



## Wayne Scott Gongaware

November 20, 1965 - April 4, 2020

Wayne Gongaware, 54, sadly passed away unexpectedly at his home on April 4, 2020. Wayne was the beloved son of the late Gilbert and Janet Gongaware. A truly cherished brother to Valerie Gongaware, Melanie Schmid and Natalie Gongaware and brother-in-law Hank Schmid. He was an adored Uncle to Max Schmid and loving Godson to Jo Ann Robinette. He was a friend, nephew and cousin to many who will all miss him dearly. Wayne went to Lane Tech High School and graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree. He spent the last 20 years as a train engineer riding the rails for EJ&E and the CN. Wayne was a caring, selfless and good-natured person who always made others laugh with his infectious laugh and smile. He was a dedicated Blackhawks and Cubs fan. He loved to watch sports of all kinds including his nephew's baseball, soccer and volleyball games. He was definitely the guy to have on your trivia team. His greatest love, however, was his friends and family. He loved holiday get togethers and gatherings. Wayne was a very special person who lived the life he wanted with a generous heart, sense of humor and kindness. He will truly be missed.

Due to the current government regulations, the memorial service will be held at a later date to be announced.

# Comments

---



“ I've know Wayne for almost 15 years since the "J" days. I always looked forward to see Wayne when ever I was in the yard. He was definitely my favorite Engineer. He always had a smile on his face and he was great to be around. Rest In Peace my friend.

**Micheal O'Brien** - April 27, 2020 at 05:32 AM

---



“ Wayne was a wonderful cousin. He was the one you wanted on your Trivial Pursuit team! He was a kind soul and he loved his family more than anything.

**Juliana Vissering** - April 17, 2020 at 08:50 PM

---



“ This is a “last call” performed at the CN Railway where Wayne worked in Joilet.



**Thomas Zukley** - April 17, 2020 at 01:00 PM

---



“ I got to know Wayne the past 5 years. Kind hearted, funny, and would do anything for you. We had alot of good laughs through the years.  
May he forever be remembered

**Jeff Everts** - April 14, 2020 at 07:52 PM

---



“ It was a pleasure to have known Wayne. He was honorable, kind-hearted, and he always stood up for those who worked with him. Our team at Joliet won't be the same without him. Sending my deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to all of his family and friends. Wayne, you will be missed.

**Kristan Dragisic** - April 09, 2020 at 09:20 PM



“ One of the nicest I've ever known on the railroad, I have some Fond memories as a conductor that I will never forget working with Wayne in the Mill and Kirk yard! And always knew as a Yardmaster I always could rely on him. I will definitely miss Him ! Always A Good person !

**Len Urtz** - April 09, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ "On the Prowl!"

**Len Urtz** - April 09, 2020 at 08:19 PM



“ Wayne & I worked on the railroad for many years.He was a great guy! Our deepest sympathy to his family. John & Jeanne Keith

**j keith** - April 09, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ Jim loved working with Wayne. They had so much fun talking about music while they were working hard in the glass shop. He loved Wayne like a little brother. I love the sweet photos of Wayne holding Juliana and Charlie as newborns. He was a doting uncle to Max, and he was holding baby Sawyer at Christmas. Truly a gentle giant with a heart of gold. He will be missed by all.

**Alicia Rohrlack** - April 09, 2020 at 02:29 PM



“ A great loss. Wayne was a man who would give the shirt off his back if need be. I worked with Wayne for many years, sharing lots of stories and memories. He was a plethora of sports trivia and an upstanding man. Too much guy gone too early.

**Thomas Zukley** - April 09, 2020 at 01:39 PM

---



“ With my dearest sympathies to your family. I will always be grateful for your friendship, Wayne you made HS a joy and we had so much fun. Your family always treated me as part of yours. I am glad that we shared that time as friends then and forever.

**Richard Flores** - April 08, 2020 at 09:07 PM

---



“ Wayne was one of the greatest Friends and people one could ever know. I will miss Gumby. His heart was kind with a touch of playful cynicism. He will forever be my friend, my chum. Miss you buddy. My heart and thoughts go out to his family who have are most kindest people. Kindness is a Gongaware family trait.

**Darrin McDufford** - April 08, 2020 at 08:53 PM

---



“ So very sorry! What a wonderful man! I remember Wayne being the absolute best at trivia during our family get togethers/holidays! You are all in my prayers! My love to you all, Nat, Mel, Val, Hank, JoRo and Max. Hugs!!

**Cristine Realmuto** - April 06, 2020 at 05:19 PM

---



“ Cedar Point trip, riding across I-90 to Chicago in the boat (Lincoln Mark V) with the passenger seat held up by a 2x4, Wayne-miester, What's green and goes boing-boing?

**Renee Gongaware -Simons** - April 06, 2020 at 01:22 PM



“ So very very Sorry for this loss to the Family. He was a Gentle Giant of a person. My Prayers, thoughts and tears are with all the Gongaware Sisters and they're Families

**Theresa Santos** - April 06, 2020 at 04:41 PM