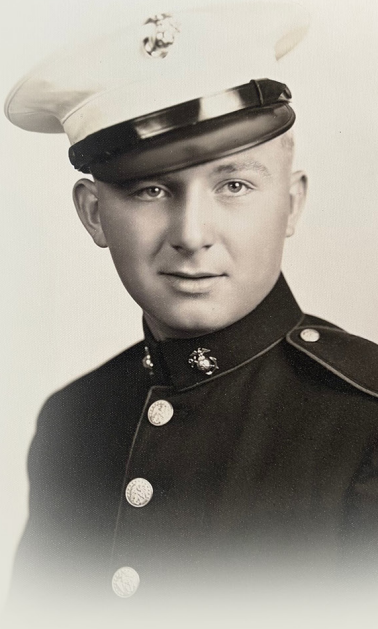
CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF

Garry O. Hanson

January 24, 1928 - February 4, 2026



Adventurous, determined, and honorable, Garry Hanson lived a life rich with family, faith, and service. A man of quiet strength and gentle heart, he found his greatest joys in the simple moments of life: spending time with family, enjoying a hot cup of coffee on the porch at his cabin in Mt. Oliver, KY, being in nature, and giving back to his community. Garry was intelligent, loyal, strong-willed, and consistent, greeting each day with enthusiasm and curiosity. A lifelong learner, he was open to new ideas, eager for new adventures, and always willing to think outside the box. An inventor at heart, Garry loved imagining how things could be made better.

Garry's journey began on January 24, 1928, in Rockbridge, Wisconsin, born to Oscar and Bessie Hanson. His father built their family home in the small town of Mt. Sterling, Wisconsin, where Garry spent much of his childhood with his nose buried in books and his imagination free to roam. His father owned a cheese factory, and from an early age Garry learned the value of hard work—picking up milk from farmers and often lending a hand alongside his dad at the factory. Garry's passion for duck hunting began in his youth, sparked by time spent with his uncle fishing and hunting along the Mississippi River. The sport became a lasting tradition, one he later shared with his son. As a boy, he often returned home with ducks strapped to his back. Garry attended Gays Mills High School, where he was active in softball and baseball. He also discovered a love for motorcycles during his high school years, owning both a Harley and an Indian. Adventurous by nature, he was known to his family as a true daredevil from an early age.

On his 17th birthday, Garry enlisted in the U.S. Marines, proudly serving his country from 1945 to 1949. He initially operated heavy equipment, but his skill as a marksman quickly stood out, leading his commanders to assign him as an Arms Instructor. Before his enlistment, Garry met the love of his life, Nona. They rode the bus together, and though she was bashful, Garry made a point of sitting beside her. Even while he served in the Marines at Quantico, Virginia, their love endured through a steady exchange of letters, keeping them connected despite the distance. When they reunited, he spotted her standing in front of the dance hall in a red dress—and from that moment on, the rest was history. They danced all night, and Garry knew she was the woman he would marry.

They were married on September 3, 1949. Their marriage was a true partnership—built on love, mutual respect, and unwavering support, lasting 62 years. Together, they made a great team, facing life side by side with trust, laughter, and deep devotion to one another. Garry and Nona experienced profound loss with the passing of their infant son, Gary Lee Hanson, in 1950.

They later welcomed their daughter Andrea in 1952 and their son David in 1956. A devoted father and reliable provider, Garry took great pride in being actively involved in his children's lives, regularly attending sporting events, dance recitals, and other activities. Family time was cherished, with camping trips and weekly Sunday lunches after church. Garry, David and Trent (three generations) also carried on a meaningful tradition of annual walleye fishing trips to Port Clinton on Lake Erie.

Using the GI Bill, Garry earned a chemistry degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and later worked on his MS at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. He pursued a career fueled by a passion for research and development, working as a chemical engineer with Ansul Company and later serving as Manager of Research & Development at Lennox Industries, where he was instrumental in developing the Pulse-Gas Fired Furnace. Moving on from Lennox Industries he accepted a position with Weil-McLain Company as Manager of New Product Development where he designed and developed a new line of high efficiency gas fired pulse hot water heaters. The next stop was Director of Engineering for Williamson Heating and Air Conditioning in Norwood, Ohio, where he designed and developed a new line of high efficiency gas furnaces and split system air conditioners. He then left the public sector and for the next 14 years owned and operated HVAC Consulting, Inc., during which time he invented and owned two patents. Garry thrived on innovation, solving complex problems with creativity and insight. He was committed to discovering new ways to improve existing designs or create something entirely new.

Garry had many passions outside of work, fueled by a daring and adventurous spirit. He discovered a love of flying after earning his pilot's license and purchasing a plane with four close friends. He embraced life in every way—running 5Ks with his son David, spending time at his Upper Peninsula cabin, and later Mt. Oliver, KY cabin. The outdoors brought him immense peace and joy, and these experiences were among his most cherished. Garry enjoyed the music of John Denver,

writing poetry, and sipping a well-made Manhattan. A devoted reader, his favorite author was James Patterson. He and Nona shared a love of travel, with Japan among his favorite places to visit. A seafood enthusiast and coffee lover, Garry also dedicated his time to serving on committee boards at every church they attended.

Nona and Garry were thrilled to become grandparents starting in 1978, welcoming Jennifer and later years Brett, Trent, and Erik, and great-grandchildren Macey, Justin, and Jaxon. Garry was filled with pride seeing his family flourish, a reflection of the love and devotion he and Nona shared. A special friendship grew between Garry and his grandson Brett, who had special needs. Garry set aside time just for him, and together they sang their favorite song, "Jesus Loves Me." He delighted in connecting with all his grandchildren and great grandchildren finding joy in simple, shared moments and the little pleasures of life.

Even in the face of loss, Garry's faith remained steadfast. After Nona's passing in 2012, he walked each day with God, trusting as he always had that he was not alone. He continued to live purposefully, keeping busy as a consultant and generously sharing his wisdom with others. Garry never focused on his age—he felt young at heart, and he lived life that way. He exemplified the joy of seeking the positive in each new day, finding purpose, and letting the beauty of nature refresh and inspire him. Garry's life was a testament to growth, reinvention, and the joy of passing the torch to those who followed.

After a life well-lived, Garry was embraced by those who had gone before him, leaving behind a legacy defined by love, resilience, and a deep passion for life. Garry passed away on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. He will be deeply missed, and his light will continue to live on in all those who knew him.

"Be still and know that I am God."
- Psalm 46:10

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