

GARY DOUGLAS WILSON

MAY 31, 1949 - OCTOBER 19, 2024



Gary Douglas Wilson was born on May 31, 1949, in Portland, Oregon, to Cecil and Dona Wilson. He passed away peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by family, on the morning of October 19, 2024, in Jefferson, Oregon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Dona, and his youngest brother, Rick Wilson.

Gary is survived by his wife of nearly 55 years, Judy Wilson; his brother Bob Wilson; his children, Justin, Sarah, and Tim; and many beloved grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In 1968, Gary began working for Southern Pacific Railroad. The following year, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served from 1969 to 1971 with the 5th Battalion, 23rd Infantry. Although originally ordered to Vietnam, fate had other plans, and Gary's unit was deployed to Alaska.

On February 27, 1970, Gary and Judy married in Vancouver, Washington, and spent their first year as newlyweds in Alaska. After his military service, Gary returned to Southern Pacific Railroad, where he dedicated 42 years to the company. He worked in the Bridge Department in Eugene, Oregon. Following the merger with Union Pacific in 1996, Gary earned numerous safety and employee awards throughout his career.

In 1972, Gary and Judy relocated to Albany, Oregon, to make his commute to Eugene more manageable. A few years later, they began their family. Family and friends were always at the heart of Gary's life—he never missed a gathering and was often the life of the party, bringing humor, warmth, and stories wherever he went.

Gary's devotion to animals was reflected in his special bond with his German Shepherds: Zeno, Whitney, Jordan, and Kona. His family finds peace knowing that Gary is now reunited with his loved ones—both human and canine.

The Wilson family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Evergreen Hospice, with special recognition to Gary's nurse, Anah, for her compassionate care during his final months. They also wish to thank Aasum-Dufour Funeral Home and Julie Spencer for their guidance and support.

Following the service, a reception will be held at the home of Bob and Marge Wilson for close family and friends. Light refreshments and appetizers will be served.

Address: 17510 Springhill Place, Gladstone, OR 97027
Marge's Cell: 503-709-0607



HONORING GARY DOUGLAS WILSON



**"THE BEST
THINGS IN LIFE ARE THE
PEOPLE
WE LOVE, THE
PLACES
WE'VE BEEN, AND THE
MEMORIES
WE'VE MADE ALONG THE WAY."**

-ANONYMOUS

THE DASH



I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end.

He noted first came the date of the birth and spoke the following date with tears.
But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between the years.

For that dash represents all the time that they spent life on Earth.
And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash.
What matters is how we live and love, and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand the way other people feel.

Be less quick to anger and show appreciation more,
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash,
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?

By: Linda Ellis

IN HONORED MEMORY GARY DOUGLAS WILSON

Age 75

Born
May 31, 1949
Portland, Oregon

Entered Into Rest

October 19, 2024
Jefferson, Oregon

Funeral Service

Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 11:30 AM
Willamette National Cemetery
Portland, Oregon

Military Honors

Army Honor Guard

Eulogy
Daughter - Sarah Steen

Sharing of Childhood Moments
Childhood Best Friend - Tom Hofmann

Family Sharing