



## Gary Lee Marsh

February 9, 1940 - October 17, 2023

### In Loving Memory of Gary Lee Marsh

On Tuesday, October 17, 2023, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Gary Lee Marsh, a remarkable man who graced our lives with his warmth and love. At the age of 83, Gary passed away in Lansing, Michigan, leaving behind a legacy of cherished memories.

Gary was born on February 9, 1940, in Owosso, Michigan, the son of Ester Marsh. His journey was one of love, dedication, and service. On September 12, 1992 he married Carol Beam. His favorite childhood memories were filled with the joy of following his loyal beagle, "Old Joe," into the woods on his grandfather's farm, where he found solace and companionship.

Gary's professional life was marked by versatility and dedication. He began as a farmer, tending to the land and honing a strong work ethic. His career then led him to Mitchel Bentley in Ionia, where he played a vital role in building auto bodies, showcasing his craftsmanship and attention to detail. In 1957 Gary enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was stationed in Europe as a jet aircraft mechanic, a role that exemplified his unwavering commitment to excellence. After his military service, he briefly worked at the Detroit Free Press before finding his place at Consolidated Freight and later at Diamond Reo. His final chapter in the working world was with Oldsmobile and General Motors, where his innovative ideas earned him an award for improving manufacturing processes. He retired in 1990, having made a significant impact on his field. Even in retirement, he continued to share his skills,

working briefly at Pray Funeral Home as a maintenance person.

Gary's passions and interests were as diverse as his career. His love for Volkswagen cars was evident in his restoration of a 1968 VW Bug, a project he undertook without a manual. In addition to the Bug, he built three dune buggies, leaving a legacy of creativity and hands-on craftsmanship. Gary also had a deep affection for woodworking and gardening, where he showcased his skill and love for nature.

His sense of humor and love for sharing jokes and humorous stories were legendary. His favorite poem, "Now I lay me down to sleep, a bag of peanuts at my feet. If I should die before I wake, know I died with a belly ache," perfectly captured his charming wit and warm spirit.

Above all else, Gary was most proud of his children and grandchildren and the joy of helping others. His caring nature and love for his family and community will be remembered and cherished by all who knew him.

Gary is survived by his three children: Lisa (Mike) Kavanagh, Tim (Julie) Marsh, and Jeff (Niki) Marsh; stepchildren, Alan (Jan) Groner, Joni Powell, Cara James, and Ann (Jesse) Kemp. His legacy continues through six grandchildren: Chad (Kris) Kavanagh, Cory (Maggie) Kavanagh, Timmy Marsh Jr., Amanda (Logan) Johnson, Jeremy (Shelby Wilbur) Marsh, Josh Marsh, and 9 step-grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren brought joy to his life. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol; and his mother Ester. In honor of Gary's remarkable life, a Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, October 30, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. A visitation will be held just prior to the service from 1-2:00 p.m. If desired the family suggests memorial contributions to the Eaton County Humane Society.

As we say our final farewell, we take comfort in the knowledge that Gary's spirit will continue to warm our hearts with cherished memories, laughter, and the enduring love he shared with us all. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **30**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Celebration of Life

OCT **30**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary Lee Marsh*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - October 26, 2023 at 04:40 PM



“ *4 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - October 26, 2023 at 04:18 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Lee Marsh.*

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October 20, 2023 at 02:35 PM



“ *Father - Large Memorial Stone was purchased for the family of Gary Lee Marsh.*



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October 20, 2023 at 02:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Lee Marsh.

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October 20, 2023 at 02:31 PM



“ *Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Gary Lee Marsh.*



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October 20, 2023 at 02:31 PM



“ *Karen R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Lee Marsh.*

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**Karen R.** - October 19, 2023 at 11:29 AM