



Gary Stephen Wood

April 13, 1952 - December 29, 2025

Gary Stephen Wood,

Died peacefully surrounded by family in his southside Indianapolis home at 3:30 p.m. on December 29, 2025 at the age of 73, after a painful battle with cancer.

Powerful in stature, presence, mannerisms, and voice. Gary was spiritually diverse (Mormon-Hindu-Catholic), extremely well read, possessed a keen ear & passion for music, an appreciation for art, and a fondness of the outdoors. A cowboy at heart with a sophisticated pallet, Gary was a lover of culture, cuisine, travel and exploration. A cigar aficionado and fly-fishing connoisseur - He was in his most harmonious state when fishing on the rivers, lakes, or oceans. Gary was also a sports enthusiast, rooting for his Cubbies, Colts, Pacers, Hoosiers, and the Utah Utes. And he enjoyed cycling and motorsports, namely the Tour de France, IndyCar and F1. Gary also had an innate gift of making fast friends with the most interesting among us – which fueled his curiosities, shaped his dreams, and expanded his worldview.

Gary “Rabbit” was born on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1952 in Salt Lake City, UT to Afton (Egbert) and Lyle Wood. He initially attended the University of Utah where he studied Political Science and left to study music at the Westminster College in Utah before moving to southern California to study jazz under Moacir Santos the Brazilian composer. It was here he became a disciple of Shri Shyanyogi, a master of Kundalini Maha Yoga, and a spiritual calling through Hinduism.

In 1978, while back in Salt Lake City, Gary met his love, Michele, and they were wed December 9th of that same year. Gary was baptized in the Catholic Church in 1980 as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. After moving to Indianapolis in 1984, Gary eventually began working for Lowes Corporation before he started G.S. Wood Custom Homes to ply his trade as a builder. After open heart surgery in 2005 he retired from construction and set his sights on owning and operating The Fly Shop in Ennis, MT until finally retiring in 2012 and returning to Indianapolis.

Gary was a proud and doting family man – for his wife and sons, his cherished grandchildren, and his numerous nieces and nephews. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, his “Sweet Babboo” Michele Kuntz Wood; his sons, Thor (Stephanie) and Nate of Indianapolis; siblings, John Wood (Nancy) of Bastrop, TX, Colleen Aird (Jim) of West Valley City, UT, and Michael Wood (Linda) of Lexington, KY; and his grandchildren, Marissa, Robert, Hailee, Sophie, Lily and Charley. He was preceded in death by his mother, Afton “Snuffer” and step-father, Vincent “Buzzard” Anderson.

Though Gary showcased an inherent free spirit, he was strict on a few matters of importance: How to answer the telephone. How to say grace. Proper dining etiquette. Showing respect and manners. How to appreciate the finer things, and life in general. And throughout his life, Gary was a substantial man. He will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held April 12, 2026. Please contact the family to be added to the invitation list. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the CYO Camp Needs Campaign online at <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/CYO/cyocampneedscampaign.html>

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Michelle,
I was sorry to hear of your husband Gary's passing. He sounds like a remarkable man who lived a very full life. 47 years is a wonderful fulfilled commitment and special life together .
I too lost my husband Gary 3 years ago, we were together 46 years. He too became a Catholic in the later in our marriage. Michelle, You will always have your Gary's wonderful spirit and presence with you every day as well as joyful memories.
Love and Prayers, Mary Lou Schumacher Harmon

Mary Lou Schumacher Harmon - January 10 at 11:31 AM

MW

What a treat to hear from you. Wouldn't our parents be delighted about their conversions! Might help us to get in. Take care. Michele

michele Wood - January 13 at 02:57 PM

MH

“ Michelle, I hope to attend the Celebration of Life in April. Please send the location and time. My address is: 15910 Harwich Ct. Granger, IN. 46530.
E-mail. mlh4pu@sbcglobal.net

A donation will be made in Gary's name to the CYO camps programs. ❤️

Mary Lou Schumacher Harmon

Mary Lou Schumacher Harmon - January 10 at 11:23 AM

MW

I would love that!

michele Wood - January 13 at 02:57 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Stephen Wood.



January 05 at 09:59 PM



“ Glenn Muller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Stephen Wood.

Glenn Muller - January 05 at 09:59 PM



“ The image is one of many that Gary liked on my Facebook page and seemed appropriate. It's Ray Stanford Strong "Requiem for Maynard Dixon." I met Gary in a casual Facebook group gathered together by James Taylor, although I always suspected Gary and I had seen each other back in his days at the College Bookstore as I hung out there from time to time In any case, I enjoyed our Facebook friendship as we shared a taste for images of horses and the West and he had great tastes in music. He was a likeable, strong presence in our group, encouraging me to visit mutual friend Fred Lyman after Fred had a stroke. Building community and caring about people seemed to come effortlessly for him. Michelle and family -- I am so sorry for your loss. But for Gary -- I wish him happy trails for eternity.



Bonnie Fox - January 04 at 04:38 PM

MW

Thank you Bonnie. He spoke of you often.

michele Wood - January 13 at 02:59 PM



“ *Sweet Snacks Gift Crate was purchased for the family of Gary Stephen Wood.*



January 03 at 07:11 PM

AA

“ *Abiola Akindele planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Stephen Wood.*

Abiola Akindele - January 03 at 07:11 PM

LG

“ *I met Gary about 1970 while working College Bookstore across the street from University of Utah. After work one day we all decided to check out the elephants. Gary was always up for fun and adventure. One summer he took off with no timeline or road map and wound up staying at Ken Kelsey's ranch house in California. That's Gary and I'm sure his spirit will take a quick pause Before he takes off to explore and learn. Take care Michele, we'll miss him.*

Laura Horiuchi Gaddie - January 02 at 07:18 PM

CW

Rest easy Gary. You kept at it!

Chuck Wike - January 05 at 10:44 PM

LG

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Laura Horiuchi Gaddie - January 02 at 07:06 PM



“ I am so deeply sorry for your loss. A marriage of 47 years is a rare and beautiful testament to love, commitment, and shared life, and the bond you built together has been inspiring to all who know you. Gary brought such richness to the world through his spirituality, his love of music and art, and his deep appreciation for the outdoors. Those qualities live on through the memories you shared and the lives he touched. Please know you are in my thoughts, and I hope you find comfort in the legacy of love you created together.

Lynne Rahman - January 02 at 04:10 PM

MW

Thank you Lynn. I appreciate your sentiments. Hope you and Rafi are well.

michele Wood - January 13 at 03:00 PM