

# Gorman was firefighter, family man

ANDREW SMITH  
Council Bluffs Nonpareil

After living life at “100 miles an hour,” Michael Gorman died Nov. 17 at the home he grew up in, looking over the yard where he used to play with his siblings.

The 64-year-old served the community as a fire captain for the Council Bluffs Fire Department, where he worked for 28 years, according to The Nonpareil’s archives. He retired in June 2016 after receiving a multiple system atrophy diagnosis.

“It’s overpowering,” Gorman told The Nonpareil at his retirement ceremony. “All I did was get up everyday and go to work and do my job to the best of my ability. I guess when you do that you don’t realize the amount of people you affect. To hear people say nice things, it’s very touching.”

The incurable nervous system disorder didn’t stop him from doing what he loved, with the people he loved.

“I think he had a goal every day, all the way up till the end,” said Steve Gorman, Mike’s younger brother.

Steve said his brother stayed mentally strong even while his body declined.

“All the way to the end, his mind was there,” Steve said. “I was always able to make him laugh, and he was always in tune with the grandkids and his kids.”

The Mayo Clinic says multiple system atrophy is rare and causes people to lose coordination or become slow and stiff. It can also cause a loss of control of bodily functions including speech patterns.

Mike stuck close with family through it all, including Kim, his wife of 41 years, three children, eight grandchildren and surviving siblings.

The community stuck with him, too.

“There were two lines all the way out the door of the funeral home,” Steve said about his brother’s funeral visitation. “That’s the reward you get when you are good to people in your community. You can get paid with money, or you can get paid with friendships that are forever.”

Mike was born sixth of eight siblings and shared much of his personality with their grandfather, Steve said.

“All of us are pretty optimistic group, but he was a character,” Steve said.

Steve joined the fire department a few years after his older brother. Their youngest brother, Chuck, was a police officer. The three brothers would occasionally show up to the same incident, which Steve described as a “special thing.”

Brothers Steve and Mike also painted apartments together in

high school, a side hustle Mike continued on his own.

“We started training for that fire department — not knowingly — as little kids,” Steve said. “We toughened each other up. We’d work together, we’d play together.”

Steve’s earliest memory of Mike was from the back of a tricycle flying down Morningside Avenue. When making a right turn near Forest Drive, the two were dumped onto the pavement. Mike just laughed through the scrapes.

Several clippings from the seen and heard section of The Nonpareil illustrate more of his “rough and tumble” childhood during the 1960s.

As children, they’d go outside and see who could last longest against Iowa’s cold winter weather. Whoever broke first would lose.

“Sometimes it would be hours and hours,” Steve said. “Everything was a competition.”

Mike played football and ran track at Saint Albert Catholic School — where all the Gorman brothers of that generation met their wives. Mike played when Saint Albert’s football team first make the state semifinals. Later he attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he continued to run track and play football.

Sports mattered quite a bit to him. He stayed loyal to the Iowa State football team and rooted for any team playing against the Ne-



JOE SHEARER, THE NONPAREIL

Retiring Council Bluffs Fire Captain Mike Gorman, center, and his wife, Kim, right, chat with Engineer Chad Parrott during Gorman’s retirement party at Community Hall on Wednesday, June 1, 2016. Gorman spent 28 years with the Council Bluffs Fire Department.

braska Cornhuskers. He preferred a crasser name for the Nebraska team — more bowel movement than bowl game qualifier.

Mike was known to his siblings and fellow firefighters as “Stink,” after his affection of potty humor.

“He became known for his work ethic, narration of events, his farts and for making the hard work fun,” wrote daughter Allison Nichols for her father’s obituary.

Nichols, too, works as an administrative secretary at the fire department.

“Everybody that knew him is better off for knowing him,” Steve said. “He was just always there for you. Always had a smile.”

In his final years, Mike still went with family to a lake in Minnesota where the Gorman siblings vacationed since their youth. He loved to fish out on his boat. One time, their brother Chuck misplaced a plug from the boat during an outing.

“All of a sudden the tackle box goes floating by us,” Steve said. “We were slowly sinking and Mike just laughed.”

From early adventures to the end, he laughed through it all.

“He never complained once about his illness. He accepted it, and he faced it with courage like everything else we faced,” Steve said.

# Ernst finds \$1T in spending cuts for Musk, Ramaswamy

ERIN MURPHY  
Lee-Gazette Des Moines Bureau

Iowa Republican U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst believes there’s \$1 trillion in government spending ripe for the cutting, the senator said this week in a letter to Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy.

Tech billionaire Musk and former GOP presidential candidate Ramaswamy are heading the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, an advisory body to President-elect Donald Trump’s incoming administration.

Ernst has embraced the department’s goal of cutting \$2 trillion in government spending.

Late last week, Ernst formed a DOGE caucus of Senate Republicans to involve Congress in discussions of spending cuts with Musk and Ramaswamy.

Federal spending is determined by Congress and then approved by the president.

Ernst earlier this week

sent a letter to Musk and Ramaswamy in which she detailed what she believes are options for up to \$1 trillion in federal spending cuts.

“Washington has been gobbling up tax dollars and asking for seconds and thirds for far too long,” Ernst said this week in a Thanksgiving-themed statement. “The DOGE team has our knives out, and we are ready to trim the fat on the overstuffed budget and billion-dollar gravy trains to nowhere. It is time to make the federal government go cold turkey on waste.”

Ernst’s targets for spending cuts, as identified in her letter, include:

- Selling unused government buildings and consolidating others, especially with many government employees now working from home.
- Firing IRS agents who owe back taxes.
- Defunding the federal

electric vehicle infrastructure program.

■ Recouping fraudulent spending of federal pandemic relief funds.

■ Defunding federal assistance to California public transportation projects.

■ Changing the composition of pennies and nickels.

■ Stopping “out-of-this-world” bonuses to government employees and contractors.

■ Cutting unemployment payments for millionaires.

■ Consolidating federal agencies’ cloud computing licenses.

■ Addressing “bloated bureaucracy and inefficiency” in the Department of Defense.

■ Stopping \$1 billion in monthly erroneous SNAP payments, including to ineligible recipients and individuals receiving benefits from multiple states.

■ Implementing basic management systems



SEN. ERNST’S OFFICE

President-elect Donald Trump, center, sits with, from left, billionaire Howard Lutnick, U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, Ernst chief of staff Lisa Goeas and billionaire Elon Musk at Mar-a-Lago, Trump’s Florida estate. Ernst gave Musk a letter about suggested cuts in government spending.

like establishing goals and scopes for government projects.

In her letter to Musk and Ramaswamy, Ernst evoked the “Make ’em squeal” proclamation from her first U.S. Senate campaign in

2014 and said that her fight to cut government waste has been lonely because, “Democrats and Republicans always come together in agreement over one issue: living high off the hog.”

“When faced with pro-

posals to trim the fat from Washington’s budget, members of Congress from both parties act like Goldilocks. It’s too little or too big, always too hard, and never just right,” Ernst said in the letter.

# Logan librarian recognized by James Patterson

HAILEY PECK  
Council Bluffs Nonpareil

James Patterson has no shortage of mysteries and thrillers for readers to solve.

For the Logan Public Library, one mystery that didn’t need solving was which staff member should be honored as a top librarian.

Abby Evans was recognized by the American Library Association and the bestselling author as a top librarian in the United States. Evans was selected as one of 250 li-

brarians to receive the honor.

“It was funny because at first, I thought it was a scam email, so I talked to my boss and she was like nope that’s real. So, I was really taken aback,” Evans told The Nonpareil in an interview.

Patterson created the award to celebrate the release of his new book “The Secret Lives of Booksellers & Librarians.” Patterson donated \$50,000 to a fund to honor recipients, according to a news release.

The fund donated to the ALA

and gifted recipients \$200. Winners were nominated for recognition and had to be ALA members to receive the award.

“It’s also very humbling because (my coworkers) were not surprised,” Evans said. “There’s so many good librarians in the U.S., so to be selected, it’s really just mind-boggling.”

Evans has worked at the Logan Public Library for four years. She said that the library relies a lot on community support and it’s an honor to be nationally recognized.



ABBY EVANS



## World AIDS Day is December 1

You help us keep moving forward when you **talk**, **test**, **treat**.



### talk

Talk with your partner **before** having sex.

Talk about **when** you were last tested and suggest getting tested together.

Talk to your healthcare provider about your sex life. Ask them about HIV and STI testing: including what tests you need and how often.

### test

**Get tested!** It’s the only way to **know for sure** if you have an HIV or another STI.

Many STIs **don’t cause any symptoms**, so you could have one and **not know**.

*If you’re not comfortable asking your regular provider for an HIV or STI test, find a clinic that provides confidential testing that is free or low cost.*

### treat

All STIs, including HIV, are treatable. If you test positive for an STI, work with your healthcare provider to get the right treatment.

If you test positive for HIV, your provider or testing location will help connect you to treatment & resources!

Ask about partner services to get your partner tested and treated. Avoid having sex until you and your sex partner both complete treatment.