



Gary Julien Olson

August 26, 1939 - August 20, 2025

Gary Julien Olson, a loving father, proud grandfather, dedicated friend, talented instructor, and beloved coworker, passed away on August 20, 2025, after a courageous battle with leukemia. He was born in Turlock, California, on August 26, 1939, and remained connected to the town throughout his life, always returning to the place he called home.

A life member of the PGA, Gary was a passionate and gifted golf professional. He played on the PGA tour from 1962 to 1964 and competed in the U.S. Open in 1964. He once played against Jack Nicklaus in a junior championship, after which he was famously quoted as saying, "He is going to be the best player in the world." A true teacher, he taught hundreds of kids and adults the game he so loved. His dedication to the sport was surpassed only by his passion for helping others, and he believed deeply in the positive impact of golf on young people.

Gary received his B.A. from Fresno State and his MBA from CSU Stanislaus, where he also taught golf theory and accounting. A sharp accountant, he dedicated over 30 years to preparing taxes for H. & R. Block. He also had a passion for aviation, holding a private commercial aviation license, and for coin collecting. He loved life's simple pleasures, often enjoying a hearty steak, a favorite meal he savored everywhere and often.

To those who knew him, Gary was a source of distinctive, heart-felt, genuine, and joyful laughter. He appreciated the boundless beauty that God created, from the awe-inspiring galaxy to the dry hot deserts, the green grassy links, and the magnificent mountains. He was a lifelong learner who cherished time with family and friends above all else, and his commitment to staying connected with those he loved was admired by many.

Gary is survived by his sister Suzanne Olson, his son Gregory Olson, his daughter Jennifer Swanson and her husband Tor Swanson, and his grandchildren Ty Swanson, Zachary Swanson, and Maisy Swanson. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on September 21, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church in Turlock.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **21**. 2:00 PM (PT)

First United Methodist Church
1660 Arbor Way
Turlock, CA 95380

Tribute Wall



“ I met Gary in 2004, I was his dental hygienist for about 12 yrs and he did my taxes at H and R Block for some years while I lived in CA. He was a very sweet and caring person and always positive. I enjoyed knowing him.

Barbara Spikes - September 18, 2025 at 07:28 AM

JF

“ I knew Gary from Church. We both attended First United Methodist Church in Turlock and would hang out and talk during our fellowship time. Our conversations revolved around the Lord, and also Aviation. I'm also a pilot and we would always end up talking airplanes and aviation. Gary was such a nice person and always cheerful. He will be missed. Prayers to the family.

Joseph Firestine - September 17, 2025 at 11:51 PM

ML

“ Gary was always making jokes and laughing. He was a vary talented golfer and good at bookkeeping. Many prayers for his family and friends.
Melinda Sue Leathers

Melinda S Leathers - September 16, 2025 at 08:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Julien Olson.

September 16, 2025 at 01:32 PM



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



September 16, 2025 at 01:32 PM



“ *I worked with Gary when he first started with H&R Block. He was always willing to help with tax classes and helping others. I so enjoyed our discussions about golf. He gave me some great ideas about gifts for golfers. Since my family golfer, not me. He was a joy and will be missed. My prayers for allthe family*



Vissa Robinson - September 12, 2025 at 09:29 PM



“ *Gary was a special person. I have worked with him for several years in Modesto and Turlock. He did have that special laugh and I teased him a lot just to get that laugh. He was always willing to help others and loved being with his clients. I will miss him so much as I know others will also. I know the good Lord has him now and is taking care of him.*

Neva Ellerd - September 12, 2025 at 08:35 PM