



Dr. Gary Michael Major

March 15, 2026

Dr. Gary Michael Major

September 21, 1950 – March 15, 2026

Gary Michael Major (Majorowski) 75, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, passed away on March 15, 2026.

He was born on September 21, 1950, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee to Earl and Valencia

Major (Gulczynski). Earl worked as an accountant for General Electric Medical Systems and Val

worked as an Executive Assistant and in accounts payable/receivable for the Allen Bradley

Corporation before becoming a homemaker following the birth of her children.

The eldest of two

boys, Gary grew up on the South Side of Milwaukee in a tightly knit, predominantly Polish and

Catholic neighborhood along S. 13th Street. His childhood was shaped by a loving extended

family including his younger brother Randy with whom he shared a paper route and love for

baseball, and his Grandma Sophie who lived first upstairs and then next door.

Gary and his

family were actively involved in the community and Church. He attended St.

Rita's for

elementary school and served as an altar boy, spent hours playing in Wilson and other Milwaukee County Parks with neighbors in all seasons, and spent the weekends visiting his grandparents and the sick, cutting the grass between graves in the cemetery, and attending double-headers at Milwaukee County Stadium.

Gary's strong work ethic was formed at a young age. He had his own paper route and delivered papers for the Milwaukee Journal, with his dad and younger brother helping on Sunday mornings starting at 3 am, and also earned money cutting neighbors' lawns and shoveling snow on the weekends. From age 16-22 he worked at Kohls Food Store. In addition to items like his own typewriter, guitar, and car, he used his earnings to pay for his high school education at Don Bosco and his undergraduate education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM).

At UWM Gary played D1 baseball on a utility player scholarship and graduated with a Bachelors in Psychology. After losing his father to a heart attack the summer following his graduation, he began his Masters in Psychology at Northern Illinois University (NIU). At UWM, Gary worked in a lab feeding and caring for rats until one day his professor stated, "You may want to consider working with people. You know, you're good at that". Gary went on to build an exciting, diverse, and service-oriented career in mental health.

While still at NIU Gary worked full time at Elgin State Hospital on the Chronic Mental Health Ward and then in Central Admissions. At Elgin, Gary met and married his first

wife, Barbara

Doty. After just two years of marriage, Barb passed from complications of Lupus.

Shortly after graduating from NIU, Gary began a job at the Wisconsin Correctional Service

working with clients navigating drug and alcohol challenges within the criminal justice system.

Gary went on to lead the Mobile Crisis Team, housed at the Medical College of Wisconsin and

later Milwaukee County,

where for ten years he leveraged his expertise in mental health, humor, and knack for working

with people to talk people off of bridges, survive having knives pulled on him, and prevent teen

suicide. During this time he also met and later married Judith Arnold while she was a second

year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin and he was completing his

dissertation in his PhD program at Marquette University. Gary and Judith had three “wonderful” children and shared a passion and talent for working with children.

Through his work at the County, combined with his years playing ball all around town, Gary

developed a deep familiarity with and epic ability to navigate the streets, bridges and bus routes of the City of Milwaukee practically with his eyes closed.

In 1987 he began working as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist at Stress Management and Mental

Health Clinics, where he worked up until the day of his passing, cultivating a one-of-a-kind

therapy practice of nearly 40 years that served children, youth, adolescents, adults, couples, and families navigating any and all mental and behavioral health challenges and life experiences. He affectionately and authentically referred to his clients as “my people” and he was known by many of them simply as “Gary” or “my friend”.

Gary was a man of many passions — Brewers baseball, music, horse racing, reading, classic movies, and above all, family. He cherished every moment with his “wonderful children” and took his greatest pride in being a Father and Grandfather. Having suffered tremendous personal losses of his father Earl, first wife Barb, brother Randy, and mother Val at far too early an age, as well as surviving near death experiences including childhood illness, a serious car accident in high school that shattered his pelvis, and open heart surgery in his forties, Gary developed a keen awareness of the fleeting nature of time, and a daily practice of verbalizing gratitude. He embraced a mission to squeeze every drop of joy and opportunity out of each day. He would never pass up an opportunity to share his gratitude to have one more day to make a contribution, to greet someone enthusiastically by their first name, or to make those around him feel valued and appreciated, if only with just a smile. In the last 10 years of his life he woke up nearly every day by 5 am and began his day with a text message to each of his children with a customized greeting that always included “I love you!” Gary was a source of steadiness, positivity, and predictability for friends and family alike. He had a memory like

a steel trap and
got so much joy from being able to “come through in the clutch” or make “a
bold move” for a
loved one in need.

In lieu of flowers you can contribute to a memorial bench fund in the
Milwaukee Parks via Venmo to @michael-major-22 or make a donation to a
local charity of your choice in his name.

Memorial Visitation Friday, March 27, 2026 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at
ROZGA FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES – ROZGA-WALLOCH
CHAPEL followed by Memorial Service at 12:00 Noon. Luncheon at Emerald
City to follow after services.

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services
Rozga-Walloch Chapel
4309 South 20th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 27. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Rozga-Walloch Chapel
4309 South 20th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221
(414) 281-7145
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

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Tribute Wall

HT

“*My sincere condolences and prayers go out to Gary’s family and friends. Gary was truly one of a kind. He was kind, funny, and an incredible human being that had a way to connect with people.*

My husband and I had the honor of knowing Gary through therapy sessions for nearly eight years. While he was always professional, he also cared so deeply about us as people. He helped guide us through some very difficult times, and for that, I will always be grateful, not only to have known him as “Gary,” but to have called him our friend.

He always greeted us with a smile and would say, “There are two of my favorite people.” When we found ourselves in a rut, he reminded us to be kind and show gratitude, words that will stay with us forever.

My heart breaks knowing we won’t get to speak with you again, but I hope you are at peace and watching over all of us who will miss you dearly. You ended our last call by saying, “Love you guys.” We love you too, Gary. We will miss you!

Holly Tassone - April 01 at 02:38 PM

MM

What a beautiful reflection, Holly. Thank you for sharing ❤️

Margaret Major - April 09 at 11:56 PM



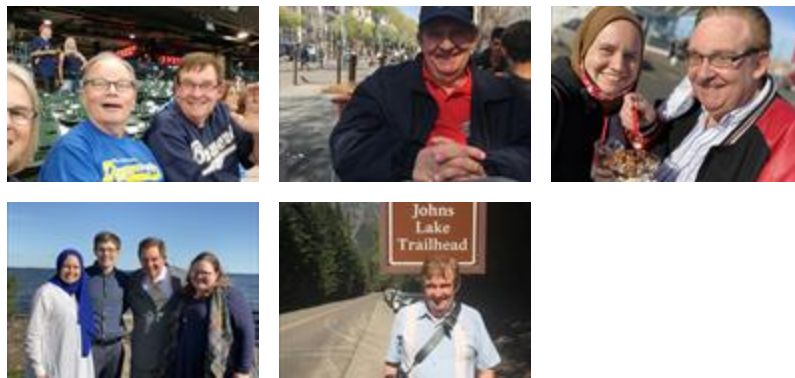
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Gary Michael Major.



March 26 at 02:45 PM



“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Margaret - March 26 at 10:50 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Videos of Gary



Margaret - March 26 at 10:42 AM

AB

“ Ashley Brumm purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Gary Michael Major.



Ashley Brumm - March 25 at 09:21 PM

PW

“ Phyllis Wisden purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Dr. Gary Michael Major.



Phyllis Wisden - March 25 at 02:03 PM

PW

“ Phyllis Wisden planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Gary Michael Major.

Phyllis Wisden - March 25 at 02:03 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Gary Michael Major.



March 24 at 10:42 AM



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March 24 at 10:42 AM



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March 24 at 10:42 AM



“ Dr Gary or “G” as I kiddingly called him, was a wonderful man. He helped my son for years while his dad and I had gone through a terrible divorce. Now, just within the last 6 months, my fiancé was seeing Gary. His humor alone was the reason why I recommended him. He was laid back and made you feel so comfortable. More so of having lunch with a friend rather than seeing a professional. My son was devastated to hear of his passing. We all are. Our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and those of us (his other family) whom he’s helped throughout the years. Rest in peace G. You will be missed by many.
Nicole, Devin and Tony

Nicole Ellis - March 24 at 09:02 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Gary Michael Major.*



March 23 at 11:22 AM



“ *Gary and I first met in grad school and quickly became close friends, a friendship that has lasted through 53 years of life's joys and challenges. Our families continue to be close even though we are scattered across our great nation. We shared wonderful times watching our children growing into strong, talented and successful adults and the pleasures of super grandchildren. Gary and I knew one day we'd be separated by death but thankful that we had good, productive lives; he did not want tears but rather celebration of his well-lived existence and maybe a side bet on the Brewers.*

Jerry Cerny - March 20 at 12:26 PM



I will remember Gary for his kindness and wisdom. His was a life truly well lived.
Cathy Engbring

Cathy Engbring - March 21 at 04:06 PM



What a beautiful obituary, and tribute to a life so deeply woven into the fabric of Milwaukee: south side Polish neighborhood, mention of Allis-Chalmers, St. Rita, Don Bosco, Wilson Park, a Journal paper route. And the mention of the fact that the many tragedies in his life gave Dr. Major a real appreciation for the fleetingness of life and time, and resolve to make every day count.

I did not know Dr. Major. I looked up this obituary because he has the same name as another person I know, and I wanted to see.... But I am glad I had the opportunity to read this beautiful tribute to a loving husband, father, grandfather, mentor, healer and friend.

Laura Gellott - March 24 at 05:58 PM

Over the last week the last verse of a poem kept coming into my thoughts. The poem is from Ernest Thayer Lawrence.

*Oh, somewhere in this favoured and the sun is shining bright.
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light.
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout.
But there is no joy in Mudville...,*

Gary would know.

We will miss him.

Darrel - March 25 at 08:30 PM

BB

I am in pure shock upon learning of Gary's passing. My husband and I were seeing Gary as a couple, after his colleague at Stress Management who we had been seeing also suffered an untimely passing. Gary made a wonderful transition to meet our needs. He was so inviting and easy to talk to - completely welcoming and put people at ease. He had a very keen knack for "just listening intently" and letting people say what they had to say before interjecting. The obituary says that he had a great memory, and I concur - he remembered details from months before. Even with all his clients - he knew everyone's story well. After a year - it was just he and I that continued on. So, I just spent the last 2 years and 4 months seeing Gary on a near weekly basis - mostly just as an incredible sounding board, but he helped me process so much stuff. He knows my whole interworld and nobody ever ever can replace him in my life. We had stopped meeting, but I did not anticipate our relationship would be ending. My huge condolences to family, friends, and those who will miss his presence in their lives so much more than I even. He helped with the tough stuff - but was SO encouraging and uplifting. He texted me great little tips and encouragement sometimes in between appointments. It meant that he truly "cared". You weren't just a number or appointment on his schedule. He thought about people and cared and wanted to help. I will forever picture him sitting out in the waiting room - always waiting for his next appointment....with a big "Hey, hey, hey....there she is!" or some jovial greeting. What a guy. Gary - you made a tremendous impact on this world and in the lives of so, so, so many who had the pleasure to know you. I will miss you greatly. I know you are shining down, being a ray of sun into the world even now. Rest in peace.

Becky Beer - March 31 at 12:09 PM

AK

There will never be enough words I can say about Gary, I truly got lucky when looking for a therapist because he so happened to be my first and only therapist... and I don't think I could ever have another one because no one could replace him. Three days before he passed my psychiatrist told me I should make an appointment with him because it had been a bit since we talked and i didnt get to it fast enough. And that will sit with me for a while. When I got the letter of his passing I honestly was thinking he was retiring because the last time we had talked I told him I hope he never retires because I don't know what I'd do without him...Gary never made me feel crazy. He was so easy to talk to like a friend, a dad, a grandpa which he is all of those titles. I always cherished our talks... at one point I was seeing him weekly then monthly and then every so often because my life had gotten busy. I had a babygirl and after that he always told me I wasn't allowed to come to our appointments without her because he just loved children so much. This wonderful man had talked me off so many bridges I can't even count. He helped me get through being homeless to going through many heartbreaks and hardships. He talked to my mom when she was seriously worried about my mental health without breaking HIPPA. Those kinds of people are rare. He truly cared about everyone he met and touched every person he could. As others have said on this post here he would always make a grand greeting when you walked in "hey hey hey there she is, let me roll out the red carpet for ya". He made me feel seen, heard, loved, accepted. All of the above. He nicknamed me his super star and that just stuck and he never called me anything else and I will always hold that in my heart. One day I found a funny therapist themed greeting card and he loved it so much it became a tradition and I somehow managed to find one for different holidays as well. I even found a Father's Day one of his big comfy chair he always sat in... and this past week I found a great Easter one. I thought it was odd when I called his voicemail that he didn't get back to me because he normally does within the next day. I know he's up there in heaven sitting in his big comfy chair. He never missed hugging me goodbye and saying he good kiddo! I love you lots Gary rest in heaven, forever and always, your superstar!

alyssa klein - April 05 at 08:40 PM