



Gary Backes

August 2, 1934 - March 15, 2026

Gary Alfonse Backes, 91, passed away peacefully March 15, 2026, at home in Evanston, Illinois, surrounded by his wife and children.

Born in Glenburn, North Dakota, Gary graduated from St John's Preparatory School in Collegeville, MN and Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI in 1958, taking time off during his studies to serve in the U.S. Navy. Gary was stationed in Japan from 1955-56. He liked to tease his grandchildren that if he told them what his mission was in Japan he would have to "end their lives," holding to this throughout his life, even when asked, by a curious grandson, right before he passed if he could NOW share his mission in Japan.

Gary enjoyed a long and fruitful career in the insurance industry, retiring at the age of 62. He retired to Sun City Florida in 2000 and returned to the Midwest in 2023.

He was the beloved spouse of 68 years to LaVerne Jean Backes (nee Klein).

Devoted father of Larry (Jodi) Backes of Guilford, CT, Renee (David) Wright of Evanston, IL, Karen (Tom) Champion of Charlotte, NC, and Greg (Ana Moreno Montero) Backes of Madrid, Spain. Proud grandfather of Karen (Nick) Kaiser, Sara Backes Moreno, Michael Wright, Kayla Champion, Cristina Backes Moreno, Rebecca (Tess Fulcher) Wright, and Connor and Christen Backes.

Great-grandfather of Alex age 13, Andrew age 11, Abby age 9, and Luna, 16 months.

Only child of the late Alfonse Valentine Backes and Beatrice Mullens Backes. Treasured son-in-law of the late Clemens and Frances (nee Wolf) Klein.

Funeral Mass Tuesday, March 24, 12PM, at Immaculate Conception - St. Mary Parish, 108 McHenry Street, Burlington, Wisconsin.

Burial with military honors Tuesday, March 24, 2PM, at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Union Grove, Wisconsin.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (<https://alzfdn.org/>).

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

MAR **24**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary Parish
108 McHenry Street
Burlington, WI 53105

Burial with military honors

MAR **24**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery
21731 Spring Street
Union Grove, WI 53182

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Backes.*



March 23 at 02:44 PM



“ *Laverne, those of us at Prince of Peace in Sun City Center have long wondered how you and Gary were doing in IL. I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Our friend Julianne Lovejoy who prayed with you and had breakfast with you at Burger King often always asked about you. Sadly Julie passed on August 6, 2025. I miss her dearly. You will be glad to know that the Divine Mercy devotion continues at Prince of Peace. We will start the novena on Good Friday and have the Sunday celebration on April 12. I think of you often, Laverne. For as firmly as you and Gary believed in the promises of Divine Mercy, Gary is now enjoying his reward for a life well lived. Blessings to you. Diane King, Sun City Center, FL.*

Diane King - March 20 at 02:05 PM



“ *Colleen Johnson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gary Backes.*



Colleen Johnson - March 19 at 11:29 PM



“ *What a great guy you were! It was a privilege to be able to call you family and to spend time with you. Laverne and the kids must be having a hard time with your absence. Until we meet again ~ Marilyn Seger* ❤️

Marilyn R Seger - March 18 at 01:28 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - March 15 at 03:44 PM



Lo siento mucho, Greg. No le conocí, pero sabiendo lo buena persona que eres tú, puedo imaginar el gran hombre que fue. Que la tierra le sea leve. ☩

Lola Moreno - March 15 at 06:06 PM