



**Methow Valley School
District**

Press Release

Methow Valley School District Mourns the Passing of Former School Board Director Gary Marchbank

The Methow Valley School District is saddened to share that Gary Marchbank, former school board director and lifelong advocate for education, passed away on Wednesday, November 26, 2025.

Gary was a pillar in our community, friend and mentor to many, and an enduring school board director with 16 years of service to the school community. Throughout his tenure, he championed Career and Technical Education, supported pathways to graduation and beyond, and worked tirelessly to ensure every student was valued and treated with dignity. He famously said, *“Education is at its best when it provides students with an opportunity to rub elbows with the real world.”*

Known for his humility, wisdom, and ability to listen, Gary emphasized the importance of respect, dialogue, and relationships. He often shared, *“The greatest human empowerment is the ability to change one’s mind. Our schools do best when we listen to each other, embrace civil discourse, and seek common ground.”* His guidance and perspective are especially resonant in today’s divided climate.

Gary first moved to the Methow Valley in 1968. Before serving on the school board from 2009 to 2024, he worked as an elementary school teacher and counselor, a woodcutter, and an electrician for over 30 years. Gary’s family is deeply rooted in the community, with three children and three grandchildren who graduated from the Methow Valley School District. He was also an avid sports fan and accomplished mountaineer—a true embodiment of the Methow spirit.

Gary Marchbank leaves a remarkable legacy of leadership, integrity, and community service. His contributions will continue to inspire the Methow Valley for generations to come.