



Gary E. Mason

September 26, 1950 - January 21, 2010

Gary E. Mason, 59, longtime Moses Lake resident passed away suddenly Thursday, January 21, 2010 at his home. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 30, 2010 at the Moses Lake First Presbyterian Church with Pastor Eric Frey officiating. Inurnment will be at Guarding Angels Cemetery, 2595 Road L. N.E., Moses Lake at a later date.

Gary was born September 26, 1950 in Laramie, Wyoming son of Robert Lewis and Margaret "Peg" (Wright) Mason. In 1962 the family moved from Laramie to Moses Lake. Gary attended Lakeview Elementary School, Chief Moses Junior High School and Moses Lake High School, graduating in 1969. He loved sports and was captain of the Chief Wrestling team and quarterback of the high school football team. Throughout Junior High and High School Gary maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. and was the Co-Valedictorian of his class. He attended the University of Wyoming on a wrestling scholarship, wrestling for two years. While in college he met Ronda Stoner and they were married on May 29, 1972 in Laramie. Gary graduated in 1973 with a B.A. degree in accounting. Gary successfully passed his accounting boards on the first attempt as a senior. He and Ronda moved to Denver, CO where he began working with Arthur Young and Company Accounting Firm. In 1976 Gary was recruited by Wood and Blessing Accounting in Moses Lake and they relocated shortly after. He remained with the accounting firm as it later became LeMaster and Daniels. In the mid 1980's he left public accounting to be an independent accountant. He began working on his Master's in Business

Administration in the early 1990's and finished three years later.

He was a longtime active member of the Moses Lake First Presbyterian Church, a board member and past president of the Moses Lake School District in the early 1980's, a board member of Samaritan Hospital during the 1990's and a past member for many years of the Moses Lake Noon Rotary Club. He remained active as a fan and supporter of the Moses Lake wrestling program.

He never met a stranger. He touched the lives of everyone who crossed his path. His integrity was impeccable and his honesty was unchallengeable, just like his father. We loved him dearly and will be missed by all of us.

He is survived by his loving wife of more than 37 years, Ronda at the family home; two daughters and one son-in-law, Cristie Ann and Nic Dirks, Moses Lake, Heather Marie Mason, Manhattan, KS; mother, Margaret "Peg" Mason, of Moses Lake and Queen Valley, AZ; two brothers and spouses, Lewis and Kathy Mason, Moses Lake, Don and Mary Mason, Pensacola, Florida; one sister and spouse, Marie and Gary Tardiff, Richland, WA; two grandchildren, Davis Edward Matthews and Mary Lea Matthews, Manhattan, KS; and a large extended family.

Gary was preceded in death by his father, Robert in 2000 and father-in-law, Frank J. Stoner in 2000.

Memorials may be made to Washington Trust Bank in Gary's name, 402 Ash Street, Moses Lake, Wa 98837 -- Please designate to First Presbyterian Church Benevolence Fund, Moses Lake High School Booster Club or the American Heart Association.

Previous Events

Service

JAN 30. 11:00 AM (PT)

Moses Lake Presbyterian Church
1142 W. Ivy
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Mason family at this time. Being a Class of 69 classmate of Garys, I always respected him for his talents and intelligence on and off the football field and wrestling mat. What an all around great guy and a most memorable part of our class.

There must have been some serious accounting discrepancies, that needed his special attention, in the heavenly books to have called him home so early. I heard the memorial service was so very special by my dear friend, Katie Rigsby and was sorry I could not attend. God's Peaceful Blessings on you all. Marcia (Jones)Hietala and Larry Hietala##imported-begin##Marcia (Jones) Hietala##imported-end##

February 07, 2010 at 11:31 AM



“ My Mother let me know of Gary's passing and I was truly shocked and saddened to hear the news. He was just way too young. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Gail Buckley Jones##imported-end##

February 03, 2010 at 07:42 PM



“ I knew Gary only from an excel class he taught and of all the teachers I have had in life, he remains the one that I will remember most. He was so patient with me and all my stupid questions, he explained things so well and was always available thereafter if I needed more help. Years later when I needed someone to teach that same class, I called upon Gary. I have such fond memories of him for his kind nature and wonderful personality. Such a great loss to everyone who ever met him! My heart goes out to Gary's family during this most difficult time.##imported-begin##Shawn##imported-end##

February 02, 2010 at 08:18 AM



“ Rhonda, We are so sorry to hear about Gary's passing. Heaven is a lucky place.He had a way of making everyone feel like family. I have so much to say , but can't figure out how to get the words on paper. So just know that you are loved and we will keep you and the family in our hearts and prayers.
with much love
Tammy and Kandice##imported-begin##The Chattertons##imported-end##

February 01, 2010 at 04:53 PM



“ Ronda and family, I lived in Moses Lake for a number of years and was the CEO, Samaritan Healthcare. I knew Gary as a caring hospital Board Member and as a friend. I enjoyed running with Gary and discussing the important issues of the day. I wish you all the peace and serenity of knowing that Gary had many friends and that he will be missed. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.
Keith.##imported-begin##Keith J. Baldwin##imported-end##

January 31, 2010 at 02:45 PM



“ We will miss Gary very much!##imported-begin##Marc & Lynette Zimmer##imported-end##

January 30, 2010 at 05:12 PM



“ Rhonda,
I am so sorry to hear about your husband's pssing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Sherrie Minudri##imported-end##

January 30, 2010 at 02:46 PM



“ To Gary's family,
My deepest condolences for your loss of a husband, son and brother. May the Lord be your refuge and may His everlasting arms hold you close and comfort you. I hold many memories from my youth with Gary. He will be missed. Rev. Ed Swenson##imported-begin##Ed Swenson##imported-end##

January 29, 2010 at 08:17 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Rhonda and your whole family. What sad news to hear of Gary's passing. He was always such a kind man and always asked about how my life was going whenever I was home to visit and saw him at Ag World. He always had a smile and a hug waiting. I know that words cannot express adequately what he has meant to my whole family. He will be missed. May God's presence be with you.##imported-begin##Melanie Henninger##imported-end##

January 29, 2010 at 07:12 PM

DY

I thought of Gary when I saw a random article about Moses Lake. He was one of my cabin mates at Tall Timber wrestling camp in 1968. He was such a nice guy. I remember he liked to say "Cool man, neat." I liked reading these comments because he was one of the friendliest guys I ever met.

David Y - March 23 at 11:31 PM



“ Dear Ronda, Peg, Lew, Don and Marie,
Gary was one of the nicest people we have had the pleasure of knowing. Whenever and wherever we saw him, he was always warm and friendly.
It is an understatement that his sudden death is such a shock. We happened to sit at the same table with he and Ronda at the church's yearly Vision Night the day before he passed. We are so thankful, now, for that time with him.
Gary was a person of strength and compassion. We knew he was the kind of friend who could be counted on, if we ever had a need. We will miss how enjoyable he was to see and visit with.
Our prayer for all of you is that your loving memories will help comfort you during this time. We are so sorry for your loss.

With love and sympathy,

*Leslie & Bud Piper##imported-begin##Leslie & Bud
Piper##imported-end##*

January 29, 2010 at 06:40 PM



“ Dear Peg, Ronda, and family; Our sympathy goes your way, for the loss of Gary. He was a wonderful person, who always wore a smile, and probably had never met a stranger!! He was a gentle man, and the love he had for his family, was obvious to us all. He was an asset to his community and church. It was a privilege to have known him during his earthly life. May it comfort you to know, that Gary is safe in God's care, and that your friends are praying for you, in your time of sorrow. Sincerely, Cathy & Paul Kersey###imported-begin###Cathy & Paul Kersey###imported-end##

January 29, 2010 at 03:29 PM



“ From our family to yours. Our prays and hearts are with you. May our Lord continue to hold you close. Loren And Diane###imported-begin###Loren and Diane McIntyre###imported-end##

January 29, 2010 at 12:21 PM



“ Dear Mason family,
I am among the many who have wonderful, joyous memories of Gary. I am so thankful for his role as second father throughout my childhood, and for every moment I spent in your home surrounded by your family. I still remember the first King sized Snickers bars he bought me and Heather on the way to a tennis match, and the ever-present red vines in your kitchen. What a loving, kind, generous man of faith. He will be greatly, greatly missed.###imported-begin###Kari Brooke###imported-end##

January 29, 2010 at 12:57 AM



“ Dear Mason Family, I received word via some of my friends on Facebook that Gary had passed away. I was shocked and saddened by his passing but was immediately reminded of the wonderful times we had as kids. Although I have not seen Gary in many years he has never been far from my thoughts as are many of my former classmates and friends that I grew up with. Gary and I played little league baseball together and of course wrestled together in Jr Hi and High School. But it wasn't the activities that Gary and I shared together that I remember most. It was Gary's fire to compete and his desire to excel that I admired. It was a common trait in all the Mason boys and a tribute to the type of home they were raised in. So even though Gary is gone from this earth he left something behind in me that is everlasting, as has the entire Mason family. I want to thank you all for that. I still have a shining light in me that will never go out because of Gary, Don, and Lew. To Rhonda and family I send my warmest and sincerest thoughts to you. We only met once and you probably don't even remember me but I remember. God Bless. Your Friend, Steve Ford###imported-begin##Steve Ford###imported-end##

January 28, 2010 at 09:31 PM



“ Ronda and family---We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God's love and strength comfort you. We love you.###imported-begin##Anne, Bob, Cara and Erin Wieldraayer###imported-end##

January 28, 2010 at 07:43 PM



“ We were shocked to hear of Gary's passing. We know few can walk the path Gary took. The Moses Lake community will greatly miss him. God bless all of you.##imported-begin##Ron and Cathy Seibel##imported-end##

January 28, 2010 at 04:32 PM



“ Ronda,Peg and family, My deep felt sympathy for your great and sudden loss. Gary walked with me through the difficult days of Cal's disappearance and the end of Courtright Cattle Co. He was a loyal employee and a wonderful friend. May God cover you with his Love and Peace. I am in San Diego and won't be able to attend the service in person, but will be with you in spirit. Mary##imported-begin##Mary Courtright##imported-end##

January 28, 2010 at 10:56 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your entire family during this time. We are so blessed to have had the opportunity to have met your Husband, Dad and Grandpa when he visited Manhattan. He was a wonderful man, so welcoming and friendly, and so loved by you all.

-Lauren and Audrey Laslie##imported-begin##Lauren and Audrey Laslie##imported-end##

January 27, 2010 at 09:21 PM



“ Gary was a wonderful kind man. I was so glad to have known him. I am so sorry for your loss. He will be missed##imported-begin##Jill a dudik bross##imported-end##

January 27, 2010 at 08:52 PM



“ Dear Ronda and children/families, I am so very sorry to hear of Gary's death. I am so glad we got to see him when we were in Moses Lake last year, and to meet you. God be with you and your family at this sad time. God Bless. Love, Gayle and Dick Weyers

January 27, 2010 at 07:54 PM



“ Dear Peg, Words can't explain the grief you must be going through. I am truly sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Gary's family. Love, Gayle and Dick Weyers God Bless

January 27, 2010 at 07:48 PM



“ Rhonda & Family:

So sorry to hear of your loss. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Belinda

January 27, 2010 at 07:28 PM



“ Ronda, I feel your pain. After hearing of Gary, memories of Dale's death came rushing back. We too were married 37 years and Dale too died at 59. I remember your comforting hug. I pray for God's strength to comfort you and your family.

January 27, 2010 at 05:55 PM



“ I'm very saddened by this turn of events in your family. I knew Gary through a series of buisness contacts and through his family. It pains me to know of his passing. May God bring you all comfort in this time.##imported-begin##Chris Munter##imported-end##

January 27, 2010 at 02:42 PM



“ Rhonda, Heather and Chris - My thoughts and prayers are with you. It is so true that Gary never knew a stranger. There was never a time when I would see him that I wouldn't get a heart-felt, "Hello" from him, nor could you ever leave his presence without a hug. From the first time I met Gary, when Heather and I were in 4th or 5th grade I think, he always treated me as if I'd been Heather's best friend through all those years. He will be greatly missed and always appreciated. May God bless and comfort you through this time.##imported-begin##Brandi Walter-Engel##imported-end##

January 27, 2010 at 12:28 PM



“ Dear Ronda and Family,
Gary was a great man. It was my honor to know Gary through Ag World Support Systems. His honesty and integrity were very evident in his daily life. He will be missed greatly by all of us who have been touched by his life. My prayers are with you all as you walk through this time in your life.##imported-begin##Tim Friez##imported-end##

January 27, 2010 at 10:41 AM



“ Rhonda and all of Garys family,
We have known Gary for a long time, the early 90s I think. I (Marla) Thought he was Lew who had his children in Moses Lake Christian School. I called him up to see if he would be able to take Verns Meats as a customer. When he came to Verns and talked to us, I told Tom " Thats not who I know from the school! Well we got that cleared up and have been his clients and friends. We will miss him very much and we have all of the family in our prayers.

Tom and Marla Ellestad

Glen Ellestad

Mark and Alicia, Honor Ellestad

Vern and Eveyln Ellestad

Larry and Sue Ellestad

Verns Moses Lake Meats Inc###imported-begin##Tom and Marla Ellestad###imported-end##

January 27, 2010 at 05:00 AM



“ **RUNNING, ALWAYS RUNNING! ABLE TO EAT ANYTHING HE WANTED BECAUSE --- HE WAS RUNNING, ALWAYS RUNNING! ALWAYS SMILING, ALWAYS WILLING TO LEND THAT HELPING HAND (MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TAXES OF A NEW PASTOR), SO PROUD OF HIS FAMILY, SO 'SOLD OUT' TO JESUS. WE WILL MISS GARY AND ARE PRAYING FOR RONDA AND FAMILY. ONE MORE SMILE: THINK SAUNA THEN JUMPING INTO THE COLD, COLD LAKE. WHAT A GUY!###imported-begin##DALE AND CAROLE NOVASKY###imported-end##**

January 26, 2010 at 11:22 PM



“ We are so sorry for your sudden loss. Gary was such a good person. It was easy to like him. He will be missed. We will be thinking of all of you.##imported-begin##George and Kathi Miles##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 10:33 PM



“ We were deeply saddened to hear of Gary's passing. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. We do have the promise of the day we will all be reunited again. God bless you all.##imported-begin##Tony & Margie Dillon##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 07:36 PM



“ So sorry for the loss of such a wonderful man. Gary has always held a special place in my heart. Like another dad, he was great about checking on how I've done from high school to present. Prayers to the entire family.##imported-begin##Jody Swanson##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 06:54 PM



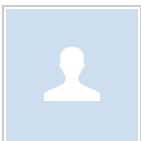
“ Dear Peg,
We are deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Gary in everyone's life. Please know that our prayers & thoughts are with you. Love,
Ande##imported-begin##Ande and Roger Glaese##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 06:31 PM



“ I had the pleasure of getting to know Gary through Ag World and will never forget what a kind and thoughtful man he was. I will always remember when he brought me some orange pekoe tea bags to one of our meetings, he made my trip! Gary will certainly be missed by a great many people; my heart goes out to his family. My thoughts and prayers are with those left behind.##imported-begin##Lynn Natuk##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 05:45 PM



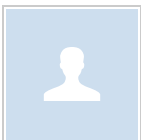
“ It was such a shock when Katie called me Thursday night to tell me of Gary's death. Our love and prayers are with you all, Ronda, Cris, Heather, Davis, Mary, and your entire family during this time, and always.##imported-begin##Marge Koeppe##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 05:41 PM



“ Very sorry for this loss to the Mason family and Moses Lake. Gary was a kind man & generous citizen of the community. He touched my life as a boy and a teen-ager many times.##imported-begin##James Paul##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 04:59 PM



“ Although I did not have the opportunity to knowing Gary, I have heard so many wonderful things about him from his friend, David Miles Oman. He was a remarkable man with a kind spirit. I know he will be greatly missed and I pray that the entire Mason family will be comforted in the days ahead. May the Lord bless him and hold him close. ~Alice Palombo~##imported-begin##Alice Palombo##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 03:50 PM



“ I knew Gary through Ag World and he was a great person. Gary had a great sense of humor and was it was my pleasure to have known him. Gary will be greatly missed. The Mason Faimly are in my thoughts and prayers!

Shawwna###imported-begin###Shawwna Dickson###imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 12:03 PM



“ Precious family of Gary-
"We pray that out of God's glorious riches, He may strengthen you with power... to grasp how wide & long & high & deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Eph.3:14-21. Love & prayers, Susan & Ken###imported-begin###Susan & Ken Eveland###imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 11:27 AM



“ I knew Gary through Ag World and had only met him a couple of times at corp. events, but we corresponded through email quite frequently. He was a joy to talk and work with, you will be missed, rest in peace Gary.###imported-begin###Jessica###imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 10:38 AM



“ I met Gary and Ronda a few times when visiting the Nelson's in Moses Lake. His vitality and humor proved to be outstanding and I enjoyed knowing him. Blessings to his family and friends. Many prayers are with them all!##imported-begin##Lois Smith##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 09:34 AM



“ Rhonda, Peggy, and family:

I was so shocked and saddened to read about Gary's passing. He truly was a remarkable human being and am proud to have known him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. God's peace be with you.##imported-begin##Dawn Viebrock##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 12:12 AM



“ Dear Ronda, Peg and family, We are so shocked and saddened to hear of Gary's sudden death. Our hearts break for your loss. I will always remember Gary as one big hug. We met at the Post Office almost daily when I worked and he was always there with a big smile and hug to match. Gary will be missed by so many people that he has touched throughout his life. His Christian belief was played out every day by his lifestyle. We are privlidged to have called him "friend". We are in Arizona and will miss the funeral, but our hearts and prayers will be with you. May you be surrounded by the peace of the Holy Spirit and the joy that Gary is now in Christ presence. Morry and Carla Landon##imported-begin##Carla and Morry Landon##imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 09:40 PM



“ Although I only knew you through Ag. World for a year and a half I will miss you. Talking business, politics and golf was your specialty.

Mark I.##imported-begin##mark iverson##imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 09:07 PM



“ I wish I could be there for the memorial service. I will dearly miss Gary, but I will never forget him.##imported-begin##Pat Motschenbacher##imported-end##

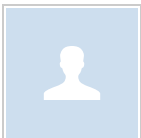
January 25, 2010 at 08:15 PM



“ I just wanted to say Gary always brought a smile to my face since the day I met him back in the 80's, and I always looked forward to chatting with him a little at church every Sunday, my thoughts and prayers are with you,

Dale##imported-begin##Dale Roth##imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 06:08 PM



“ I knew Gary all through school from kindergarden till graduation from highschool. The last time I saw him was outside the bank and we talked for a while. Hearing about his passing was a total shock and I wish to express my deepest sympathies.##imported-begin##Harold L Schwab, Jr##imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 05:22 PM



“ Dear Rhonda, Heather, Christie, Peg, Don, & Marie, Susan Shulz Hodges wrote me on “facebook” to let me know of Gary’s sudden passing. I immediately got on the phone to Charlie Butterfield. We are all three shocked and saddened to learn of Gary’s untimely demise. It is a nice thought and memory to me that several of us from the Class of 1970 attended Gary’s 40th Class reunion this past August. Rhonda.. You and Gary looked so happy and well matched. I treasure the photos Gary and I took with our Chief Mo Wrestling Coach Mel Olsen. This is a harrowing reminder of how vigilant we should be to opportunities to reach out to one another.

Charlie said something about Gary that was so appropriate. I had just said how friendly Gary had been at the Class of 69 Reunion and Charlie added.. “David, Gary was always friendly to everyone.” What a nice legacy to leave behind. As usual I am left with Gary being my upperclassman example of gentlemanly, Christian behavior to inspire me to be a better person. Thanks to all you Masons for your friendship and especially to you, Peg, for raising such a fine son.

Rhonda, I have heard wonderful things about your Pastor and congregation there in Moses Lake. Rest assured that MANY of us, who are further away, remember and love Gary and you all. And even though we cannot attend your local services you shall be in our kindest thoughts and fervent prayers that all can & will eventually work together for your good. In the meantime please remain open to us to help buoy you up. I hope to see as many of you as possible during the time of our MLHS Reunion Concert this August.

Love, David Miles Oman 801-347-9833##imported-begin##David Miles Oman##imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 05:02 PM



“ Ronda, Peg, and all the Mason family:
We are so saddened by Gary's passing. He was a great classmate,
and a person to whom so many could look up to. We are so glad,
that as a person of strong faith, Gary will be waiting for you with
open arms. Please accept our condolences and take comfort in
those around you, who loved Gary most.##imported-begin##Larry &
Katie Rigsby##imported-end##

January 23, 2010 at 11:18 AM



“ Thoughts go out to all the family and friends during this time of loss.
There are many memories of Gary in our lives. Rest in peace my
friend.
Gene & Bonnie##imported-begin##Gene & Bonnie
Polhamus##imported-end##

January 22, 2010 at 09:53 PM



“ To the Family of Gary Mason..I am so shocked at the passing of
your beloved Gary. Him and Don were class mates of mine..I just
seen him a few weeks ago at walmart. I pray that God will be with
you at your time of loss and that his comfort will surround you
always..##imported-begin##sue Hodges##imported-end##

January 22, 2010 at 09:02 PM