



Gary Dean Mears

March 27, 1949 - March 25, 2025

Catskill – Gary Mears passed away at home, surrounded by his family, on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. He was 75 years old.

Born, March 27, 1949 in Old Town, Maine, he was the son of the late Joseph Mears and the late Roasalie Daigle Kordek. A combat veteran of Vietnam; he proudly served in the US Marines from 1968 until 1969, where he was awarded a Purple Heart with 1 bronze star. He married his wife of 54 years, the former Linda Chamberland, on July 13, 1970.

They lived in Bristol, CT for more than 20 years where Gary worked for ACME Rivet and Screw. In 1993, Gary and Linda, following the Lord's leading, left Connecticut and moved to New York to work at a friend's business, Pro Printers in Hudson, NY. In 1994, they purchased 6.5 acres of property in Catskill next to his close friend, Frank. Gary cleared an acre of that land. They put their home on that acre in 1998 and have lived there ever since. He loved the peaceful setting in the woods and was blessed to be in that home until his passing.

He has served as a church elder for 50 years, first in Connecticut and then in New York.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his two daughters, Shannon Mears

Bentz and her husband Joe of Windermere, FL and Tracy Mears Geskie and her husband James of Landisville, PA; five grandchildren, Joseph Bentz, Joshua Geskie, Benjamin Geskie, Mattie Geskie and Samantha Geskie; and by his sister, Carolyn LaForge of North Carolina. He was pre-deceased by his brother, David Mears.

A Memorial Service will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, April 5, 2025 at Fountain of Life Church, 71 Old Kings Highway, Lake Katrine, NY. Cremation was private and under the direction of Buono Funeral Service, Inc. Please offer your condolences for Gary and his family online at www.BuonoFuneralService.com.

Previous Events

Service

APR 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Fountain of Life Church
71 Old Kings Hwy
Lake Katrine, NY 12449
pjs077@gmail.com
<https://www.thefountain.org/>

Tribute Wall

KS

“ Dear Linda, Shannon, Tracy and family,
There are no words to sum up how grateful I am for Uncle Gary's influence in my life. He was a true hero for our country and more importantly for our faith. My memories of his encouragement to me that "God is not some big yogurt in the sky , out to get me," truly made an impact. He was a spiritual father to all of us and his blessing on me, on David and our children will be carried on forever. We can't wait to see him in heaven. Our thoughts and prayers and love are with you!!

Katie Dietrich Simington - April 05, 2025 at 10:13 AM

PW

“ Pamala W. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Dean Mears.

Pamala W. - April 03, 2025 at 05:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Mears.



April 03, 2025 at 03:39 PM

AT

“ Dear Carolyn and Mears Family, I am so sorry for your loss. I didn't know Gary, but I felt like I did. Carolyn, my dearest friend, you always spoke so fondly of your precious brother. God bless you all during this very sad and difficult time. And thank God that we will see our loved ones again someday! 🙏❤️
Ann Marie Tardiff

Ann Marie Tardiff - April 01, 2025 at 07:52 AM

AT

“ Ann Marie Tardiff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Dean Mears.

Ann Marie Tardiff - April 01, 2025 at 07:00 AM

YC

“ Your sister Carolyn purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary Dean Mears.



Your sister Carolyn - March 31, 2025 at 10:57 AM

RI

“ Rich purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Dean Mears.



Rich - March 30, 2025 at 08:50 AM

RL

“ Gary was an elder at my church. He was my friend and always an encourager. A hero of the faith for sure. He will be missed. He is home with Jesus where there is no more suffering. My condolences and love to his family 🙏

Rich Larsen - March 30, 2025 at 08:40 AM

MD

“ Gary was my elder, my teacher, my friend, my family. He taught me about unconditional love and about listening to the Lord no matter what your opinion. He loved Jesus more than almost anyone I know and was a constant example of a servant leader. I find myself crying and laughing as I think about all shared experiences through the years. After their own father, our daughters considered “Uncle Gary” and Linda their parents. He leaves a huge hole in our lives but I know heaven has welcomed a true disciple and shining light into Glory!

Marion Dietrich - March 29, 2025 at 08:50 PM

GT

“ When we first ventured out to Connecticut to see if that was where God would want us to move, Gary & family showed us such gracious hospitality by letting us stay in their apartment for 2 weeks without ever having met us before. We were strangers & he invited us in (Matt. 25:31-40, esp. vs. 35). Then later after we had moved to Connecticut, he let us rent that same apartment at a rate we could afford. We will always be so grateful for his kind and generous hospitality, and we have many blessed memories of our time at COB - George & Deanna Trotter

George & Deanna Trotter - March 29, 2025 at 01:53 PM