



## Gary Kyle Hood

November 27, 1939 - January 31, 2023

Dr. Gary Kyle Hood, 83, passed away 31 January 2023, with his family by his side.

Gary was born November 27, 1939, in Marlow, Oklahoma.

Gary's family migrated to Tulare, California during the Great Depression. After Graduation from Tulare Union High School in 1957, Gary enlisted in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. Upon Completion of his enlistment, he enrolled at the College of the Sequoias where he was the student body president.

Following his brothers, Don and Charles, to Abilene, Texas he enrolled at Abilene Christian University graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Education.

After teaching in New York for several years he returned to Abilene to earn a Master's in counseling and guidance in 1967. During that time, he met his wife of 30 years, Wanda. Gary completed his doctorate in educational counseling in 1974 from the University of North Texas. After graduation, he took a

position at Laredo State University where he helped develop the university's counselor educator program. In 1980, he and the Hood family moved to Huntsville, Texas where he served the education community as a counselor

educator at Sam Houston State University until 2016. In 2000 Gary married his loving wife, Deborah. Together they taught, traveled the world, entertained

many, and filled the world with music and vivacious laughter and energy. Gary was committed to building a more loving world. In addition to his

profession as a counselor educator, he was a song leader and bible class teacher at the Church of Christ and First Christian Church of Huntsville, as well as serving in a prison ministry where he would lead services and sing as well as a variety of other ministries in the area. He was known by many as the man who would sing, "The Impossible Dream," a song fitting for many of life's most difficult problems; "to dream and to fight for the right without question or pause."

Gary was also a lifelong actor, athlete, and adventurer. Always on the move, he traveled the world, visited family, hiked the Appalachian trail, and forests of multiple continents, saw the world's great capitols, boxed, ran, wrestled Dan Gable, flew in a CH 53 helicopter, marched in President Eisenhower's inaugural parade, acted in New York, was forever the handsome leading man, sang the national anthem at professional sporting events, and never turned down a chance to do something interesting.

He is survived by his loving wife of 22 years, Deborah; his children Kyle, and his wife Zhenya; Caleb and his wife Brooke; Joshua and wife Kristen, Erin, Serena, Skyla and her husband Nick, a loving blend of two families; his grandchildren, Alexandra, Cameron, Phoebe, Eleanora, Georgia, Dane, Elyse, Sadie, and Scarlett. He is preceded in death by his parents, Omer Hardy and Madie Belle Hood and his beloved wife, Wanda.

Visitation will be held at First Christian Church of Huntsville on Saturday, February 11, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:00am. His memorial service will be held at First Christian Church of Huntsville from 11:00 - 12:00pm.

Memorial condolences to the family may be made to [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Christian Church Huntsville  
1800 Ave R  
Huntsville, TX 77340

## Memorial Service

FEB 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Church Huntsville  
1800 Ave R  
Huntsville, TX 77340

# Tribute Wall

HJ

“ Prayers of peace and comfort for the family and many friends that was Blessed to have known such an Amazing gentleman. RIH Dr. Hood †



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**H Jones** - February 12, 2023 at 06:55 AM

JB

“ Debbie, Serena & Skyla, so sorry to hear about Gary's passing. He was always a dear man to our family. I know he will be missed greatly. Sending love & prayers through these hard days ahead. God Bless....  
Jamie & Don Brinegar



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**Jamie Brinegar** - February 10, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Kyle Hood.



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February 09, 2023 at 06:06 PM

KG

“ *Kathy and Ed George purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Gary Kyle Hood.*



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**Kathy and Ed George** - February 08, 2023 at 04:18 PM

GD

“ *Dear Debbie and family, What a wonderful legacy! Gary was always there with a kind word, a beautiful song or a love for those who were around him. While we cannot be there with you Saturday, our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Greg and Dani** - February 06, 2023 at 06:27 PM

MA

“ *Marjolein lit a candle in memory of Gary Kyle Hood*



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**marjolein** - February 06, 2023 at 01:01 PM

LA

“ *Linda Andrews lit a candle in memory of Gary Kyle Hood*



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**Linda Andrews** - February 05, 2023 at 04:50 PM

DS

“ Dearest Debbie and family, Our hearts are saddened with this news. No words could even begin to explain what a wonderful Christian man he was to everyone. He loved you all so much and we are praying for you all. May God give you the strength in these days ahead. Much love and prayer.

Donna and Dale Story - February 05, 2023 at 11:26 AM

MH

“ M. Hyvl lit a candle in memory of Gary Kyle Hood



M. Hyvl - February 05, 2023 at 10:31 AM

BI

“ 32 years ago when I joined SHSU, Dr. Hood was so inviting. He always was there to lend a helping hand, share a kind word, or offer sage counsel. His beautiful soul will be missed here. God bless his wonderful family.

BEVERLY IRBY - February 04, 2023 at 07:37 PM

PO

“ Patty Ondras lit a candle in memory of Gary Kyle Hood



Patty Ondras - February 04, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ *My heart breaks for y'all, for the loss of your beloved Gary. What a wonderful life he had, and what a beautiful family he was able to build. I pray the Lord is with you all during this difficult time, and that you find strength in each other, in your love and memories, and in your faith.*

*Our prayers and deepest condolences are with you all.*

*Jared and Angela (Scott) Stacks*

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**Angela Stacks** - February 04, 2023 at 01:43 PM