



Keith Edward Gardner

March 6, 1956 - May 20, 2026

Keith Edward Gardner, 70, passed away at home with his family by his side on May 20, 2026. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 6, 1956, to his late parents, Helen “Jane” and Henry “Jack” Gardner.

Keith was a man of faith and proudly attended Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church. He honorably served his country as a veteran of the United States Army and carried that same dedication and work ethic throughout his life. He retired as a mechanic for the City of Louisville and worked as a parts manager for NAPA Auto, where his knowledge and skill were well respected. He was also a proud member of the American Legion Iroquois Post #229.

His greatest thrill was behind the wheel of a stock car. For more than 40 years, racing was not simply a hobby but a lifelong passion. His remarkable career took him to numerous tracks, including Louisville Motor Speedway, Kentucky Speedway, Salem Speedway, Bristol Speedway, Sportsdrome Speedway, the old Fairgrounds, and tracks in Charlestown, Winchester, and Nashville. In recognition of his lasting impact on the sport, he and his brother, Kevin, were inducted into the Kentuckiana Auto Racing Hall of Fame in 2026, a proud honor reflecting decades of dedication and achievement.

He is preceded in death by his parents, as well as his brothers, Gene and Glen Gardner.

Keith will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Jill (Hart) Gardner; daughter, Katy Jo Groft (Samuel); son, J.D. Gardner (McKensie); grandchildren, Margot Groft, Benny Groft, Alyssa Shazier (Matthew); brothers, Kevin Gardner (Denise) and Gary Gardner (Barbara); sister, Nancy Medley (Joe); nieces; nephews; and other extended family members.

His funeral services will be at Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Hwy. The visitation will be on Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The Funeral Mass will be on Friday at 11:00 AM, at Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 4335 Hazelwood Ave., 40215.

The family would like to express special thanks to Pamela Young, Edward Young, Jay Barker, Glenda Barker, Donnie Mingus, Pam Owen, and David Owen for all your support and loving care.

Cemetery Details

Cremation to Follow

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 28. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Mass

MAY 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church
4335 Hazelwood Ave
Louisville, KY 40215

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Keith and I shared lots memories throughout the years. Including being knee high, to joining the military together with others from the neighborhood including Mark Hayden, Joey Hayden. Donnie Frost. And then working side by side at the city police garage working on the fleet cars. Keith will be missed by everyone that ever crossed his path. Our hearts 💕 are with all of the family.

Danny Barker

&

Sue Carroll



Be

With you

Keith Gardner

Danny Barker - 4 hours ago