



Gary Wayne Adams

April 22, 1946 - August 28, 2025

Gary Wayne Adams, 79 passed away on August 28, 2025, at his home in Oregon City, Oregon after multiple illnesses. He was born April 22, 1946 to Elton Arnold Ace Adams and Pearl May Williams Adams in Tacoma, Washington. He spend his early years in Texas and moved to the Portland, Oregon area when he was 4. He graduated from Centennial High School, Portland State University and did graduate studies at Oregon State University. He started his teaching career at Rural Dell Grade School and later moved to Sandy High School where he taught for many years, retiring in 2002. He loved teaching and his interaction with his students. He also served many years with the Oregon Army National Guard.

His hobby was travel, where he and Joyce visited over 102 countries and met many wonderful people who became part of their lives. He loved playing online games, shooting with his grandson and spending time with his dear friend, Lanning.

Gary is survived by his wife, Joyce, daughter, Tracy Parker (Mark), and grandson, Cameron Green. Also dear to him is their foreign exchange daughter from Germany, Birgit Thorwesten and her husband Uwe Schwedtmann.

His funeral will be Saturday, August 6 at 2:00pm and available on Zoom.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 6. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Hillside Chapel
1306 7th Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

Tribute Wall



“ *Hillside Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Gary Wayne Adams*



Hillside Chapel - September 03, 2025 at 01:26 PM

ML

“ *Had so much fun with Joyce and Gary on their travels through Nebraska and everywhere in between. Enjoyed surprising them in Grand Island NE on 9/16/2019. I enjoyed my trips to Oregon and Gary's computer help when I needed it. Will miss traveling virtually with them. Loved Gary's History lessons when we went anywhere.*

MARIBETH LOSEE - September 06, 2025 at 06:41 PM

MA

“ *Some of my fondest memories of Gary is playing video games with he and my son. We would have to team up against Gary to try to gain an edge, but he almost always won. Lol. Sometimes I think he'd let us win occasionally, so we'd come back for more punishment. He was awesome!*

I will miss Gary dearly. He always set a great example, and helped me be a better man, a better friend, and a better father. Love you Gary.

Marvin - September 06, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gary Wayne Adams.



September 06, 2025 at 11:09 AM



“ Gary , may you continue to have exciting travels and adventures . Big Hug xxx Liz

Liz Aurilia - September 05, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ Elizabeth Aurilia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Wayne Adams.

Elizabeth Aurilia - September 05, 2025 at 11:33 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Wayne Adams.



September 05, 2025 at 11:22 AM

MY

“ I had the honor of working with Gary as a union advocate when I worked at the Oregon Education Association for 21 years. We shared the ups and downs of union work, including a couple of strikes. Walking picket lines, canvassing for bond measures, attending Council Meetings, and dealing with the politics of the OEA hierarchy forged a strong friendship, which continued after we both retired. His advice, kindness, humor, and support made him a unique and valuable friend. He was like the big brother that I never had. I will miss him for the rest of my life.

Myrna - September 04, 2025 at 11:36 PM

MY

“ Myrna purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Gary Wayne Adams.



Myrna - September 04, 2025 at 11:22 PM

MY

“ Myrna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Wayne Adams.

Myrna - September 04, 2025 at 11:22 PM

LR

“ Gary and I were colleagues at Sandy High School and best friends. We travelled the world (London, Vancouver BC, flight and art museums) and ate lunch together once a week. Gary was an effective advocate for his colleagues as a union representative and was loved by his students, friends and family. He and Joyce were world travelers and visited most countries. Gary was always generous, gracious, and ready to share.

Lanning Russell - September 04, 2025 at 07:39 PM

LK

“ Lanning, Margaret, Kai purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gary Wayne Adams.



Lanning, Margaret, Kai - September 04, 2025 at 05:54 PM

JG

“ Joyce's Hiking Group purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Gary Wayne Adams.



Joyce's Hiking Group - September 04, 2025 at 05:50 PM

JG

“ Joyce's Hiking Group planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Wayne Adams.

Joyce's Hiking Group - September 04, 2025 at 05:50 PM

CH

“ Gary and I taught social studies classes at Sandy High School in classrooms next to each other. He was a great teacher and colleague and he will be missed by many. Prayers to family for strength over the coming weeks and months. Curt Heath

Curt Heath - September 04, 2025 at 03:07 AM

BC

Gary was always sharp witted and spoke what was on his mind I have fond memories of Gary and Joyce they where a big part of my teen years and always opened their home and allowed us to be involved in a normal life for a few hours watching movies and hearing about Lots of History
Rest in peace Gary

Brian Cayson - September 13, 2025 at 12:26 AM