



Gary Taylor

November 12, 1952 - December 8, 2024

Gary Arthur Taylor, age 72, passed away in Nashville, Tennessee on Sunday, December 8, 2024. Gary was born in Washington, D.C. on November 12, 1952. He is preceded in death by his parents, Charles "Chuck" Taylor and Lucile "Nikki" Nitsche Taylor.

Gary grew up in Champaign, Illinois. His mother was an accomplished ballet dancer, and his father was a professor of engineering by day and trombone player by night. The artistic talents of his parents inspired within Gary and his brother, Glenn, a lifelong passion for music. Gary played and wrote music throughout high school, was highly active in sports (football, baseball, and basketball), and his family enjoyed summers in Seattle with Nikki's sister, Arlys Gale, his uncle Jack, and all his cousins.

After graduating from Champaign Centennial High School, Gary attended the University of Washington to study music, until about midway through when he famously and wittingly said, "I learned what I needed to, isn't that what school is for?"

Gary eventually moved to Nashville in the 80's to be close to friends, as well as to be near its vibrant music scene. There he wrote and played music, and worked in home improvement. One of his cherished past-times was playing volleyball on the weekends with friends who nicknamed the regular get-

together “Veggie Volleyball.” Gary’s closest friends in Nashville, Eric Eggleton and his wife Toni, eventually introduced him to Amy Griffith, whom he later married in 1990. In 1992, his daughter, Lauren Elaine Taylor, was born, followed by his son, Michael Griffith Taylor, in 1994.

Other than being a father to Lauren and Michael, one of the greatest joys in Gary’s life was his music. Gary was a multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, with a particular affinity for the guitar. He was a member of several bands throughout the years—most notably the “Rolet Show Band” (Gary and Eric) as well as the “The Starlighters” (Gary, Eric, and close friend Patrick McBride).

Gary Taylor is survived by his children, Lauren Taylor and Michael Taylor, his brother Glenn Taylor and wife Donna Taylor, his aunt Arlys Gale and husband Jack Gale, his cousin John Taylor and wife Anna Taylor, his cousin Susan Rankert and her husband Jeff Rankert, as well as his beloved life partner Amy Taylor.

A traditional Bahá’í burial service at the Larkspur Conservation at Taylor Hollow in Westmoreland, Tennessee, followed by a Celebration of Life in the spring of 2025 for all family and friends.

Gary will fondly be remembered as a creative musician, goofy jokester, and loving friend and father.

What to expect at the natural burial:

- Dress for an outdoor hike and wear appropriate shoes.

- Use the restroom before you arrive as there is no public toilet or running water.
- Carpool to Larkspur—parking is limited.
- Plan to arrive 15 minutes ahead of time.
- Family and friends will be welcomed at the trailhead by Larkspur staff and volunteers.
- Family and friends will hike up the hill into the nature preserve for the burial ceremony.
- Words and prayers from family and friends will be shared at the service.
- With guidance, the family and friends shovel soil into the grave until it is closed.
- Hike away from the graveside and return to your vehicle or explore the preserve.

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Gary played guitar in our band in Champaign, IL in the mid 60's. We were the Tribesmen and while our members were in high school, Gary was in Junior High. If I remember correctly, Gary's parents weren't real happy with all of this. Champaign in those days was a hot bed of bands including Champaign and REO. Gary at that young age was one of the best guitarists around. I sang in the group and our drummer, Mike Luke, and had talked a few years ago about band members and Gary was the only one we lost track of. I am so sorry to learn of his passing. I know anyone who witnessed his talent witnessed greatness.

Steve Brewer - April 29 at 05:06 PM

ML

I can only echo Steve's memories. Gary was of the most talented, decent people I have had the pleasure to know. Rest in peace, old friend.

Michael Luke - April 29 at 10:36 PM

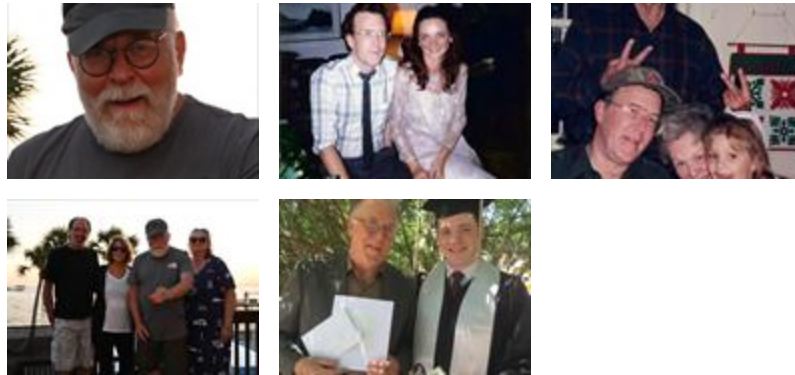
JR

“ I roomed with Gary as a senior in Haggett Hall at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1974. We had a lot of crazy fun that year. I never really knew what happened to him. Living in the dorm was an escape from the real world that we all knew would come to an end. Among other things that I will not mention, he would run his thumb over his wet toothbrush spaying a slight mist on my face to wake me up in the morning saying “the little water fairy, the little water fairy”. Gary was one of the nicest guys I ever knew. Sad to see him go. The next year I went off to school in St Louis and I believe Gary stayed on another year at the U of W. While in St Louis I visited him once in Champaign. I remember his brother Glen shooting off a 4th of July rocket that blew up over a neighbor’s house....lol. I lost track of Gary while living in Alaska in the late 1970s.

J Raymond - April 22 at 04:09 PM



“ 13 files added to the album Memories Album



Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home - December 11, 2024 at 06:42 PM