



Gary Dean Leach

January 13, 1945 - March 26, 2026

Gary Dean Leach, age 81, of Johannesburg, South Africa, passed away at his home on March 26, 2026. He was born on January 13, 1945, in Pickford, Michigan, to Elwin and Minda (Kangas) Leach, and was the youngest of eight children.

Gary graduated from Pickford High School with the Class of 1963. He went on to attend Western Michigan University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. Following his graduation, Gary served in the military and was stationed in Vietnam. After his honorable discharge, he settled in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he continued his education and earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan. In later years, Gary moved to Johannesburg where he built a life alongside his close friends. Despite the distance, he remained deeply connected to home, returning each summer for five to six weeks to spend time with family and friends, often staying at his brother's camp. During his high school years, Gary was an accomplished athlete, setting several track records that still stand today.

Gary also had a deep appreciation for the simple joys of life, including gardening, the culinary arts, and oil painting. He took great pride in sharing his artwork with friends and relatives.

Gary is survived by his brothers, Ronell (Wava) Leach, Jaynce (Gerri) Leach,

Elwin Hugh Jr. (Peggy) Leach; sisters, Deanna Salo, Mary Ann Salo; brother-in-law, Bernard Walker; along with many special nieces and nephews.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Elwin and Minda Leach; brother, Eldred and wife Joan Leach; sister, Helen Walker; brother-in-law, Gary Salo; and nephews, Jamie Leach and Jeffrey Leach.

Following cremation, a memorial gathering of his special friends, of which he had many, will be held at his home in Johannesburg.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Pickford assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Tribute Wall

RK

“ With deepest sorrow I find the passing of cousin Gary and pray that his family finds comfort in this time of grief. Lord Jesus grant them peace. Robert

Robert Kangas - March 31 at 05:51 PM

JH

“ To the family of Gary, I extend my deepest sympathy. Gary was in my sister Linda (Crawford) class of 1963 and I recall the greatness of his athletics. Prayers for peace and comfort.

joyce henderson - March 31 at 02:02 PM

SL

Sympathy to Gary's family, I remember Gary and all his brothers and sisters from memories of when my parents Earl and Elvi Leach would stop to visit dads cousin Elwin. my sister Margie, brother John and I than had fun time with our cousins . Great memories that I still have.



Sandra Lawson - April 02 at 09:46 PM