



## Gary Lee Brinker

December 10, 1939 - January 11, 2021

Gary Lee Brinker, age 81, passed away peacefully on January 11, 2021. He was born on December 10, 1939 in Hackensack, NJ to Paul A. and Evelyn M. (Smith) Brinker. Gary graduated from Rutherford High School, class of 1957 and Wilmington College. He proudly served in the US Navy and then taught and coached high school in Eaton, Ohio. Gary had a passion for law enforcement beginning with his career in the FBI, where he made lifelong friendships. He worked for the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, and then was the Commander of the Police Academy at Owens Community College. After retirement, he continued to assist with the police academy fire arms training. Gary loved his family and his grandchildren, and was always there to help when needed. He will be dearly missed, along with his world famous milkshakes.

Surviving is his wife Janet, son Scott (Becki) Brinker, daughters Beth Brinker and Donna (Drew) Potter; grandchildren Lauren (Anthony), Abigail, Garrison, Grace, Tennessee, Ayden, Alec, and Anna; and great grandson Landon. His brother Bruce (Lucy) and sister Donna Brinker also survive.

Gary will be buried at Ravine Cemetery in Sylvania, Ohio with Military Honors. A celebration of life will be held later this year. Memorial donations may be given to a historical preservation project of the donor's choice. Coyle Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Please leave a condolence message at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com).



# Cemetery Details

## Ravine Cemetery

Ravine Dr  
Sylvania, OH 43560

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

APR 10. 2:00 PM (ET)

Ravine Cemetery  
Ravine Dr  
Sylvania, OH 43560

# Tribute Wall

AP

“ He was my gramps (grandpa) I miss him so much it's been 3 years and it just still hurts I loved him so much. He would always make chocolate milkshakes for me and my brother they were the best ones I ever had and when I make them it doesn't taste the same. Love him so much and miss him

Anna Potter - January 13, 2024 at 07:57 AM

WG

“ RIP good friend, we had many good times at Hamies in college and the TKB fraternity—my condolences old friends to your family. You had the best Jersey accent on campus.

Woody Gross - January 05, 2024 at 08:24 PM

AH

“ Commander Brinker was my firearms instructor in the police academy many years ago. He came from the old school and I cherished his experience, wisdom, and preserved passion for law enforcement. They sure don't make them like Ole' Brinker anymore. God Bless his family. Thank you, Mr. Brinker.

Aaron Hoyos.

Aaron Hoyos - February 14, 2021 at 03:14 AM

AB

Rip commander Brinker. You were a class act and I great academy instructor.

Andrew M Balwinski - November 25, 2025 at 01:55 AM

RB

“ My deepest condolences to Donna and the rest of the Brinker family. I worked with Gary at Owens. At first, I thought he was a grouchy, old FBI guy who enjoyed torturing young police cadets. Over the years, he became a fantastic boss, a great confidant, and a dear friend. Gary gave me much advice over the years, which I still use today and was very excited when I told him I was pursuing my doctorate. I am sad to lose my friend, but take comfort in the fact that he will be running around with Don Bottles, Ron Born, and Bob Albright again (Perhaps I should be scared instead??). Rest in peace. I look forward to the day we can talk together again.

*Ruth Babel-Smith, EdD (Yes, I finally finished it)*

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**Ruth Babel-Smith** - January 20, 2021 at 06:56 PM

BC

“ Gary and worked on the old C-1 Squad of the FBI on Washington, D.C. I have such vivid and happy memories from those days. I can remember us when we were young and nothing in the world was too difficult to resolve. The "Brink" was always one that could be counted on to jump in when chaos was around. I know how much he must be missed by his other friends and family.

*Barry Colvert*

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**Barry Colvert** - January 19, 2021 at 09:56 AM

RB

“ I am sorry for your loss. I worked with Gary at The Owens Police Academy. He taught me a lot about training young men and women. He will be missed.

*Russ Burke*

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**RUSSELL D BURKE** - January 18, 2021 at 10:08 AM

RM

“ *A real gentleman . Sorely missed. Dick McQuade*

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**Richard McQuade** - January 17, 2021 at 12:12 PM

BA

“ *May Gary's legacy carry those left behind through the difficult times, knowing all too well that we have been blessed knowing this man in one way or another. May his light be eternal and forever in our hearts.*

*Brenda Armitage  
F&M*

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**Brenda Armitage** - January 17, 2021 at 11:55 AM

FS

“ *My condolences to the family of Gary.*

*I had the pleasure of knowing Gary through our service in law enforcement; he with the FBI and me as a detective with the Toledo Police Department. We also had mutual friends mostly involved with law enforcement agencies and Owens Law enforcement programs. We had many lunches with friends where we took the opportunity to catch up on what was happening in law enforcement and with mutual friends.*

*Gary was a person and law enforcement representative I was proud to have known. He served his community and country with honor and dedication.*

*Rest in peace my friend,*

*Frank Stiles*

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**Frank Stiles** - January 17, 2021 at 11:53 AM

DL

“ Gary was a good man! He loved Law Enforcement and was very good at it! I knew Gary when he was with the FBI and also taught with him at the police academy. We had a great time together! One thing about Gary, he told it like it was and was very honest!

*You will be missed Gary! Prayers to his family!*

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**Danny LaDuke** - January 17, 2021 at 09:17 AM



“ You have completed your journey Gary. R.I.H.  
*Drick Crawford*

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**Hardrick Crawford** - January 14, 2021 at 03:37 PM

JK

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**John Kramer** - January 14, 2021 at 11:01 AM

JK

“ *Mrs. Brinker*  
*My deepest sympathies to you and family for your loss. For two years, Gary was my football and wrestling coach over 50 years ago at Eaton High School and as life's fate has it, Donna came to the Ohio Auction Commission while I was on the commission as an auctioneer, so she gave me occasional updates on you and Gary. I will always remember Gary as caring coach, but stern to say the least (Ha). But most of all, remembering the after season dinner you gave for the wrestling team. We ate you out of house and home! Janet God Bless, you will always be Mrs. Brinker to me.*  
*John and Debbie Kramer*

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**John Kramer** - January 14, 2021 at 10:59 AM

DD

“ *Prayers for the family of a truly remarkable man. I learned a lot from him over the years and some of which helped keep me alive. Gary was a great teacher ,boss ,and Friend. I remember one time he came in the S.O. and the dispatcher let him in and then called me because she couldn't believe the scruffy looking guy was FBI. I looked up front seen him and he said Hi Dave so I knew it was him on a mission. A week later I seen him again in a full suit. He could be a man of many faces. He always ask about our families and frequently would stop by and visit on the front porch. Another great man has been promoted to Heaven. RIP Gary.*  
*David and Kayla Dick and family*

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**David Dick** - January 14, 2021 at 09:44 AM

RM

“ Condolences to the Brinker family from a few of us left that had the honor of working with Gary at the Sheriff’s office 25 years ago. Gary always had time to talk and mentor young Deputies. His passion for Law Enforcement always showed. God Bless.

*Sheriff Roy Miller*

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**Roy Miller** - January 14, 2021 at 09:20 AM

JS

“ Well Hoss, this drive is over!! As tough as it was on the trail, you never faltered. Some thought the trail made you hard and a tough guy. But those of us who knew you well, knew the truth; you were a Big Softy. And, we loved you for it!! You have been a great friend and colleague for many years and I will miss you. Keep the "Doctor" in line! Adios partner and may the Good Lord take a liken' to you. We did!!

*Jim Snyder  
FBI Retired  
Toledo RA*

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**Jim Snyder** - January 13, 2021 at 05:27 PM

JJ

“ My most sincere condolences on Gary's passing. He was a terrific Agent who could always be counted on when the need arose. I consider it a real privilege to have been able to serve with him. John Bell

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**John E. Bell Jr.** - January 13, 2021 at 10:57 AM

JJ

“ Great working with Gary for several years, when he and Boggles were temporarily assigned to Toledo Police Metro Drug Task Force. Many, many good times with those guys, and I miss working with them still today. God bless, Gary.\

*Jim Jones, TPD,/Ret.*

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**James E Jones** - January 13, 2021 at 10:52 AM

ER

“ One of my favorite memories of Uncle Gary was at Uncle Heber's funeral. I hadn't seen him in a long time and he must have seen the nervousness in my eyes at the idea of being a pallbearer, because he stepped in next to me and said, "It'll be okay." Strong and steady, thanks Uncle Gary.

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**Erin** - January 12, 2021 at 10:44 PM