



Gary Clinton Whitaker

February 20, 1940 - March 29, 2025

Gary Clinton Whitaker was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on February 20, 1940, to Clinton “Emerson” and Kathleen (Maze) Whitaker. He along with his brother, Rick, grew up in Salem, Missouri. Gary graduated from Salem High School in 1959.

After high school on June 16, 1959, Gary enlisted into the United States Army fulfilling his duty with unwavering faithfulness until his honorable discharge. For his faithful service he earned several decorations, medals, badges, ribbons, and awards.

Gary furthered his education at Missouri State University and then embarked on a successful career, beginning with a sales position at Quinn Coffee Company, where his talent for sales was legendary - he could truly sell ice to an Eskimo.

In 1966, Gary joined his father’s family business, Salem Refrigeration and Appliance, where he worked with immense joy until his retirement on January 13, 2013. He took great pride in his work and cherished the relationships he built with his customers.

On October 6, 1968, he married the love of his life, Janet Marie Sisco, in Salem, Missouri, a union that blessed them with two children: Clinton and

Christina, and a granddaughter: Peyton, who was his true pride and joy. For nearly fifty-seven years, Gary shared his life with Janet raising a family and creating many lasting memories together.

Outside of his professional life, Gary enjoyed the outdoors, he loved bird hunting, quail and pheasant, and dedicated time to raising and training his beloved bird dogs. He also found pleasure in golfing, camping, and watching Western films, with a particular fondness for John Wayne. In his later years, he discovered a new hobby in collecting and assembling model cars.

Gary lived a life filled with faith, family, and a genuine love for people. His faith was a cornerstone of his life; he was a devoted member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, serving as a greeter and deacon for many years. He also enjoyed attending the Gospel Quartet Conventions in Nashville and Louisville.

A beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Gary passed away peacefully on March 29, 2025, surrounded by his family in Springfield, Missouri, at the age of eighty-five years. He is survived by his loving wife: Janet Whitaker of Springfield, MO; son: Clinton Whitaker and wife Dianne of Salem, MO; daughter: Christina Whitaker of St. Louis, MO; brother: Rick Whitaker and wife Kay of Salem, MO; granddaughter: Peyton Whitaker; extended family and dear friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents: Clinton "Emerson" and Kathleen (Maze) Whitaker; and many beloved family members and friends.

Gary possessed a warm, engaging personality known for his infectious laughter and playful pranks. He was a man of unwavering faith, a devoted family man, and a true friend to many. Gary will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His memory will live on in the hearts of those he loved a testament to a life well-lived.

Funeral Services for Gary Clinton Whitaker were held Wednesday, April 2, 2025, in the Wilson Mortuary Salem Chapel with Pastor Tim Stagner officiating. Eulogies were shared by his son Clinton, his daughter Tina, and his granddaughter Peyton. Song selections played were "How Great Thou Art", "I'd Rather Have Jesus/Great Is Thy Faithfulness", and "What A Day That Will Be". Serving as Pallbearers were Clinton Whitaker, Peyton Whitaker, Jay Harrison, Tom Stagner, Keith Steelman, and Tracy Cook. Honorary Pallbearers were Winferd Hutson, Larry Wofford, Don Glenn, and Mark Brisco. Military Honors was provided by the American Legion Post 99 and United States Army Honors Team. Burial was in the Cedar Grove Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Wilson Mortuary of Salem, Missouri.

Online Condolences may be left at www.wilsonmortuary.com

Cemetery Details

Cedar Grove Cemetery

Salem, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Salem
1000 West Scenic Rivers Blvd.
Post Office Box 45
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-5555
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Salem
1000 West Scenic Rivers Blvd.
Post Office Box 45
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-5555
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Videos Album



Wilson Mortuary - April 04, 2025 at 10:22 AM

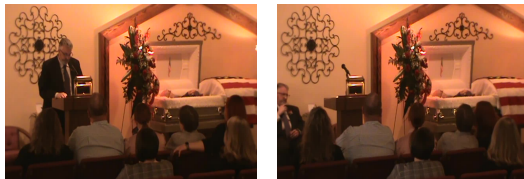
TB

“ Janet my prayers are with you as I know that this has been a difficult time. I enjoyed seeing you here in Springfield.

Theresa Bedwell-Thompson - April 03, 2025 at 06:05 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Videos Album



Wilson Mortuary - April 02, 2025 at 01:48 PM

BB

“ So sorry to hear about Gary. Janet, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Love to all!
Bill and Liz Bennett

Bill ans Liz Bennett - April 01, 2025 at 09:19 PM



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

April 01, 2025 at 12:36 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Clinton Whitaker.



April 01, 2025 at 12:36 PM



“ 116 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wilson Mortuary - April 01, 2025 at 12:08 PM



“ Prayers for the family. I had the pleasure of taking care of Gary he was a wonderful man.



Amanda - April 01, 2025 at 01:02 AM

MC

“ I love him and the precious memories we made getting together with him and family growing up are some of the best memories and oh the stories he and my dad told of their younger years are priceless!!! Condolences from JP Morgan and family

Melissa Cox - March 31, 2025 at 09:00 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Clinton Whitaker.



March 31, 2025 at 08:15 PM

JH

“ Jerry Higgins lit a candle in memory of Gary Clinton Whitaker



jerry higgins - March 31, 2025 at 06:44 PM

DH

“ Clint,
I'm thinking of you and your family.
Sincerely, Dale Hinken

Dale Hinken - March 31, 2025 at 05:08 PM

SH

“ Scott and Melissa Harrison purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Gary Clinton Whitaker.



Scott and Melissa Harrison - March 31, 2025 at 12:41 PM



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

March 31, 2025 at 10:17 AM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Gary Clinton Whitaker.



March 31, 2025 at 10:17 AM



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

March 30, 2025 at 10:30 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gary Clinton Whitaker.



March 30, 2025 at 10:30 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Gary Clinton Whitaker.*



March 30, 2025 at 08:00 PM