



Gerald 'Jerry' Starr

March 11, 1930 - April 23, 2019

Gerald "Jerry" Joseph Starr, 89, a hardworking husband, father, and horseman, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 in Eaton Rapids. Jerry was born March 11, 1930 in Grand Ledge, the son of Wilbur and Marcella (Batsche) Starr. He graduated from Charlotte High School in 1948, where he ran track under Coach Mac Gobel. Following graduation, he went to work alongside his father as a carpenter, shortly after taking ownership of the family business at the age of 26. He owned and operated Jerry Starr Building and Remodeling for over 50 years and passed the trade onto his sons. Throughout the years, Jerry built countless homes and important landmarks of Charlotte, including the altar at St. Mary Catholic Church, which is still in use. Many will remember Jerry's wagon and team of ponies, especially as a fixture of the Charlotte Frontier Days Parade, of which he and his wife, Eilene, were Grand Marshals in 1995. He was a founding member and President of the Eaton County Sheriff Mounted Division, and Superintendent of the Open-Class Showing at the Eaton County Fair. He touched the lives of thousands through his lifetime involvement in 4H, earning him the Emerald Award. He was also a devoted member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte.

Jerry was proud of providing for his family. They took family vacations as often as possible, especially to Horseshoe Lake. He loved opening day of Pheasant season, because it meant spending the day with his sons and grandsons, and a family dinner of baked beans and corn bread to follow. Jerry could also "kick

em up" on the dance floor, square dancing and doing the polka at countless barn dances.

Jerry is survived by his wife of nearly 14 years, Fern Starr; children, Denis (Karen) of Olivet, Kathy (Jim) Pion of Olivet, Tim (Sherry) of Charlotte, Mark (Cheryl) of Charlotte, Karen (Tony) Southward of Charlotte, Daniel (JoAnn) of Adrian, Chris (Shelly) of Charlotte, Mary (Doug) Campbell of Olivet, and Jimmy (Lisa) of Eaton Rapids; 28 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; sister, Jeannette Sommer of Charlotte; and brother, David Starr of Charlotte; step-children, Glen Burkett, Helen (Gary) Vedder, Kenneth (Debby) Burkett, David (Barbara) Burkett, Sally (David) Bivens, Mary (Jeff) McKillop, and their children and grand-children. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Eilene (Tanner) Starr; sister, Laurel Pray, and brother, Arthur Starr.

A Funeral Mass of Celebration will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2019 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. Visitation will be on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at Pray Funeral Home from 2:00 - 4:00 and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. with a Rosary at 8:00 p.m. Interment will take place at West Carmel Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St Mary Catholic Church and The CareTeam Home Health and Hospice. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Jerry on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

West Carmel Cemetery

5016 Carlisle Highway
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

APR 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
807 St. Mary Boulevard
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 25, 2019 at 09:05 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 25, 2019 at 12:26 AM



“ *Chris and Shelly, So sorry for your loss Dave and Elaine Martin*

Elaine Martin - April 26, 2019 at 07:56 AM

JL

“ Janet L. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr.



Janet L. - April 25, 2019 at 08:45 AM



“ 51 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 24, 2019 at 11:23 PM

RY

“ I am so sad to hear of Jerry's passing and being unable to attend his service. I fly home from Florida on Friday the 26th but do not arrive until late evening. I have been close to the Starr Family for over 75 years. Jerry and his father built an addition to the hardware store the year he graduated from high school. Jerry, Tim, Mark, and Chris rebuilt our cottage at Gun Lake over several years. Jerry was such a good teacher and mentor passing his abilities on to all his family. I cherish all the memories of times spent together over these many years. My most sincere condolences to all of his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren and especially to Fern who has been his life for many years, she has been such an angel.

Rod Yates - April 24, 2019 at 07:03 PM

CW

“ I have so many fond memories of Jerry. It was always great to see his smiling face and listen as he would joke around with someone. I would often run into him at Meijer.

I have fond memories of Jerry from visiting his house. Aunt Jo and Uncle Dan would take me to go swimming and see the horses. I also remember him showing open class at the fair and we made a deal, if I dusted off his wagon he would take me for rides.

I am sorry that I will be unable to attend the visitation and funeral, as I am at 5th grade camp with my students.

My condolences to the entire family!

Cheryl Lilly Worden

Cheryl Worden - April 24, 2019 at 05:54 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr.



April 24, 2019 at 03:43 PM

CI

“ Chela & Lynn Findlay (Morgan) from Idaho. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr.



Chela & Lynn Findlay (Morgan) from Idaho. - April 24, 2019 at 01:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr.*



April 24, 2019 at 12:28 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the Starr family on the passing of Jerry. I have many memories as a child of playing at the Starr farm with the Starr kids while visiting my grandparents George and Geneva Fox next door, including the barn, the tree forts, the horses and the sledding hill in the pasture as four things that come to mind quickly. While he and my mother Bonnie Fox Larson went to school together graduating a year apart, I just learned that he and my dad shared the same exact date of birth; 03-11-1930. I know Jerry was a good man; deeply involved with his family and in the community and I pray that his memory lives on in your hearts forever. May those memories sustain and comfort you in the difficult days ahead.*

Eric Larson - April 24, 2019 at 10:18 AM



“ *There are never any words that can truly take away the hurt and feeling of loss, but we have the Word and Promises of God as a comfort in this most trying time .. May His word find its way to your hearts and souls. That the cherished memories will dominate your hearts in the years to come Romans 8:38-39 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Jerry Simpson and Cheryl Gaither - April 24, 2019 at 09:48 AM

CS

“ There just are not words to convey my feelings this morning. It is a sad day and My heart is going to be aching. For, the children but also for Jeannette and David and their families. Jerry was a wonderful person who could always make us laugh. (He has joined Cliff just 3 years and 1 day later. I know it's going to be a big time when they get together.) Love to you all from the Shults family.

Clela Shults - April 24, 2019 at 09:14 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr.



April 23, 2019 at 10:06 PM

SS

“ My earliest and most lasting memory of Uncle Jerry was at the death of my father, Jerry Sommer when I was 10 years old. Everyone had gathered at our home, I sat on Uncle Jerry's lap. He said to me "...everything will be alright and we will get through it together...". And we did. He was wonderful to all our family. A million memories will stay with me. My thoughts and prayers to all my Starr relatives. Steve Sommer

Stephen Sommer - April 23, 2019 at 09:59 PM

DG

I have many happy memories with my Uncle Jerry from staying there as a child with Kathy to meeting him and Fern for lunches when I was up from Georgia. But like Steve I also have one most precious memory. It was in the wedding line at Karen's wedding. I was 19 and 7 months pregnant and not married. I was also feeling a little uncomfortable around my family it was the first time they had seen me pregnant. Speaking to all in the wedding line I came to Uncle Jerry. He smiled at me and then gave me the longest hug and smiled again and said "it's gonna be ok. ". He made me feel truly loved and excepted with no judgment. A couple years ago I visited him at the house and I shared that memory with him and how it made me feel. He kinda chuckled. I saw in his eyes It touched his heart that such a small action of love could make such an impact on my life so many years ago. But it did. Uncle Jerry I'm going to miss you but will never forget you.

Debbie (Starr) Garrett - April 24, 2019 at 06:17 PM

GC

“ Jerry has left a lasting legacy, via his family, work, lasting landmarks and his 4 H work.

Jerry and Fern were

Always smiling and so good for each other It was always a joy to see Jerry and We will miss him. Gene and Ruth Conley

Gene Conley - April 23, 2019 at 09:47 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr.



April 23, 2019 at 09:18 PM

RT

“ *Uncle Jerry, you were an amazing father and Uncle. Your legacy is a beautiful tribute as seen through your wonderful children. Rest in Peace. God speed your family's healing.* ”

Rosemarie Tanner - April 23, 2019 at 08:19 PM

LS

“ *Larry & Patty Nichols and Nate & Kristi Shopbell purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr.* ”



Larry & Patty Nichols and Nate & Kristi Shopbell - April 23, 2019 at 07:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr.* ”



April 23, 2019 at 07:06 PM

LG

“ *Love, Cal and Debbie (Starr) Garrett purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr.* ”



Love, Cal and Debbie (Starr) Garrett - April 23, 2019 at 04:57 PM

LN

“ John and I share in your sorrow of Uncle Jerry's passing. We are saying prayers for all of our Starr cousins.

Laurie and John Newland - April 23, 2019 at 04:49 PM

 Laura Cushman

“ I am saddened to read of passing of Jerry Starr. He always had a smile and warm hello every time I saw him. My condolences to the many Starr family members.

Laura Cushman - April 23, 2019 at 03:44 PM

LC

“ LOYD CORDS lit a candle in memory of Gerald 'Jerry' Starr



LOYD CORDS - April 23, 2019 at 03:38 PM