and Anita have been role models for us, as they have fought this battle together with tremendous faith, courage, and positive attitudes. Gary was a great patriot who served his State and Nation as a professional leader who genuinely cared about Soldiers and civilians of the organization alike. May God Bless the entire family and give them peace. Rick & Pat Erlandson

Rick & Pat Erlandson - March 28, 2016 at 08:45 AM

BP

“ Bonnie Paulsen lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc



Bonnie Paulsen - March 28, 2016 at 08:36 AM

 Shannon Le Blanc

“ Shannon Le Blanc lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc



Shannon Le Blanc - March 27, 2016 at 11:37 PM

MG

“ Both Gary and Anita have been like family since they moved in next door to me. They have always taken me under their wing with their kindness, laughter and advice. About a week ago, I held Gary's hand and told him he was a very strong, good man and that I and a lot of people thought very highly of him and he was loved by many, including my dog Toby, or Tobias as he called him. No more suffering for this man. God bless family and friends. Mary G.

mary gaffke - March 27, 2016 at 08:32 PM

FL

“ Fred Leblanc lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc



Fred leblanc - March 27, 2016 at 05:16 PM

FL

To one of the finest military officers I have ever served with. RIP Gen LeBlanc

Fred leblanc - March 27, 2016 at 05:17 PM

JD

“ Julie Doucette lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc



Julie Doucette - March 27, 2016 at 08:08 AM

DZ

“ Gary was one of the best leaders I've ever worked with during my time at Military Affairs. Such a great, great inspiration and with such a sense of humor! He will be missed by so many. Sincere sympathies to Anita and his entire family.

*Deb Zimmerman*



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**Deb Zimmerman** - March 26, 2016 at 08:24 PM

CV

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Anita, and all your family. We pray God will give you strength and comfort in the days ahead and that you will find peace. We know Gary is now with our Lord and his suffering is over. We were blessed to have spent fun times and shared some laughs with you both playing Gerry's golf game. Take care....Chuck and Jane Vogel

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**Charles Vogel** - March 26, 2016 at 05:06 PM

JB

“ Jim & Neva Bellefeuille lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc



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**Jim & Neva Bellefeuille** - March 26, 2016 at 01:01 PM

BR

“ RIP Gary! Hugs to all family!!

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**Barbara Jean Rekowski** - March 26, 2016 at 09:34 AM

KF

“ Ken @ Linda LeBlanc @ Family lit a candle in memory of Gary E. LeBlanc



Ken @ Linda LeBlanc @ family - March 26, 2016 at 09:32 AM

CL

Gary use to stay at my motel in Maplewood, MN when we was going to Ft. Snelling. He was great to talk to and to find out he was related to me was a bonus. I remember visiting the family farm in Little Falls when my father was in the Army Reserve doing his training at Camp Ripley. A great family! He will be missed by many.  
Carey LeBlanc, son of Leo and Polly LeBlanc

Carey LeBlanc - March 29, 2016 at 05:47 PM

MA

Anita, What can I say except that you have my deepest sympathy in the loss of your husband, and to your children, grandchildren the loss of a father and grandfather. Also a great loss to his many friends. He will be missed. Also sympathy to his brothers, dad and many other relatives. I just wish I could be there, but I will be in spirit. God Bless you all. Marlene Anderson

Marlene Anderson - March 31, 2016 at 11:07 AM