



## Gary Lee Houck

March 11, 1944 - September 14, 2025

Gary Lee Houck, age 81, of Royal Oak went to heaven on September 14, 2025. He is survived by his cherished wife for 61 years, Mary Joan, and his two beloved children, Thomas Houck (Cindy Gates) and Anita (David) Leonard. He is also survived by his adored grandchildren, Amanda, Anna, Matthew, and Ember; his treasured great-grandchildren, Andrew, Mason, Gia, and Elliana; his dear sister Kay (Mike) Allen; and his loving niece, Kimmy Allen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Watson and Gladys Houck, and his grandchildren Timothy and Heather.

Gary was born in Alma, Michigan. He grew up in Grand Rapids and moved to Royal Oak at age 12. He graduated from Royal Oak Kimball High School where he met his wife, Mary Joan. He graduated from Ferris State University and obtained his master's degree from Oakland University. He worked for GM Truck and Coach for five years. He worked for 34 years as a teacher for Royal Oak Schools at Southeast Oakland Vocational Education Center as the automobile teacher. He also served as Vice President and President of Royal Oak Teachers Union for 12 years.

Gary will be remembered for his faith in God, his love of family, his great listening skills, his tall storytelling, his love for reading, his love for history, his love of golf, and his passion for sports-especially University of Michigan, The Detroit Lions, and The Detroit Tigers.

Gary's family will receive friends for visitation on Thursday, September 18, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. at the Central Oaks Community Church, 2005 Rochester Road, Royal Oak. Additionally, a private burial will be held at Christian Memorial Gardens West Cemetery, Rochester Hills.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, to make donations to Central Oaks Community Church Missionaries, 2005 Rochester Road, Royal Oak. Please share a story of Gary or leave a tribute at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Christian Memorial Gardens West

521 E. Hamlin Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **18**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Central Oaks Community Church  
2005 Rochester Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

## Funeral Service

SEP **18**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Central Oaks Community Church  
2005 Rochester Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

# Tribute Wall

VZ

“ Vito & Lisa Zerilli purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Gary Lee Houck.



Vito & Lisa Zerilli - September 17, 2025 at 12:24 PM

DM

“ Dan and Janel Mariani purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Gary Lee Houck.



Dan and Janel Mariani - September 16, 2025 at 06:54 PM

DS

“ We are truly saddened to hear of Gary's passing. He was such a great guy. Over the years we shared many wonderful times with him, Mary Jo and the Houck family. Our kids weddings, the grandkids graduation parties, all those baby showers, or simply getting together to catch up over a meal. Gary was the life of the party, he could always make us laugh. A favorite occasion from years back comes to mind, when we saw Billy Ray Cyrus and the Dixie Chicks at the Detroit Opera House. We whooped it up big time! As you navigate through this difficult time may God fill your hearts with peace, strength, love and may more memories like these bring comfort to you all. With heartfelt sympathy, Dave & Diane Spicer

Diane M Spicer - September 16, 2025 at 01:26 PM

GW

*RIP my dear cousin. I have wonderful memories of us growing up. The time you, Kay and I rode bicycles to the zoo, the time you took Kay and I to the state fair to see Jan and Dean in concert. You said you didn't know about us screaming girls. Our fishing on the Asable River. Great times! Loving prayers to your family.*

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**Gloria Whitener** - September 17, 2025 at 03:07 PM

AB

“ *I have so many memories of my most beloved friend. The time I was just learning to drive and scraped the car door against the house, and my dear friend said, “I will see you later”, and left me. The time he told his daughter that the Angels sat on his roof to learn how to be good. The time he and Mary Jo took the grandchildren to Toronto; and Gary ordered a carriage, and it cost him a fortune. The time we were golf partners. So many stories. Gary, my dear friend, God has called you to your eternal home. I will say “Goodbye for now”. I know the special memories will always be with me. God bless you, my friend.*

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**Al Bartlett** - September 16, 2025 at 12:30 PM

KA

“ *One of our family stories is when Gary was small and had done something wrong asked Mom how she knew what he did. Mom told him that a little bird told her. Mom found him in the back yard with his sling shot looking to shoot the poor innocent birds.*

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**Kay Allen** - September 15, 2025 at 10:18 PM

SD

“ Sincerely, Kathy and Dick Dennis purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Gary Lee Houck.



Sincerely, Kathy and Dick Dennis - September 15, 2025 at 08:48 PM

RE

“ ReGina and Ember purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Gary Lee Houck.



ReGina and Ember - September 15, 2025 at 07:07 PM

LB

“ LOVE BETH purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Gary Lee Houck.



LOVE BETH - September 15, 2025 at 05:55 PM

J(

“ I was so sorry to hear the news about the sudden loss of Gary in your life. In the years we were neighbors, I always remember Gary as having a calm and steady disposition and a ready smile on his face. I will hold you, Mary, Joe, Anita, and Tom in my thoughts, as you move through the difficulties ahead. May memories soon fill the empty space that has been left in your hearts. ❤️

Judith Cawhorn (Deckebach) - September 15, 2025 at 05:46 PM

LW

*The weaver family has known Gary for years mary Jo was part of the family as were her parents. Gary was a sweet, sincere, kind hearted man who the whole family loved dearly he will truly be missed. Our thought are with you all. Linda and Gerry weaver and both of our families.*

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**Linda Louise Trueman Weaver** - September 16, 2025 at 10:17 AM