



Gary G. Wilcek

July 20, 1944 - June 27, 2025

Gary G. Wilcek, 80-year-old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Friday, June 27, 2025 at St. Otto's Care Center in Little Falls. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, July 3, 2025 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Little Falls with Father Patrick Hoeft officiating. Burial will take place at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls. Visitation will be from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. on Thursday at the church. Military Rites will be conducted by the Little Falls American Legion Post #46. Caring for Gary and his family is the LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls, MN.

Gary Gilmore Wilcek, born on July 20, 1944, in Little Falls, Minnesota, to the late Gilmore and Marian (Schoenherr) Wilcek, passed away surrounded by loved ones. Gary spent his early years moving across several states as his family followed employment opportunities. He graduated from Johnson High School in St. Paul in 1962. In January 1965, he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. After completing basic training in San Antonio, Texas, he served with distinction in Australia, the Philippines, Germany, and Vietnam, and was honorably discharged in August 1969. On December 13, 1969, Gary married Darlene Zapzalka, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Little Falls. The couple made their home in St. Paul, where Gary worked in construction before joining the Army National Guard in 1971. They later settled on a hobby farm in Little Falls Township and together raised five children. Gary worked as a mechanic at Camp Ripley until his retirement in 1993, after which he held a variety of

part-time jobs. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, and an adoring grandpa who found great joy in fishing, family card games—especially poker, pinochle, and 500—and celebrating birthdays and holidays with those he loved. He was a faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, rarely missing his weekly adoration or daily rosary. Gary was also a proud lifetime member of American Legion Post 46. One of his greatest joys was cheering on his 13 grandchildren at their sporting events and musical performances. Gary's legacy is one of service, devotion, and deep love for his family. He will be dearly missed and fondly remembered.

Gary is survived by his wife of 55 years, Darlene; children, Jim (Jayne), Paul (Ann), Greg (Anna), Christine and April; grandchildren, Beth and Andrew Wilcek, Brandon, Travis and Cole Wilcek, Nora, Lucy and Stella Wilcek, Majid, Kaysar, Maryam, Mahdi and Lila Almadan; and brother, Don Wilcek.

Gary was preceded in death by parents, Gilmore and Marian Wilcek; in-laws, Albin and Florence Zapzalka; brother, Vernon; and son-in-law, Majeed Almadan.

Cemetery Details

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115
Little Falls, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St Mary's Church
305 4th St SE
Little Falls, MN 56345-3143
(320) 632-5640

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Little Falls
305 4th Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary G. Wilcek*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - June 30, 2025 at 04:04 PM

MR

“ *Matthew R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary G. Wilcek.*

Matthew R. - July 03, 2025 at 09:12 AM

MR

“ *Matthew Rolan lit a candle in memory of Gary G. Wilcek*



Matthew Rolan - July 03, 2025 at 09:09 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary G. Wilcek.*



July 02, 2025 at 09:20 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gary G. Wilcek.*



July 01, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“ *Quanex purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Gary G. Wilcek.*



Quanex - July 01, 2025 at 02:19 PM



“ *Jim, Paul and Greg,*

I am so sorry for the loss of your dad. Thinking of you and your family at this time.

*Take care,
Shari*

Shari Force-Smith - July 01, 2025 at 08:47 AM



“ *Heidi Nygren planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary G. Wilcek.*

Heidi Nygren - June 30, 2025 at 07:37 PM



“ Heidi Nygren purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gary G. Wilcek.



Heidi Nygren - June 30, 2025 at 07:37 PM



“ 26 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lemieur Funeral Homes - June 30, 2025 at 03:54 PM



“ 127 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lemieur Funeral Homes - June 30, 2025 at 01:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary G. Wilcek.*



June 30, 2025 at 01:19 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Gary G. Wilcek.*



June 30, 2025 at 12:51 PM



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

June 30, 2025 at 08:43 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary G. Wilcek.*



June 30, 2025 at 08:43 AM

KH

“ *Darlene so sorry for your loss. May your family hold and support you during this difficult time .*



Karen Haaland - June 28, 2025 at 07:12 PM

SH

“ *Ottertail Lake Fishing Opener Crew will greatly miss our Big G!*

He was the centerpiece of entertainment and card playing for many years with our crew!

His stories will live on and Gary & Larry will hold a few spots on the boats for us in heaven!

Thanks to the Wilcek Family for sharing him with us!

Humann's/Fergusons

Sam Humann - June 28, 2025 at 01:17 PM

RS

“ *Darlene & family:*

To the Gary Wilcek family our sympathy, condolences, thoughts and prayers to the Wilcek family. Gary was a great guy to be around, an I knew Gary from when I was back in the National Guards together. Gary was a hard working guy with a great smile, an he had very deep faith in God. Gary was always ready to lend Helping hand at any point & time. May Gary rest in eternal peace with his Heavenly Father in heaven. God's blessings to him and his family an all who knew him. Rest in peace Gary.



Richard R. Schneider - June 27, 2025 at 06:24 PM