



Gary Sankey

April 10, 1975 - January 7, 2026

Gerald “Gary” Eugene Sankey II, age 50, of rural Clarksville, Iowa, died January 7, 2026, at his home. Gary was born April 10, 1975, in Waterloo, Iowa, the son of Gerald and Susanna (Distler) Sankey. He attended Cedar Falls School District, where he graduated from. He worked as a welder, most recently for Samson Fabrication in Waterloo until leaving the workforce.

Gary was an avid musician with a lifelong love of playing music. He enjoyed being outdoors, going fast, and living life on his own terms. Known for being direct and strong-willed, Gary also had a thoughtful side and enjoyed teaching others what he knew. Those close to him knew his dry, unmistakable sense of humor and the quieter care behind his tough exterior.

He is survived by his daughters, Kory Sankey of Elgin, OK, and Kabra Sankey of Waterloo; his grandchildren, Brayden and Sophie Benschoter of Waterloo, and Rylen Sankey of Elgin, OK; his mother, Susanna Sankey of Waverly; his sisters, Catherine (Stan) Sunleaf of Florida, Melissa (Dave) Barnholtz of Clarksville, and Amanda (Keith) Pritchett of Waterloo; and his grandfather, George Sankey of Des Moines area.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gerald Sankey, and his grandmother, Inus Sankey.

Gary was imperfect, real, and deeply human. He will be remembered not just

for how he survived in life, but for how he felt it—loudly through music, fiercely through independence, and quietly through love.

Memorials may be directed towards the family, a family directed celebration of life will be announced at a later time.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Gary always was there for me. I asked, he was a great hand on helper. He brought a happiness of childhood play thru our lives. Making each other laugh. I found comfort in your presence. Wishing you could have had more time to share with us how wonderful I always knew you were! May your next life be kinder to you! See ya later “freddie”

melissann barnholtz - January 14 at 11:49 PM

TB

“ Gary and I were the only 2 drummers in family functions so we always took turns on playing at family jam sessions. He was a joker always had a smile on his face. He was very easily amused. You will be missed buddy.

Tom Brown - January 10 at 01:38 PM



You always made him smile! Best of times for him 🥁 drumming 🙌
Rock on Tom!

Melissann Barnholtz - January 11 at 09:49 PM



“ It seems like just yesterday Gary was just a sweet little funny boy and best friends with his cousin Jerad. They had great times growing up together. He grew into such a talented musician and I was always so proud of him. He was so soulful which sadly made life difficult at times. When he lost his dad he took it so very hard. I hope he and his dad are together in heaven having a great time together and no more sadness or pain. R.I.P my sweet nephew. I love you, Aunt Deb

Debra Berry - January 10 at 01:09 AM

CT

“ So so sorry for his passing. He rode my bus along time ago. RIP
CHRISTIE TWAITES

Christie Twaites - January 09 at 02:43 PM

GS

“ Gary played drums along with his dad in the Timberridge Band with
me and Gordan. Always a pleasure to be around and he will have
that special place in my heart. RIP Gary

George Sankey - January 08 at 08:50 PM