



Terry Fred Carlson

November 20, 1961 - March 7, 2025

Terry Fred Carlson

November 20, 1961 - March 7, 2025

Terry Fred Carlson passed away peacefully on March 7th, 2025, surrounded by his wife and daughter after a long battle with brain cancer.

Terry was born on November 20th, 1961, in Rockford, Illinois, the oldest of four to Fred and Connie Carlson. From an early age, he developed a deep love for agriculture, but it was his caring nature, sense of humor, and kind heart that truly defined him.

After graduating from Jefferson High School, Terry attended Kishwaukee College, where he studied agriculture, farm management, and animal husbandry. He raised hogs and grew corn, soybeans, and wheat. He was a dedicated member of the Winnebago County Pork Producers Association and Winnebago Young Farmers Association. After working in agriculture, he furthered his education by earning his bachelor's degree and MBA from Rockford University. He then spent a decade at Nylint Toys before joining the video game industry.

He married the love of his life, Danielle Gaubert, in 1995 and subsequently moved to California. Shortly after, they were blessed with their beautiful

daughter, Jessica.

Terry enjoyed many summers in Eagle River, WI, and Lake Tahoe, NV. Outside of traveling, Terry loved to golf, hunt, ride his bike around Menlo Park, and stay up-to-date on the price of corn by never missing an episode of RFD-TV. One of Terry's favorite passions was spending time in his garden. If he wasn't planting new flowers, mowing the lawn, or tending to his many fruit trees and roses, you could find him swimming in the pool after a long day in the sun. Every morning, he loved walking the dogs around the block, greeting neighbors with a big smile.

After 25 years, Terry retired from Namco Hometek, which later became Bandai Namco Entertainment Inc. (BNEA) in 2022. He took great pride in his career and loved to say, "I worked for Pac-Man." He was proud of his Swedish heritage and served on the board of the Swedish Historical Society of Rockford.

In 2023, Terry was diagnosed with Glioblastoma. Throughout his battle with cancer, he was constantly met with love, support, and prayers. His unwavering strength, faith, and determination to fight were an inspiration to many people in and outside of the brain tumor community.

Terry's legacy lives on through "Terry's Tribe," a community dedicated to honoring his life. His memory will be celebrated every year at Head for the Cure's 5k in San Francisco and through Jessica's advocacy work for brain tumor awareness. Terry's kindness, resilience, and love for his family and friends will be forever cherished.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Danielle; daughter, Jessica; mother, Connie; brothers, Timothy (Tammy) & Daniel (Molly) Carlson; and his nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Frederick Carlson; and sister, Valerie Ann Woods.

Our family would like to extend a sincere thank you to Terry's medical team at UCSF for prolonging his life and for their dedication to researching Glioblastoma. A special thank you to our caregiver, JR, for always making us laugh and bringing light to the darkest days.

A private burial will be held.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Terry's name to:

The UCSF Brain Tumor Research Fund (<https://giving.ucsf.edu/fund/brain-tumor-center>)

OR

Terry's Tribe Fundraiser for Head for the Cure (<https://impact.headforthecure.org/team/624256>)

Tribute Wall

MA

“ Dear Danielle, dear Jessica, it is with great sadness to read about Terry's passing. I worked with him at NAMCO. After the company's move from Santa Clara to San Jose Terry and I car-pooled from Palo Alto's Cal-Train station where he picked me up and dropped me off to San Jose to make my commute from San Francisco shorter and most all so much more delightful...those daily trips made both our days every AM and PM. We joked a lot about the crazy CA drivers as sat in traffic on 101 as well as being frustrated at so many things happening at the company. I have so fond memories of our great conversations. I especially remember him being so proud of Jessica's successes, be it graduating from high school or being accepted to college/university. And his stories from Lake Tahoe with the family's dog...hilarious!!! I last had contact with him despite me living in Germany for years now when he reached out to me in May of 2024 and told me of his illness. I was so sad, it always seems to hit the good people.

I lost my Mom in this past January 2025 and know all to well how it is to lose a loved one. But I try to get solace in the fact there is no more suffering for our loved ones and all those memories we have for ever.

Feel hugged both of you. I am sending positive thoughts and lots of strength your way. Best wishes, Mara



Mara - June 24, 2025 at 04:18 AM

SK

“ Terry's passing is a huge loss. He was always a pleasure to meet whether in a business or personal setting. He had such a warm and welcoming smile! I hope to be there on Saturday.

Sharon Klint - March 28, 2025 at 05:31 PM

JV

“ Terry will always hold a special place in my heart! I met him in the 90's when our Rep firm worked for Namco. I picked up on his accent & found out that I grew up 2 hours away from him in IL. He always felt like family to me with his Swedish background & my Danish background. After moving back to NC in early 2000's, a family friend of his worked with both of my sisters at Wyeth (now Pfizer) & also lived down the street from one of my sisters!! This is when we would say "what a small world we live in"!! We would always check in with each other & get & give updates on our families. I never met Danielle or Jessica, but they will always be family to me. Until we see each other again, my sweet friend & brother, Terry! I Lym!!

Jennifer Vaillancourt - March 15, 2025 at 12:15 PM

JS

“ I will always remember Terry for his love of nature and the way he shared it with others. I have a fond memory of him walking me through his backyard, showing me all the beautiful flowers and trees he cared for so deeply. His passion for the outdoors and his kindness in sharing it will stay with me always.
Deepest Sympathy - Julie Scott

Julie A Scott - March 12, 2025 at 07:36 PM

WH

“ Sorry to hear of Terry's passing!
Terry and I worked together at Nylint Corporation in Rockford. He wwas a joy to work with!
God bless the family.
Wayne & Nancy Helfer

Wayne Helfer - March 12, 2025 at 02:38 PM

SK

Terry's passing is very sad for me as I remember his wonderful smile at so many family gatherings. I hope this finds you and your family well, and that you will always have great memories of my dad Rags and Uncle Barney and that marvelous and wonderful Nylint Corporation.

Sharon Klint - March 22, 2025 at 05:07 PM