



Gary Mayeda

January 9, 1954 - April 28, 2025

IN LOVING MEMORY

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Gary Mayeda, 71, of Riverside, California, passed away peacefully on April 28, 2025. A lifelong resident of Riverside, Gary was known for his passion for racing and his deep ties to the local community.

A former NASCAR driver who made a memorable appearance in the 1984 Nextel Cup Series, Gary raced for Elmo Langley at the historic Riverside International Raceway. He lived his dream, combining skill, grit, and a fearless love for the track. Though his professional racing career was brief, Gary's devotion to motorsports endured.

After stepping away from the racing world, he continued to contribute to his community through his work in the construction and metalworking industries. Gary was a dedicated father, brother, and friend. He is survived by his son, Matsutaro Mayeda of Riverside; and his sisters, Sue Lee of Riverside and Joann Larsen (husband Gary) of Long Beach. Gary was preceded in death by his parents, James and Tomi Mayeda.

He lived his life with intention, embracing each day with the spirit of a racer and the gentle soul of a loving family man. As Steve McQueen once said, "Racing is life.

Anything before or after is just waiting." Gary embraced this philosophy here on Earth, and his spirit is now free to pursue anything his heart desires.

A private service will be held for close friends and family. In lieu of flowers, the

family requests donations be made to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles at www.janm.org/give, or to a charity of your choosing in Gary's memory.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (Pst)

Preston and Simons Mortuary
3358 Mission Inn Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 683-7410
<https://www.preston-simonsmortuary.com/>

Service

MAY 15. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (Pst)

Preston and Simons Mortuary
3358 Mission Inn Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 683-7410
<https://www.preston-simonsmortuary.com/>

Burial

MAY 15. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (Pst)

Olivewood Memorial Park
3300 Central Ave
Riverside, CA 92506

Tribute Wall

PM

“ This is from Rick or Hemi as they called me. I met Gary in high school back in the late 60's. We were friends for almost a year before we found out that we were both born in Riverside, in January, on the 9th, in 1954. When we were in the garage working on the stock car and somebody new would come in Gary's dad would introduce us as my twin boys. I learned a lot from Gary and we had a lot of good times together. Gary was my best man when I married Darlene. He was always making us laugh. One time we were all sitting around and he started singing that song , I think I'm turning Japanese I really think so. He told us one time he was going out with a odor women. Our buddy Bob asked him if she smelled bad and he said no odor (older)not odor. Just a plain old great guy.

*I wish we could have spent more time the last few years with him.
RIP my good friend forever,Hemi (Rick).*

Preston and Simons Mortuary - May 15, 2025 at 01:19 PM

SL

“ *IN Loving Memory*



Sue Lee - May 14, 2025 at 02:44 PM

BP

“ Dearest Mayeda Family You've always been more like family then just friends. Gary and I born only a few days apart we shared a lot of good times & memories beginning as children, so far back as playing in the back stock room at Ranch Market & riding Gary's go-cart at Addams Track in Belltown & at the Peña Village. ..until my cousin wrecked into the barn..that was the end of that So many other great memories with your family the amazing meals your Mom cooked & shared with us unforgettable while the men hung out in garage working on a project or playing pool waiting to be called in for dinner.

*Peace be with you
Love you always
Betty Peña*

Betty Pena - May 14, 2025 at 02:32 PM



“ 24 files added to the tribute wall



Darcy Lennon - May 09, 2025 at 10:32 PM