

Gary Lee Holmes
January 1, 2011
Age 56
Los Angeles, California

Gary Lee Holmes died at age 56 on New Year's Day 2011 in Los Angeles, California.

He was survived by his parents, Roger and Judy Holmes, his brother Stephen Holmes (Barbara) and his sister Cynthia Millen (David), as well as his nephew Kyle Millen, nieces Maria Kretchik (Simon), and Carissa Lytle (Patrick), and grandniece Lucia Lytle.

After graduation from Lakewood High School, Gary attended the University of Virginia in Charlottesville on a Navy ROTC Scholarship. After graduation from UVA in 1976, Gary was commissioned into the Navy as a submariner officer, serving under Admiral Rickover with the Nuclear Submarine Fleet off the Atlantic Coast for eight years. During that time, he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander and was awarded the Naval Achievement Medal from the Secretary of the Navy for his superior performance of his duties while serving as Officer of the Deck in the USS Birmingham (SSN 695) from April to May 1981. During this period, the ship conducted a highly successful deployment of great importance to the security of the United States. This deployment was performed in an environment of great operational stress, requiring constant vigilance and keen professional competence from Lieutenant Holmes. He also received a Letter of Commendation from the Vice Admiral of the United States Navy for professional achievement. His competent control of the ship contributed significantly to a mission of great national importance. At the conclusion of his 11 years of active duty with the Navy, Gary continued to serve in the Naval Reserves in San Diego, California before retiring from the Navy.

Gary obtained his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1989. He passed the bar examination in Virginia, New York, and California.

Gary moved to Los Angeles, California where he practiced law and litigated cases in numerous courts throughout the Los Angeles area. He was also a character actor in several productions around Los Angeles and an aspiring screenwriter.

After his death, Gary's family created the Gary Lee Holmes Track Scholarship at Lakewood High School, as well as the Gary Lee Holmes Law Scholarship at the University of Virginia School of Law.

One of our classmates recalled Gary by saying, "He had the most infectious smile that could just light up a room. Gary was brilliant and athletic—he had it all—but what I remember most about him is his kindness and compassion for others."

While a student at LHS, Gary was in Concert Choir, Symphonic Choir, Symphonic Ensemble, Symphonic Orchestra, Executive Council, National Honor Society, Student Council, and L-Club. He was also on the cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track teams. Gary was a featured speaker at our June 1972 commencement; the title of his speech was "Mixup of Priorities."