



Charles Gara

August 29, 1947 - May 3, 2013

Charles “Chuck” Gara, 65, of Albuquerque, NM passed away Friday, May 3, 2013 surrounded by his loving family, wife Margie, daughters Denise and Amy, sister Rosemary Porsberg, niece Terri Porsberg and close friends Lloyd and Jessica Bonzon, Dawn Moyer and Mary Foster. Chuck is survived by his wife of 45 years, Margie Gara; daughters, Denise Gara and Amy Banks; his grandchildren, Kiera and Liam Banks; sister, Rosemary Porsberg; niece, Terri Porsberg; brother-in-law, David Hopkins and wife Debbie, and their sons Mike and Kevin. Chuck was born in Uniontown, PA in 1947. He resided in El Paso until after graduation from college. In 1972 he moved to Roswell, NM where he started his real estate career. He was President of the Roswell Board of Realtors, named to the Outstanding Young Men of America and was active in Jaycees and on the board of the Girls Club. In 1984 he moved to Albuquerque and started his real estate firm, Gara Commercial. Chuck was appointed to the City of Albuquerque Planning Department in 1997. The Commercial Association of Realtors (CARNM) honored Chuck by being the first recipient of the President’s Award in 2002, an award created to recognize him as an outstanding member, and in 2003 was named Realtor of the Year by CARNM. He was respected by all and gave his personal and professional commitment to the industry. He was recognized for nearly three decades of work in the local real estate industry and with civic and charitable organizations. In 2003, The National Association of Industrial and Office Property (NAIOP) organization created the Vision Award that recognizes a person that adds to

the future of the NM landscape through imagination and creativity and Chuck was the first recipient of the award. In 2007 he was elected chairman of the NAIOP charter of NM. Being a cancer survivor, Chuck and his wife led a group at Faith Lutheran church for nine years called "Each Day is a Gift". Chuck was also a major fundraiser, board member and President of Casa Esperanza, a home for cancer patients and their families from around the state to live at while receiving treatments. Chuck was the first President of the Rotary Club of Albuquerque Del Norte and was Tournament Director of the NM Charity Classic Nike Tour golf tournament that benefited many charities. Chuck served on the board of directors for Alvarado Realty Co. which owns and operates Sandia Tram, Sandia Ski Area, Santa Fe Ski Area and other real estate properties throughout the southwest. For the past two years Chuck was the Director of the Property Control Division in the General Services Department where he was the state's top official for managing all of New Mexico's real estate and capital outlay expenditures. Chuck was instrumental in bringing a private sector perspective to state government where he championed capital outlay reform by establishing a common set of criteria to rank all capital projects based on need and return on investment to the taxpayer. As the senior real estate manager for the state, Chuck rewrote state leases and personally negotiated reductions in lease cost, saving the state \$2M per year. He also led the state's efforts in the 2013 legislative session to pass new laws to streamline facility management and to allow more innovative approaches to the procurement of major construction projects. Besides giving to his community, different business organizations and charities he was a very devoted husband and father, he cherished his family life. He felt and knew that Margie and he had an incredible marriage. He never missed out on any of the girls' events and was always supportive of their lives. In recent years, Chuck was blessed to be a grandpa to Kiera and Liam. Margie, Denise and Amy are fortunate to have seen this aspect of him and how much joy he had when his grandkids were around. As a younger brother to Rosemary, he would tease that she always beat him up, but she values his wisdom and knowledge and is

thankful that he introduced her to her best friend, Margie. Chuck was more than an uncle to Terri, taking on a role as her business mentor in Real Estate and providing valuable advice, both professionally and personally. “Chuckles” had a smile that always made her day, and his belief that we could do anything we set out hearts on always reassured Terri. To David, Chuck was more than a brother-in-law, he took on the role of big brother and provided a sense of family. Chuck lived with strength, integrity, leadership, dignity and was always thankful for his life. The family would like to express heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Presbyterian Hospital who always took care of Chuck with such expertise and compassion on each of his stays throughout the years. The family has such special love and gratitude for Dr. Miguel Pellerano for all his years of caring for Chuck’s welfare. Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 10,000 Spain NE on Saturday, May 11, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. with Pastor Mike Easton officiating. Private Interment will take place. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation Nurses Education Fund or to Casa Esperanza.

Tribute Wall

CI

“*Margie and I have always remembered our times with you and Chuck as such great times. Because of what Chuck had faced and conquered his empathy for others going through hardship, regardless the source, was heartwarming and inspirational. I am so sorry and shocked to learn that Chuck is gone from us. Life is so short. I kept thinking we would see you both again someday. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. What a loss.*

Chris and Margie Inman - June 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“*May God Bless Chuck and his family forever. He will be with God and looking over all of us, especially Margie, his daughters, and his grandchildren and other family members. Chuck was always family first and I am sure he still is! Friend, Neighbor, and Admirer, John Black*

John Black - May 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DS

“*The Gara family is in our thoughts and prayers. i had the pleasure of working with Chuck on State of New Mexico real estate business and he represented himself and the State with utmost integrity and skill. He will be missed.*

David Steinwedell - May 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LG

“*May the Lord hold you in His arms and give you comfort in your hours of sorrow. Chuck was a wonderful boss. He will be greatly missed.*

Loraine Giron - May 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HA

“*Margie: May the sorrow you feel in your heart lighten by the love that surrounds you. Truly enjoyed the brief moments we had with you and Chuck at Faith Lutheran Church, and appreciated connecting with him when I arrived in Albuquerque in 1988. Warmest Regards ~ Harry & Kris Asmussen*

Harry Asmussen - May 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CD

“*Chuck is now with his Father in Heaven, but we will miss him very much here on earth until we meet again. We mourn the loss of a dear man. Throughout the years, we have valued his friendship and will surely miss his laughter. By his example he truly showed us how life should be lived. It is with our heavy hearts that we grieve with you in your loss of Chuck. Our love and prayers are with you, Margie, Denise and Amy. Ev and Cheryl Dix*

Cheryl & Everett Dix - May 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RD

“*Dear Gara Family - I was saddened to read about Chuck's passing. What a brave, valliant, honest and straight-forward guy. He is, not was, a survivor. I truly enjoyed working with him while I was at the Board of Realtors and when I worked with CARNM and NAIOP. When Casa Esperanza was struggling to move from drawing board to reality, Chuck was instrumental in pulling so many groups together to turn the earth and build "a home away from home for cancer patients and their families." God Bless You, Chuck - and continue to watch over your family as you always have done.*

Rosemary Alvino Ditmore - May 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DK

“*Rest in peace Chuck.*

Dale Korems - May 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Prayers for Margie and the entire family to find the peace and comfort that they need at this time. I was saddened by the news of Chuck's passing.

Sharon Moore - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Chuck was a great friend and a lots of fun. We had wonderful times in the Teater golf group and will miss him greatly.

Rick & Leslie Wadley - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Gara Family,I knew Chuck, as a realtor and as Director of Property Control, he was alway professional, efficient and most of all friendly. My sincere sympathy and may God bless.Charles GriegoHeritage Title of Valencia County.

Charles Griego - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Gara Family~Chuck will be greatly missed at Property Control Division where I worked closely with him daily. His wisdom and kindness is irreplaceable. May our dear Lord carry you all.Peace & Love~ Barbara Sanchez, PCD Leasing Agent

Barbara Sanchez - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Margie, Amy, Kiera, and Liam,I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time.Kay Kehl

Kay Kehl - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LM

“*Margie and family: Chuck was such an inspiration and mentor to me throughout the years. I will miss his wise wisdom. I did love to tease him about his cars. He was truly one of the “good guys in Albuquerque.” He put up such a brilliant fight, we will remember you all and Chuck in our prayers during this difficult time. Regards,*
Laurie Moye”

Laurie and Bill Moye - May 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

“*God bless the Gara family. Love, Dianne*”

Dianne Troxell McDowell - May 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DC

“*Margie and family: Chuck was a gentle giant in the New Mexico business and development world. He made so many contributions in the course of his too-short life, not the least of which were the professional relationships we cherished. We who worked with him honored his honesty, his integrity, his community service, and his tremendous work ethic. But his work always was a distant second to you, his family and loved ones. Chuck will be greatly missed by a grateful community. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers in this difficult time, and I wish I could be there to celebrate Chuck's life well-lived. In sympathy,David CampbellPort Louis, Mauritius*”

David Campbell - May 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HH

“*On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.*”

Harold Hamilton - May 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM