



Gary Hays McKean

November 27, 1936 - November 21, 2025

Gary Hays McKean of Visalia went to be with the Lord on November 21, 2025, at the age of 88, just shy of his 89th birthday. Gary was born to Archie and Nona McKean on November 27, 1936 in Fresno, Ca. He was preceded in death by his one sister, Verlie. Dad attended Washington Union High School and played football, basketball, baseball and ran track. His mom and stepfather would soon move to Georgia, and he followed, hitchhiking across the country with a couple of friends. It was there he met our mom Charlotte Ramona Chandler. They married on December 23, 1955 in Acworth Ga. and were married for 62 years until mom's passing.

Dad was a boy from California but soon won over the southerners with his dance moves, charm and humor. Returning to California in 1961, dad worked in Bakersfield for Clark Pest Control before starting his own business, McKean Pest Control in Visalia. Dad was an awesome husband, father, friend and coach. He was extremely proud of his role in helping to bring Pop Warner football to Visalia, taking one team to Hawaii to play in the International Friendship Bowl and coaching many years of Little League.

Our parents loved to travel visiting 49 states and dad completing all 50. Retiring early, they moved to the Florida Keys, where they played tennis, snorkeled, fished and enjoyed life. After 11 years, they moved back to California and built a home in Cambria where he drew the plans and built a

three-story home with an ocean view. This became the family destination for vacations and holidays.

Dad was an excellent body surfer, loved all sports and the activities never ceased, including hunting imaginary snipe with the grandchildren. After, moving home to be closer to family, dad enjoyed watching the grandchildren's sporting and other events. He is survived by his 3 children, Terri Kim Rodriguez (David), Kristi Swearingen (Craig), Monte McKean (Jackie). His grandchildren, Jarod, Andrea, Lynsi, Ryan, Chandler and Cassidi. He was further blessed with 12 great grandchildren.

We would like to thank Quail Park Memory Care and all of the special staff and activities directors for their amazing love and support.

Celebration of Life will be 12:00 noon at "The Hyde" 3200 West Mineral King Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291, on January 31, 2026.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 31. 12:00 PM (PT)

The Hyde
3200 W. Mineral King Ave.
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Mark McKay & McKay Family*
Mr McKean thank you. You will be truly missed ! Thank you for pointing me in the right direction as a young athlete. Mr. McKean put me in the right position at quarterback for the Visalia Chargers after getting clocked by two 8th graders (as I was a seventh grader) he told me maybe you should play quarterback you can run away from them. It was truly an honor to play for you! Great memories like the mud bowl at Mineral King Bowl vs Firebaugh !!
Godspeed !!

Mark McKay - January 04 at 10:43 PM

MJ

“ *Growing up across the street of the McKean's Gary was our coach, our quarter back, our center on the court. Gary was like a father to all of us on Laura St. Many great memories as a young kid of Gary. Many fishing trip to Three rivers with him and Monte when Gary needed to take care of a client. Gary drafted me on the Visalia twins and I was not that good but I remember as a kid I was playing for the greatest coach out there. I never ever heard him yell at anyone always positive with all of us. Gary did not like to loose he was a competitor in sports. As we got older and started beating him in golf he would use the "I have a sore back". I feel in my heart that anyone who knew Gary would say it was a blessing. As a young kid I always thought of Gary as an indestructible giant. R.I.P. Gary you will be in my thoughts forever*

Michael Jepson - December 10, 2025 at 08:29 PM