



Gary Dean Hoover

November 19, 1941 - April 21, 2026

The staff at Heishman Funeral Home, Inc. send condolences to the family of Gary Dean Hoover.

Today, we honor and celebrate the life of Gary Dean Hoover, who passed away on April 21, 2026, at the age of 84.

Gary was born on November 19, 1941, in Broadway, Virginia, to the late Lloyd and Wilma Fawley Hoover. He graduated from Broadway High School in 1960 and proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Army before dedicating 31 years to the Virginia State Police. In every role, he carried a deep sense of duty, integrity, and care for others.

Gary's life was defined by service, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to his community. From an early age, he embodied the qualities of a servant leader, serving as his high school class vice president and continuing that path of leadership throughout his life.

He was a dedicated advocate for veterans and an active participant in local organizations. Gary was a member of the American Legion and AMVETS, where he helped orchestrate the ceiling tile project honoring veterans' years of service. He was also a member of the VFW, where he most recently served as Auxiliary Chaplain, as well as a member of the Moose Lodge. In recent

years, one of his deepest passions was the Hometown Hero Banner Project, ensuring that the service and sacrifice of others would always be remembered.

Beyond his professional life, Gary's heart was firmly rooted in his community. He generously gave his time in countless ways—driving the team bus for the New Market Rebels, the Woodstock River Bandits, and later Massanutten Military Academy, supporting young people and local athletics with quiet dedication. Another of Gary's passions was his love of the open road—from driving a bus to riding his motorcycle. He cherished the fellowship and friendships he built through various riding organizations.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ann Attaway Hoover; sister, Jane Garrett (Warren); sister-in-law, Carolyn (Carroll) Brummett; and brothers-in-law, Tony and Joe Attaway and Don Tusing.

He is survived by his daughters, Terri Hoover Cella (John) of Staunton and Patty Hoover Hollins of Woodstock; his son, Chris Hoover (Tiffany) of Lexington, Kentucky; grandchildren John Hollins (Emily), Courtney Wagner (Sam), Geno Cella (Madelynn), Rachel Kuntz (John), and Emily Hoover; 14 great-grandchildren; sister, Elenor Tusing of Timberville; brother, Tom Hoover (Jane) of Bridgewater; in-laws Joan Kelly (John) of Nevada and John Attaway (Elaine) of Georgia; numerous nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends; and his beloved companion, Sophie.

An escorted procession will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Central High School in Woodstock, followed by a graveside service at Sunset Memorial Gardens. A celebration of life will follow at the VFW in Edinburg.

Gary will be remembered for his steady presence, his selfless spirit, and the countless lives he touched through his acts of service. His legacy lives on in

the community he helped strengthen and in the many people who were better for having known him.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Gary's memory to one of the following organizations: National Fallen Officer Foundation, American Legion Post 199, VFW Post 2447, or AMVETS Post 11.

Cemetery Details

Sunset View Memorial Gardens

2677 Fravel Rd
Woodstock, VA 22664

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Sunset View Memorial Gardens
2677 Fravel Rd
Woodstock, VA 22664

Tribute Wall

CO

“ Gary and I attended the Virginia State Police Basic School (Sept-Dec 1964) together. Always remember what great guy he was and how much he was liked by the entire class.....Charlie O'Shields

Charlie O'Shields - May 05 at 03:27 PM

HW

“ I knew Gary the years he volunteered at American Legion Boys State. He was so dedicated to driving Boys State citizens to the program and serving as a City Counselor. He had an infectious smile and was always a joy to work with. So very sorry for your loss.

*Harriet L Williams
Christiansburg, VA*

Harriet Williams - May 03 at 06:23 PM

AT

“ Paula and I moved into the neighborhood in 2019. Mr. Hoover was the first one to greet us. A contagious smile and kind heart. Always generous to share from his garden and help blow the snow. He will be missed.

Anthony Turley - April 30 at 01:09 PM

SW

“Deepest condolences to you and your family for your loss.

Shelly & Barry Walker - April 27 at 06:21 AM

JL

“ Gary consistently bent over backwards to help others. Great bus driver who welcomed you with a big smile. Our world needs more men like him. He will be missed.

Jeffrey Loveland - April 26 at 04:03 PM

SN

“ Gary and I were in the same high school class at Broadway High School. He had a positive attitude in whatever he did. Our birthdays were one day apart--his Nov 19 and mine Nov 20. We often exchanged cards. I will miss him at our high school gatherings as well as other venues. He gave me a Virginia license plate holder which stays on my car! He also sent me a program from our high school graduation that he found in his sister's belongings. He was thoughtful that way! Gary, we will miss you and hope that your role in heaven is to help other people, which you were so good at. Bon voyage, my friend.

Susan Orebaugh Nicholson.

Susan Orebaugh Nicholson - April 26 at 03:23 PM

IB

“ Gary, fondly lives in the heart of many former BHS students he drove to NYC for our annual field trips. I think he loved educating them and pointing out illegal dealing on the street, and not just drugs but also merchandise and games being played with tourist. The tighter the traffic challenges, he smiled in glory as he successfully maneuvered. With the help of the NYC Police, he played tricks on me. One in particular was showing me a student being handcuffed and placed in the NYC police car and driving away. Thankfully, they drove around the block and brought him back. But not until I had called his parents explaining I was told he relieved himself on a hydrant. Gary and the other officers and student just laughed. Joke on me. He was always polite, protective of the students and parents in giving safety tips. There are more fun tails to tell about our trips, however, I never would accept any other driver but Gary for these field trips. His wife, Ann, collected Barbie dolls and on each trip, he would purchase one for her. How thoughtful. Gary was one of a kind and enlightened the students that VA State Troopers can be fun, polite and protective of his human cargo. When he drove to our house on his new red Harley was sadly the last time we saw him. Too many years ago. Gary, Thank You and RIP.

Ina Baker - April 26 at 01:57 PM

DL

“ Gary was a great friend. I always spoke to him at Walmart. He will greatly be missed. Prayers to all his family and friends.

Danny Lambert - April 26 at 01:27 PM

MT

“ I will certainly miss you and I hope your family will find peace and comfort during this difficult time. You had been on my mind last week, but didn't call. How can we do another class reunion without you?

Mary Miller Turner

Mary Miller Turner - April 25 at 06:13 PM

GF

“ MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, ❤️
🙏

Gigi Frye - April 25 at 01:28 PM