



Gary Prothero

May 18, 1946 - November 10, 2024

Gary Prothero, 78, passed away on November 10, 2024. Born May 18, 1946 in Portland, OR to William (Bill) and Mary Prothero and had two older brothers, Bill Jr. And Bob. Gary had an entrepreneurial spirit, a kind heart, a great sense of humor, and loved his family and friends.

Gary graduated from Wilson High School in Portland, Oregon in 1964 and graduated from the University of Portland in 1968. On March 21, 1969, Gary married Susan Harmon. After they were married, they lived in Carson City, Nevada where Gary taught at Carson City Jr. High for three years. In 1972, Gary started a band, and they moved to San Jose, California to try to make it big. Gary played lead guitar and was a singer and the band enjoyed moderate success.

When the band didn't pan out, Gary went back to school and got his Masters in Agricultural Sciences from Oregon State University. Gary and Susan had a son, Jason, in November 1975. In 1976 after graduation, Susan and Gary moved to Hawaii as he joined the Sugar industry with AMFAC. They joined a church, Gloria Dei, and Gary and Susan enjoyed playing guitar as part of the church service and they were active in the church. During this time Gary got interested and was trained to program computers and helped to modernize the operations at the Sugar plantation.

In 1983, Gary and Susan returned to Oregon (Hermiston) and started a job as an OSU Extension Agent for Umatilla County. He earned tenure there and enjoyed his time working with the community. While in Hermiston he coached

both JV and Varsity Soccer for Hermiston High School for 5 years. Gary and Susan were active at Trinity Lutheran Church and were youth pastors for high school aged kids.

During his time as an extension agent, Gary developed an Irrigation Scheduling application that helped farmers understand their water usage and how it affected yields and production. As part of that software application there was a graphing, charting, and reporting element. Gary saw that graphing and reporting could be useful to other people building software applications and with Susan's encouragement they co-founded a company, ProWorks. Starting in 1986, ProWorks sold charting and reporting tools to other software developers around the world in their Flipper Graphics Library line of products. ProWorks is still alive and well today and has evolved and grown into custom software and website design and development. His son, Jason, was able to join Gary at ProWorks in the early 2000s and they worked together for many years. They have had clients such as NASA, Microsoft, Cal Fire, USDA, LG, and many more.

Gary and Susan enjoyed camping in their camper van, exploring, outdoor activities (hiking, canoeing, skiing), attending Oregon State Beavers football and basketball games with friends and family, and spending time at their beach house in Waldport, Oregon. He enjoyed playing sports (tennis, jogging, basketball, and baseball) with his family and coached many of his son's teams. He always supported his son and granddaughters in their activities and enjoyed attending as many of their games and recitals as he could. He was loved by family and friends.

Gary is survived by his wife of 55 years, Susan; his son Jason, and three grandchildren; Gwendolyn, Elise, and Avery and his brother, Bill Jr.

A celebration of Gary's life will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2025 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th Street, Corvallis, OR 97331. Food, snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 18. 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM (PT)

CH2M Hill Alumni Center
725 SW 26th Street
Corvallis, OR 97331

Tribute Wall

SK

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We were connected to Gary two ways. Gary went to Wilson with me and you were all cousins with Skip. Those days seem like a lifetime ago. We know Gary was loved and will be deeply missed.

Skip and Cynthia Keene - May 04, 2025 at 04:12 PM

BG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Belinda Keene Gannett - February 23, 2025 at 01:51 PM

DP

“ Gary was an incredible mentor to me when I was young. He and Susan took me in during summer breaks and he put me to work for his software company. I learned so much and credit my successful years in technology to that experience. He taught me it's not about what you know, it's about how you go learn it.

David Prothero - December 25, 2024 at 03:48 PM

LD

“ Gary was a great brother in law. A positive upbeat man with an easy laugh. We got together several times a year and enjoyed hanging out, taking walks, playing board games, discussing life. I saw him in many situations as a son, brother, father, grandfather and husband over the past 50 years. He always acted admirably. I miss him a lot.
Lydia

Lydia Deems - December 22, 2024 at 04:33 PM

WP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



William Prothero - December 20, 2024 at 04:27 PM

“ Gary was always my "Little Brother". Growing up together on Wabash Street in Portland was challenging when he decided to re-paint my collection of model airplanes. That's what little brothers do. I loved him. We grew apart as our chosen career paths diverged in physical distance. I went to graduate school in California and he became a high school teacher in Nevada and started a band with some of his students. After a year of that he studied agriculture at Oregon State, then took a job in Hawaii managing Oahu Sugar's water consumption, Several years later he took a job in Hermiston Oregon where he applied his broad background to develop amazing technical skills working for a state agriculture and water management agency. Next he started his own software company in Corvallis, where his son Jason is now the owner and president.



I'm writing this history to applaud how willing Gary was to take risks and how successful he was on his career path, as a result of his courage.

We got together at least once a year (some years more than once) and enjoyed he and Suzie's company, watching Jason grow up, and petting their dog. A few years ago, I had a serious stay in the hospital and was so happy that Gary and Sue managed to detour around a huge fire in Ventura to visit me in Santa Barbara's Cottage Hospital.

We had opposing political views. When our brother Bob was alive, we'd have our yearly political argument. One year it got un-fun and we decided it was time to stop and we said to each other that we loved each other, no matter what we each thought. He was my little brother and I loved him. I miss him.

I'm going to upload a picture of the male part of our family. I'm the last one standing. I miss them all.

William Prothero - December 20, 2024 at 04:24 PM

BG

Gary was my cousin. He and I barely knew of each other. My Aunt Mary, my dad's sister is a distant memory. A very kind person to me. I wish I had known these close relatives better. I'm so sorry for your loss of so much family, Bill. I look forward to meeting up in Santa Barbara soon and introducing you to my son, now living there.

Belinda (Keene) Gannett

Belinda Keene Gannett - February 23, 2025 at 01:44 PM

PY

“ We met Susan and Gary at a TRAVATO meetup in Washington. We enjoyed walking with them along the Columbia River and enjoying our time together. We are deeply saddened to hear this news. He was a brilliant man.

Patricia Yatsui - December 18, 2024 at 08:40 PM