



Gary Lee Crystal Sr.

September 15, 1942 - October 8, 2025

Gary Crystal at age 83 passed away in the comfort of his own home with his family by his side. Born on September 15th, 1942 in St. Joseph, Missouri, to Elmer and Inez Crystal, Gary was the beloved middle child between his sisters Brenda Di Capo and Jeannie Weese. He began his educational journey by attending Rosedale High School in the class of 61' and graduated from Phillips University in 1969.

A dedicated educator, Gary, taught physical education for 40 years in the Shawnee Mission School District, a career he lovingly described as “getting paid to do what he loved.” His passion for teaching and genuine care for his students touched many lives and inspired countless young people throughout his long career.

Outside the classroom, he was a man of joyful spirit and unique quirks, including his unforgettable tradition of building snowmen during summer heatwaves well over 100 degrees. Family was his greatest joy. He cherished every moment spent with his children, ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, faithfully attending every event from Boy Scout camps and dance recitals to ski trips in Colorado, pumpkin patches, and grandparents day celebrations. His camera was always ready to capture these treasured memories, even catching the elusive red-suited man in December.

Known for his world-class dance moves, a passion for estate sales, and snowman building, Gary's warmth, humor, and boundless love made him truly one of a kind. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, laughter, and devotion

that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

He is survived by his four children Gary Crystal, Jennifer Taylor, Wendy Pennington, and Shelby Baldrige; his ten grandchildren Crystal, Zack, Holly, Cole, Charlie, Chloe, Jason, Isaac, Madlyn, and Samuel; his seven great-grandchildren Addison, Rylee, and Scarlett Dalsing, Vincent and Marley Roberts, Harper and Leah Unruh.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **13**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

OCT **14**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
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Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary Lee Crystal Sr.*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - October 13, 2025 at 11:45 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Lee Crystal Sr..*



October 13, 2025 at 10:36 AM



“ *Dennis Pendleton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Lee Crystal Sr..*

Dennis Pendleton - October 12, 2025 at 03:55 PM



“ *Dennis Pendleton purchased the Decadent Delights Chocolate Gift Basket for the family of Gary Lee Crystal Sr..*



Dennis Pendleton - October 12, 2025 at 03:55 PM

YF

“ *Your Garrett Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Lee Crystal Sr..*



Your Garrett Family - October 11, 2025 at 10:59 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Lee Crystal Sr..*



October 11, 2025 at 10:24 AM

KJ

“ *Katie Jones purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gary Lee Crystal Sr..*



Katie Jones - October 10, 2025 at 08:19 PM

FL

“ *Frank, Jennifer, Frank, & Karen Losensky purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gary Lee Crystal Sr..*



Frank, Jennifer, Frank, & Karen Losensky - October 10, 2025 at 12:14 PM

MC

“ My deepest sympathies to the family. May the memories one day bring you comfort and ease the grief you feel. My thoughts are with you.

Missy Clampitt - October 10, 2025 at 11:41 AM

DH

I just ran across this obit Gary was a year ahead of me at RHS we doubled dated for a prom and Gary drove. I've wondered about him, Jeannie, and Brenda I would like to contact them. David Holroyd satyr_4now@yahoo.com

david holroyd - December 04, 2025 at 02:28 AM

HU

“ 4 files added to the album Gary Crystal



Holly Unruh - October 10, 2025 at 09:56 AM

TT

“ The DiCapo and Owen family in Texas purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gary Lee Crystal Sr..



The DiCapo and Owen family in Texas - October 09, 2025 at 05:38 PM