



Gary F. Walker

May 13, 1946 - June 17, 2026

Gary Florian Walker, 80, of Shelby Township, Michigan, passed away on June 17, 2026. Born on May 13, 1946, in Highland Park, Michigan, Gary lived a life filled with laughter, hard work, and an enormous love for the people and places he held dear.

Gary proudly served his country as a Sergeant in the United States Army Airborne Special Forces — a Green Beret — a distinction he wore with quiet pride every day of his life. His military service forged in him a resilience and sense of duty that shaped everything he would go on to build and become.

A true entrepreneur, Gary founded Michigan Mill & Abrasive Supply, Inc., launching it from a one-car garage in Harrison Township, Michigan, and growing it into a thriving enterprise with its longtime home in Sterling Heights, Michigan, over the course of 50 remarkable years. He retired in 2023, leaving behind a legacy built on hard work, grit, and a refusal to quit. But if Gary's work ethic was formidable, so was his spirit. He was a man with a presence — you always knew when Gary had arrived, and when he laughed, you heard it. Jovial and full of life, he had a way of filling a room simply by being in it.

Gary and his beloved wife Charlene made their home in Shelby Township, Michigan since 1979 — a beautiful home that reflected the life they built together. And when it was time to step away from the Michigan winters, they

headed south to their condo in the Florida Keys, a place that held a very special piece of Gary's heart. Gary and Charlene enjoyed the music of Jimmy Buffett, and Gary found in the Keys everything he loved: the water, the warmth, the lively, festive spirit of the Keys. He loved fishing the flats of those famous waters, rod in hand and the sun on his face — at his most content.

When he wasn't on the water, Gary could be found on the golf course or lost in a good book. More than anything, though, he treasured the time he spent with his family.

Gary is survived by his devoted wife of 47 years, Charlene Walker; his son, Jonathan Walker; and his daughter, Jennifer Walker. He was preceded in death by his parents, Helen (Pesta) Walker and Florian Walker, and his sister, Carol Walker.

A private memorial will be held at a later date. The family asks that his memory be honored in the ways he loved most — a day on the water, a round of golf, a Jimmy Buffett song playing in the background, and good company all around.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Tunnel of Towers Foundation
Share memories with the family at their "On Line Guest Book" @
WujekCalcaterra.com

Tribute Wall



“ 4 files added to the album Gary Walker



Jennifer Walker - 59 minutes ago