



## Gary Welch

November 11, 1941 - February 9, 2025

Gary Ross Welch, age 83, of Royal Oak, passed away on February 9, 2025.

Born on November 11, 1941, in Royal Oak to Ross and Sonia Welch, Gary graduated from Dondero High School in 1960. Shortly after, he joined the U.S. Army, serving in Korea and Japan from 1962 to 1964. After his military service, he returned home and pursued higher education, earning a degree from Macomb Community College in 1967 and later from Lawrence Tech University in 1981. Gary worked as a cost engineer at Barton Mallow for much of his professional life.

Outside of his career, Gary had a deep passion for sailing and chess. Alongside his wife Dorothy, he enjoyed countless hours sailing their 22-foot Catalina around Lake Erie. And Gary's love for problem-solving extended beyond the chessboard-his fascination with mathematics and physics was a constant throughout his life. From 1988 to 1996, he also continued his service to country and community as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, where he earned recognition for his top rankings in education and examination cornerstones.

Gary will be remembered as the beloved husband of Dorothy (née Bureau); loving father of Robert Gary (Donna) Welch and Sally Ann (Catherine) Welch; proud grandfather of Kayla, Garrett, and Emma Welch; and dear brother of

Sandra Opdycke. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Memorial contributions in Gary's honor may be made to St. Croix Hospice: [www.stcroixhospice.com](http://www.stcroixhospice.com). Checks can be mailed to St. Croix Hospice, LLC Attn: Mary-HSF, 7755 3rd Street North, Suite 200, Oakdale, MN 55128.