



## Dr. Gary Walter

November 6, 1947 - March 4, 2021

Gary Walter, MD, age 73, passed away unexpectedly in his Visalia, CA home on March 4, 2021. Until his death, he was the forensic pathologist for Tulare and King counties and owner of Microcorre Diagnostic Laboratory in Tulare. His medical practice in Tulare spanned nearly 40 years.

Dr. Walter was the first child of his retired Air Force Major and later dentist and rancher father, and his devoted homemaker and church pianist mother. After initially pursuing graduate studies in chemistry, Dr. Walter earned his MD degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine. He subsequently completed a pathology residency at the University of California at Los Angeles. Between medical school and residency, Dr. Walter indulged his love of flying, instilled by his father, by working as a corporate pilot for several years.

In his youth, Dr. Walter was a stellar student, class president, lead trumpeter in the band, student pilot, springboard diver, exchange student in Mexico, and sought-after director and host of numerous school productions. With a college friend, Dr. Walter finished a sailboat from the hull and loved sailing it with friends to the California Channel Islands. Later, in his more limited spare time Dr. Walter greatly enjoyed his friends and family with trips to Chicago, Michigan, Florida, the California coast and Bay Area, Arizona, and Germany; flying with his pilot brother; exploring family history with his sister and cousins;

restoring antique cars; and tending to his orchards.

In forensic pathology, Dr. Walter found a career that melded the precision of a pilot with a deep desire to discover, explain, and make meaning of the causes of unnatural death for the decedents' survivors and for the law enforcement and judicial systems. While Dr. Walter's career necessitated facing decades of sudden, unexpected, and often violent death, he nonetheless persisted far past usual retirement age. When asked why, he simply said he was committed to and loved his community, his work and his colleagues, who became like family to him. His community and colleagues returned his commitment with love and respect, an incomparable gift which nurtured and sustained Dr. Walter throughout his career.

Dr. Walter is survived by his sister and brother, six nephews, two grandnieces, and one grandnephew. He was deeply admired and loved by his family, friends, and colleagues. A private family commemorative gathering will take place at a later time.

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ A friend just sent me this page so even though it's years later, I thought I would write a little something. I worked with Dr. Walter, Dr. Hartman and Sharon Fong at the Toxicology Lab at Tulare District Hospital for many years. They were the medical directors and pathologists and I was the supervisor. I was so sad to learn of both Dr. Hartman and Dr. Walter's passing. We had a great team and worked on many cases together and all had a part in bringing the lab up to a very high standard and accreditation. Dr. Walter was so easy to work with kind. He was very intelligent. I am very happy to have worked by his side and think about my time with that team with very fond memories. They were both excellent Doctor's and easy to work with. I feel so fortunate to have worked with all of them ...Dr. Walter, Dr. Hartman and Sharon Fong.

*Rest in Peace Dr Walter and Dr Hartman! Sincerely Jenn Cole  
(formerly Jenn Kearney)*

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**Jennifer A Cole** - November 16, 2025 at 12:03 PM

SH

“ I was shocked and saddened to learn of Gary's sudden passing. My husband, Dr. Burr Hartman, practiced with Gary at MDL from 2004 until complications from bladder cancer forced his retirement in 2016. I have fond memories of many evenings listening to Burr and Gary on the phone discussing difficult cases after a grueling day performing autopsies. Of course, the conversations usually involved a bit of wine drinking and we would share recommendations about a favorite vintage. Gary was a trusted colleague of Burr's and a valued friend. He attended our wedding in Springville in 2006 and was very supportive of Burr throughout our challenges with Burr's illness. Sadly, Burr died January 26, and our community has lost two very talented and committed medical professionals. RIP my friend.

Susan Hartman

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Susan Hartman - March 28, 2021 at 12:21 PM

PF

“ Dr. Gary; Very sad to hear of your passing. I worked with you and it was a cherished pleasure and honor at my time with the Coroner's Unit with the Tulare County Sheriff's Dept. from 3-98 to my retirement in 7-10. You made a difficult assignment educational, bearable, and sometimes humorous. That was your nature. In my 35 years of Law Enforcement, you are one I will always remember, could trust and certainly confide in as a true associate, fellow professional and friend. Remembered and missed. R.I.P. my friend!!

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paul frederick - March 22, 2021 at 10:03 PM

HE

“ 5 files added to the album Gary Walter



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**Heather** - March 17, 2021 at 03:52 PM

EC

*Heather, Thank You so much for the wonderful photos of Gary. If you have more photos please share, Thanks, Eric*

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**Eric Costa** - April 16, 2021 at 11:22 PM