



## Gary Ronald Mackey

May 31, 1944 - May 7, 2026

Gary Ronald Mackey the son of Daniel Elwood Mackey and Velva Elaine (Fox) Mackey was born on May 31, 1944, and departed this life on May 7, 2026, at his home in Copan, Oklahoma, at the age of 81.

Gary Mackey HTRT was known to many of his loved ones as RSL “Duda,” the Cherokee word for grandfather, and he carried that role with warmth, wisdom, and devotion. Family was at the center of his life. He deeply valued family history, Scottish heritage, the history of place, and history in all its forms. As a young man, he embraced the life and culture of a cowboy, with a love for western traditions, the music of Eddy Arnold, and dancing, which he did with remarkable skill and joy his entire life.

Gary was an artist at heart, intelligent, witty, and endlessly curious. He was a collector of stories, memories, and treasured objects, but above all, he was a caretaker of the people he loved. His generosity, humor, and steady presence left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Gary graduated from Copan High School in 1962 and obtained a degree in Agriculture in 1966 from Oklahoma State University. He was an outstanding athlete and enjoyed playing basketball as a forward. He was a starting full back, tight end, and linebacker in football at Copan HS and went to the playoffs playing alongside his brothers Daniel and Donald. He was president

of FFA and had a championship show calf. Gary Received a scholarship to OSU, where he was a starting defensive end for the freshman team.

After college, he enlisted the United States Air Force. He was in the Vietnam and Korean War and worked at the Pentagon. He received a Purple Star and Silver Heart as well as other honors while in the service. In 1973 he married Lee Foreman, and their son Ryan was born on April 11th, 1977. Gary was selected to lead the peacekeeping mission for the Seven Days War in the Middle East. It was at this time that he found out he and his wife were expecting and he turned down the mission and was reassigned to Davis Air Force Base where he retired. He moved to Oklahoma in 1981 and worked as the City Manager for Copan. In 1982 he started at Philips Petroleum as a pilot where he retired after twenty-five years. He was on the board of Dewey Western Heritage. In 2001 he received the Historian of the Year award from the Washington County Historical Association.

He is preceded in death by his father, Daniel Mackey; his mother, Velva Mackey; and his brothers Donald Elwood Mackey, Daniel Eugene Mackey, and an infant brother. Also preceding him in death are his grandparents Marvin Mackey, Ellen May (Ward) Mackey, Harry Nathan Fox, and Elmira (Smith) Fox.

Gary is survived by his son Ryan Brandon Mackey; daughter-in-law Julie (Gaches) Mackey; his grandson Agalisiga (Chuj) Mackey & wife Paloma Lopez-Mackey; his 2 great grandsons, Adawelagia Mackey-Lopez and Itztli Mackey-Lopez. He is also survived by his baby sister Marilyn Severns & husband Buddy, stepson, Darron Replogle & wife Jami, and numerous nieces and nephews, friends and family.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAY 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Copan High School Gymnasium  
527 Hornet Lane  
Copan, OK 74022  
(918) 532-4344  
<http://www.copan.k12.ok.us/>

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ Donna Dumond purchased the *Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum* for the family of Gary Ronald Mackey.



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**Donna Dumond** - May 13 at 08:50 PM

MH

“ Marilyn & Family  
So sorry to hear of Gary's passing. He will be missed by many!

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**Marcia Holland** - May 13 at 11:46 AM

GN

“ Gregg Nash purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of Gary Ronald Mackey.



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**Gregg Nash** - May 13 at 10:15 AM

GN

“ Gregg Nash planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Ronald Mackey.

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**Gregg Nash** - May 13 at 10:15 AM

BS

“ *Bryan & Heidi Scullawl purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gary Ronald Mackey.*



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**Bryan & Heidi Scullawl** - May 12 at 10:48 PM

F6

“ *From the class of 62. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gary Ronald Mackey.*



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**From the class of 62.** - May 12 at 09:30 PM

DB

“ *Our prayers are with the family. It will be sad not seeing you. It was always fun running into you.  
Our Condolences to all*

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**Deniece Bush** - May 12 at 04:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Ronald Mackey.*



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May 11 at 12:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Ronald Mackey.

May 11 at 12:27 PM



“ Gary was one of my favorite people to wait on at Murphy's. He let my son hunt on his land for the season, which im grateful for. His painting he has was always our argument. I was determined to get it and he was keeping it..lol.... going to miss his harassment. Fly high

**Britanya** - May 10 at 06:50 PM



*Marilyn & Family*  
So sorry to hear of Gary's passing. He will be missed by many!

**Marcia J Holland** - May 13 at 11:31 AM