

OBITUARY

Gary Lee Malek

AUGUST 14, 1949 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2025



Gary Lee Malek, age 76, of Caldwell, Idaho passed away on Sunday, September 14, 2025. Gary was born in Spokane, WA.

With heavy hearts and deep gratitude for his life, we announce the passing of Gary Lee Malek—a beloved husband, devoted father of five, and a man whose hard work, perseverance, and love shaped all he did.

Gary is survived by his wife, Kami Malek; his former wife, Judy Moore; his children, Justin Malek (Spokane, WA), Lance Malek (Tri-Cities, WA), Nia (Warren) Stevens (Grangeville, ID), Sekayi Malek (Salem, OR), and Farayi Malek (Boston, MA); his brother, Dwayne (Melody) Malek (Spokane, WA); six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Born with a determined spirit and a heart for family, Gary lived a life of integrity, dedication, and service. He graduated from Rogers High School in Spokane in 1968 and began working for Low-Cost Groceries. In 1973, he enrolled at the Sales Training Institute, where he graduated with honors and received the Top Leadership Award—an early sign of his drive and natural leadership.

Gary's career was diverse and marked by persistence. He worked with Union Pacific Railroad from 1974–75, then joined Battelle Northwest Laboratories as a groundskeeper. While working full time, he pursued training with Steamfitters and Pipefitters Local 598 in Pasco, WA, graduating with honors and moving into pipefitting at Battelle.

In 1978, Gary also became a U.S. Mail contractor, hauling mail between Pasco and Moses Lake while continuing his pipefitting career. For years, he juggled both roles, embodying diligence and grit to provide for his family. He later spent 17 years at the Hanford nuclear site before finishing his career as a proud union pipefitter with Local 296 in Meridian, ID. His strong work ethic, loyalty to his union brothers and sisters, and devotion to family defined his character.

Beyond his work, Gary will be remembered as a man who loved deeply. He was a steadfast provider, a source of wisdom, and a constant presence in his family's life. His legacy is one of perseverance, devotion, and generosity, carried forward in the lives of those he loved most.

Though his passing leaves a deep ache, his memory will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and all who were blessed to know him. His life was a testament to the enduring power of love, hard work, faith, and family.

A celebration of life for Gary will be held Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 2:00 PM at Local 296 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union, 575 N Ralstin St., Meridian, Idaho 83642.

A celebration of life will occur Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 1:00 PM at United Steelworkers Union Hall, 14015 E. Trent, Spokane Valley, WA 99216.