



Gerard Thomas Dion

May 17, 1949 - March 3, 2022

No obituary found for this tribute.

Tribute Wall

“ AN OPEN LETTER TO A BROTHER LOST

March 10, 2022

Gerry,

There can be no doubt that you had a tough life, from the time that you lost your father at the age of 7, to being taken from your home and out of your country and separated from your mother and most of

your brothers shortly after that. You were the baby of the family and so young that maybe you suffered more than your five brothers because of that. I don't know. Though our paths were similar at the time we were all too young to do much more than be concerned about our

own situation than worry about each other much. Or maybe that was

just me. Maybe only I was so self-centered at the time.

Whatever the reasons were we took different paths in life. There were

successes and there were failures. Although we would get together from time to time, even took road trips together and spent some holidays together, we did that because we were brothers, not because

we had a great relationship. We grew up together as kids, we played

together as kids, and we went through hard times together as kids, but

when we became adults we faced the world apart from each other.

When

times were bad for me I faced them without you and you faced your problems without me. I never felt as close to you as I feel brothers naturally would be. Not until a few years ago anyway when you moved

to Florida for good.

It wasn't until then that I realized that I was never going to see you again in our hometown, that you would never come home again. We had gotten old separately. Old age had snuck up on us. Even though I never felt my age unless I was ill, I came to the realization that if anything went wrong with your health because of your age, I couldn't just hop in my car and be with you in a manner of minutes. That scared me. Texting and phone calls just wouldn't cut it anymore.

If you didn't leave home I probably never would have realized how much you meant to me, how much maybe we needed each other in our lives. Being a few miles apart was a security blanket, gave us a comfort zone. There is no doubt that nothing would have changed much until something bad happened. So in that sense I'm glad you left home for good. It opened my eyes.

The last few years with you have been great. I regained the baby brother that I seemed to have lost over 60 years ago. I got to know you, got to know the person who was much more resilient and self-reliant and proud and caring than I had ever imagined. You opened up and discussed your feelings about things we had never shared with each other in our lives.

I discovered we had more in common than our differences. We had the same concerns about many things. You expressed how much our visits meant to you and that gave me the strength and reason to keep making

the trips down to Florida even when we couldn't fly because of the pandemic. When I got the bad news from our brother, Roger, I was less than three hundred miles from our visit, just one day away. Paulette and I had great plans for this visit, a little different than our usual and we were very excited about our plans and seeing you again.

Alas, it was not meant to be. We were looking forward to many years ahead and many more visits. Providence had another plan. Gerry, I am grateful for the last few years we had together, grateful for your hospitality, grateful for your graciousness, for your excitement, for your honesty, for your thankfulness, grateful for your attitude, grateful for showing me that you still wanted to enjoy life, and was fighting for your life right up to the last minute, and grateful for every minute I had with you.

And grateful for your love. Right back at you...

Rest in Peace, baby brother.

Wayne

Wayne Dion - March 17, 2022 at 09:17 AM