



Arnold Gregory Gough

May 22, 1932 - December 30, 2020

Arnold G. Gough (“Big Arn”) was born in Gary, Indiana in 1932 to Stella and Victor Gough, one of their eight children. Arnie attended Holy Angels Grade School in Gary where he made many lifelong friends. He received an athletic scholarship to Bishop Noll High School where he starred in football, basketball, and track.

Following his service in the U.S. Army, he completed a bricklaying apprenticeship and shortly thereafter founded Gough Construction Company with his brother Neville. Arnie and Nev started Gough Construction with little more than a pickup truck and a wheelbarrow. Through hard work and great charisma, they built their company into one of the largest and most successful construction companies in the area. Among the hundreds of buildings, the company worked on over the years, one of the proudest achievements was the Southlake Mall, one of the largest and most complicated construction projects ever in Northwest Indiana. Gough Construction is still thriving under the leadership of Arnie’s son Raymond (Buzz).

In addition to his extraordinarily successful business career, Arnie was active in many charitable endeavors. A few near and dear to his heart are the Crisis Center of Northwest Indiana, the Andean High School Foundation, and the Tradewinds of Northwest Indiana which named him Man of the Year. He also relished in his Irish heritage and was active in the fraternal organization, The Friendly Sons of Erin, which also honored him as their Man of the Year in 2006.

All those who know him describe him as larger than life. He was the life of every party, a jokester, a prankster, and interested in everyone he met. He loved golf, tennis, skiing, hunting, and fishing. The fishing trips he organized were legendary. He was often accompanied by his brother, his sons, his sons-in-law, his nephews, his neighbors, his lawyer, his accountant, his banker, his insurance agent, his financial advisor, various friends, and even his priest. He was a natural leader and people flocked to be with him.

Arnie is survived by his wife Roberta (Boomie). They started dating their junior year in high school and have been married for 65 years. Arnie and Roberta have four adult children Arnie Jr. (wife Julie), Debra (Olin) (husband Jeff), Carol (Parks), and Raymond (Buzz) (wife Beth), 15 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren (with 3 on the way).

Private family services will be held at St. Paul in Valparaiso. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be made to The Tradewinds of Northwest Indiana. Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

MC

“ So sad to hear the news. He could own the room but in a fun and respectable way. Reminds me of my parents and all the good times they had.

Marc Chevigny - January 30, 2021 at 10:45 AM

RJ

“ So sorry to hear the news about Mr. Gough...he was a wise, sharing man whose sense of humor definitely brightened the day of everyone around him. I know he's "up there" having a great time with John, Harry, Q, and Soap as we speak...Heaven certainly has a great crew now.

Robert John Joseph - January 25, 2021 at 03:33 PM

CS

“ Arnie was a man of great integrity, love and compassion. He was so giving and unselfish. May you rest in the arms of our Lord. Catch a big fish up there with my dad. You will be forever missed. Caryn Largura Seramur

Caryn Largura Seramur - January 25, 2021 at 01:51 PM

KP

“ What a wonderful man. His presence was felt when he walked into a room. Strong, kind with a great laugh. He will be missed. My sincere condolences to all of the Goughs. May the Lord fill your hearts with wonderful memories that will live on forever. God Bless -

Kevin Pastrick - January 06, 2021 at 11:12 AM

DB

“ To the Gough Family...I'm so sorry to learn of Arnie's passing. He was one hell of a guy, one of my favorites for sure. I have so many fond memories of playing tennis in the Monday night group, skiing with him, fishing trip to Gods Lake Canada, golfing at Innsbrook, pulling me out of my Blazer when I was plowing his driveway to go snowmobiling until the middle of the night, and so on. Arnie could be tough when needed but also one of the most generous and kind man that you would ever meet. He will surely be missed. Also, there is so much of Arnie and Boomie in each of the kids. I'm proud to be a friend of the family. God Bless Arnie and the entire Gough Family.
David Barrick

David Barrick - January 06, 2021 at 10:45 AM

SC

“ Arnie was a great friend of the Crisis Center. He built a major addition to our building to provide emergency shelter, food, education, counseling and other services aimed at reconnecting kids to their family and their future. He was kind and he really cared about making a difference with people's lives. Arnie was a big man who made a big difference. That is a tribute to Arnie whose kindness will live long in the lives he affected.

Shirley Caylor, former Crisis Center, Inc. CEO

Shirley Caylor - January 05, 2021 at 07:33 PM

NS

“ Blessings on Arnie and his family. Always enjoyed chatting with the Big guy anytime and anywhere you saw him, including while we were blocking the aisle in Notre Dame Stadium! Peace and love to all the Goughs. Like my Dad, glad he is at peace after a great run.
Nick and Erin Schneeman

Nicholas J Schneeman - January 05, 2021 at 12:27 PM

AD

“ All our love to the Goughs. Big Arnie was one of a kind and we'll miss him terribly. I remember the summer he spent helping my dad with the little log cabin playhouse, his huge laugh and booming voice. Blessings on his memory and his beautiful legacy.

Anne Schneeman Dougherty - January 05, 2021 at 11:41 AM

MK

“ Robert I am so sorry about losing a good friend, you and Arnie were great neighbors. Take care. Mike

Mike Kozik - January 05, 2021 at 10:18 AM

AL

“ Boomie just learned of Arnie's passing am so sorry ,both Becky and I are so sorry he was a great human being. I truly enjoyed are trips together and losing both Arnie and John has made 2020 an awful year Love Becky & Aldo

Aldo& Becky Largura - January 04, 2021 at 08:16 PM

DE

“ Mrs Gough/Boomie and Family:

The 5 Eisenhauer's in Beverly Shores are so sorry to hear about Mr Gough - "Arnie".

Arnie is another NW Indiana Legend lost in 2020!

My Mom adores you both. Movies, dinners, trips, golf, parties, football, etc.

My Dad Ron LOVED his great friend Arnie. Construction talks and all. He respected Arnie very much. Bragged about him all of the time, except ND vs NU, ha!

Having just gone thru this please know you and your kids and grandchildren have so many friends rooting for you Boomie. You are a Rock! You did so much for him this past year. Simply WOW.

Peace and Love,

Donald, Mary Jane, Frannie, George and Hattie

Cc: LaLa/Linda E

Don Eisenhauer - January 04, 2021 at 03:05 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Arnold Gregory Gough.



January 04, 2021 at 09:31 AM

DW

“ So sorry for your loss. Hugs and prayers. Dottie Woods

Dot Woods - January 02, 2021 at 03:37 PM

DB

“ Arnie was generous of heart and the most fun loving and inclusive adult I knew as a kid growing up in Merrillville. He treated me as one of his own kids especially when I needed it most as my own dad laid in the ICU after suffering a heart attack. I was in middle school and the Gough family had me live with them for weeks so my mom could be with my dad during his recovery. This generosity laid the foundation of a lifelong relationship for me with Arnie and his whole wonderful family, especially Debbie. On the fun-loving note think about Arnie pulling us kids on skis behind a snowmobile!?! Or behind a motor boat on some beautiful lake. Ice-skating on the pond outback of their home. And one could never forget the ski trip to Big Sky or the snowmobile trip to Wisconsin where we all got snowbound and missed school.

Arnie you will be cherished forever in our memories. Thank you for making such a positive impact on my life and giving me these memories and more. Love, Debbie Spangler Barbanel

debbie spangler barbanel - January 02, 2021 at 11:58 AM