



Gary Barks

December 11, 1952 - August 8, 2025

Gary Howard Barks, 72, of Hartford, Illinois died Friday, August 8, 2025 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

He was born December 11, 1952 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri to Lester H. and Ima Jo Greene Barks who preceded him in death. He and Helen Frazier Barks were married May 9, 2008 in Edwardsville, Illinois.

Gary grew up in the Lutesville/Marble Hill area and graduated from Woodland High School in 1971. After that he attended electronics school in Louisville, Kentucky before entering the Air Force on December 4, 1975. He proudly served his country for 21 years, retiring in July of 1996 while serving at Whiteman Air Force Base working on the B-2 stealth bomber. Upon retirement Gary worked at Monsanto in St. Louis as a project manager in the IT department. He then moved to Dell as a project manager as well.

Gary was an avid Harley rider, captain of his boat, and enjoyed traveling and camping. He loved the outdoors and spending time with his children, grand children and great-grand children.

Survivors include his wife Helen; two sons, Jon (Heather) Barks of Arlington, TN, and Matt Whitlock, of Harford, IL; two daughters, Beth (Matt) Garrett, of Tilden, IL and Michelle Finn, of Anderson, IN; one brother, Larry Barks, of

Spokane, WA. As well as six grandchildren; Taylor Long, Kaitlyn Barks, Nathan and Grant DeBardeleven, Zach Garrett, and Alesha Binkley, and 3 great-grandchildren; Jillian Long, Owen Long, and Maevyn Smith.

Visitation and funeral services were held on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at Ford & Liley Funeral Home in Marble Hill with the Rev. Donny Ford officiating.

Burial will be at 1 pm on Thursday, August 14, 2025 at Eldred Memorial Gardens in Eldred, IL with full military honors provided by the Tri County Veterans Detail.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Missouri Veterans Home.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandlileyfuneralhome.com

Ford & Liley Marble Hill Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Eldred Memorial Gardens

Eldred, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 13. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Liley Funeral Home - Marble Hill
410 Union St.
Marble Hill, MO 63764

Funeral Service

AUG 13. 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Liley Funeral Home - Marble Hill
410 Union St.
Marble Hill, MO 63764

Tribute Wall

WO

“ Jonathan Howard, Bethany Jo, Alan Howard, Jessica Joy I am so sorry for your loss of your dad, which I am just learning. Larry and David that includes you both too. We are all getting older, but who would have thought 72 was old enough. Hold on to the good memories and love like Gary loved, ...unconditionally forever and always...Winnie

Winnie - September 03, 2025 at 04:00 AM

JO

Thank you Winnie for including all his children.

Joy - September 09, 2025 at 12:34 PM

WO

You are welcome.

Winnie - December 11, 2025 at 01:34 AM

GD

“ Helen and family - I'm sorry to learn of Gary's passing. As Dell teammates, Gary and I started the same day on the Boeing account in 2012, and stayed in touch after I joined another team. He was a great team lead, mentor and friend. Sending hugs and saying prayers for comfort in the days ahead.
Glenda Dixon, Dell-Retired.

Glenda Dixon - August 20, 2025 at 02:19 PM

GD

“ 5 files added to the album Dell Team



Glenda Dixon - August 20, 2025 at 02:06 PM

LM

“ Please accept my condolences for your loss. Sending prayers for the family. Gary and I worked together at Dell for over 10 years. We talked daily, sharing thoughts and ideas. Once he retired, we stayed in touch but not often enough. Gary was such a wonderful man. I feel honored to have known him.



Love & prayers,
LaFonda Mata

LaFonda Mata - August 15, 2025 at 06:50 AM