



Gary D. Richards

May 17, 1943 - March 10, 2025

Gary D. Richards, 81, of Vancouver, WA passed away peacefully surrounded by his family in his home. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert John Richards and Mary Jewell Cheek Richards. He is survived by his loving wife Shirley of 52 years, daughter Marianne (Stephen) Burgess, granddaughter Awbrey (Jordan) Johnson, his brother Jimmie (Liz) Richards, brother-in-law L.Z. (Debbie) Johnson, sister-in-law Nellie (Roger) Wilson, brother-in-law Jeffrey (Merle) Johnson, and numerous nieces and nephews. Gary was a graduate of Strathmore High School, Strathmore, CA where he ran track, a member of chorus, Spartan Squires and the school's Honor Chorus. During his high school years Gary became what is called a "night sleeper" at the local fire department and during the summer months he worked with the CAL FIRE fighting wildfires. That is where he developed his love of service to others. He was a proud US Air Force veteran where he continued with his love of serving others in fire and rescue for 8 years. Once he left the Air Force Gary was still serving others at the Lindsay Fire Department, Lindsay CA and later went on to also serve as a police officer. After serving for 7 years in Lindsay, Gary and family moved to California City, CA where he continued serving his community there as a firefighter and police officer. Gary's career continued with a move from there to Lockheed Martin Fire Department, Palmdale, CA and from there he continued his career in the Security Education and Training Department where he developed a love of teaching others. His next career move was to a private prison for CCA where

he was still teaching others until he retired in 2009.

At his passing, Gary was a member of Laurelwood Baptist Church, Vancouver WA where he loved to participate in Bible studies and fellowship with fellow members. Gary was also a member of Celebrate Recovery Ministry at Liberty Bible Naz, Vancouver WA. He went on several mission trips to Panama where he helped to build homes with Homes for Hope. He was one proud Papa in 2016 when his son-in-law Stephen and granddaughter Awbrey were able to go, 3 generations serving on the mission fields of Panama. No matter where the moves took him in his life, Gary was faithfully serving his Heavenly Father and his local church family by witnessing and teaching others about his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Graveside service will be held, Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 3:00pm at Evergreen Memorial Gardens, 1101 N.E. 112 th Avenue, Vancouver, WA with Pastor Erik Hallworth officiating.

We will be Celebrating Gary's Life with a party in May.

In lieu of flowers donations to Gary Sinise Foundation which supports veterans and first responders, www.garysinisefoundation.org/give

Tribute Wall

ST

“ As you grieve your beloved Gary, may you find solace in the love and memories you shared. His spirit lives on in the many he touched.

Sally Tucker - March 18, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ My brother, you will be missed and your passing leaves a hole in the hearts of those that loves you. Tell mom and dad I said hello and will join you all when my time comes.

Jimmie

Jimmie Richards - March 18, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Shirley, We are so sorry and our deepest condolences to you and your family. Much Love and Many Blessings Charlie Osburn & Natalie Blaylock Familys



Anonymous - March 17, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ We pray the love of God enfolds you during your journey through grief.

Jerry and Shirley Stallings - March 17, 2025 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ We will always remember Gary's love of the Lord and his joyful presence. Much love to you, Shirley
John and Candi Talbott
Psalm 1 1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,
2 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.
3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither- whatever they do prospers.

Candi Talbott - March 17, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

A Memorial Tree was planted for Gary D. Richards - March 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ Our journey together has had many stops. We were Firemen together in Lindsay, then we went to the Police Academy together. Gary went to California City Public Safety and recommended me to come along and share careers again . Gary was a great person and a loyal friend. Friends are hard to find and will miss him a lot. Rest in peace in Heaven

Wayne Dickerson - March 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM