

George Robert Hayes (1933 - 2017)

Obituary



George Robert Hayes

December 23, 1933 - May 02, 2017

George Robert Hayes of Barstow, California died May 02, 2017, at age 83, due to complications from surgery. Born to James Oren Hayes and Mary Ellen Reid Hayes, "Gabby", as he was affectionately known, spent his early years working and playing on farms near Georgetown and Bunsenville, Illinois. His father, James, was a coal miner and the family moved to Taylorville, Illinois when he was in the 8th grade. He played basketball and baseball throughout his high school years. He was inducted with his baseball teammates into the Taylorville High School Hall of Fame. Gabby played college basketball on a scholarship he received from Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. He married his college sweetheart, Karen Spencer in November of 1957. Karen and Gabby were married for more than 53 years. He spent over 40 years as a teacher in Texas and California. He taught at Barstow Junior High School for most of his career, as well as at Barstow High School where he served as the Head Basketball Coach for the 1983-84 season. He taught at the Snowline School District for the remainder of his teaching career, focusing on the education of students with special needs. In retirement, Gabby successfully modeled his philosophy "Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man." His ability to solve problems by bringing to light proper perspective was invaluable. His positive and levelheaded attitude in facing hardships was an inspiration. He also made beans so delicious that they actually deserve a mention here. Gabby was preceded in death by his wife Karen, his parents James and Mary Ellen, his brother O.D. Hayes, and his sister, Delores "Tooty" Rice. He is survived by his sons: Jim (Peggy), Doug (Effie Exarghiropulu), and Ty (Lulu Han); and grandchildren: Ariana, Iason, and Hannah.