



Gerard Francis Retzer

January 15, 1959 - September 4, 2013

Gerard "Gerry" Francis Retzer, 54, of Charlotte, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep on a layover in Louisville, Kentucky September 4, 2013. He was born on January 15, 1959 to his parents Francis and Ann (Steinhage) Retzer in Beaver Dam, WI. He graduated from Beaver Dam High School in 1977 and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a degree in Accounting and Computer Science. On December 19, 1987 he married Patricia Williams of Charlotte. Gerry worked as a Pilot for United Parcel Service. He enjoyed music of all kinds, especially Polka music. He loved playing banjo and guitar with his friends in various Polka Bands. Gerry loved flying as a UPS Pilot, which as he always said it always beats working for a living. Gerry loved cooking for friends and family and was the best husband and father...ever. Gerry is survived by his wife Patty, son Patrick Retzer and daughter Alana Retzer. Visitation will be held Sunday, September 8, 2013 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, and Monday, September 9, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, with a Scripture and Affirmation Service at 7:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 10:30 am at the St Mary's Catholic Church, Charlotte, Michigan, with Rev. Fr. Frances Mossholder officiating. Burial will take place in the Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte. Memorials are suggested to Women at Risk International.

Tribute Wall

BE

“ I had the privdlige to fly with Gerry a few years ago. A very enjoyable bid period. Gerry was a true gentleman and loved talking about his family. I regret I was never able to accept his invitation to visit. RIP my friend. Bob

Bob Esham - September 12, 2013 at 10:08 PM

PH

“ Gerry was always so kind when he would come for a sleep room never complained of anything. RIP Gerry

Patricia Hamilton - September 11, 2013 at 01:25 AM

JT

“ Condolences from my family to yours. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Great to read such nice tributes to a wonderful family man. Certainly a loss for our UPS family, will miss Gerry at the night sorts.

Jeff Tomaszewski - September 10, 2013 at 10:48 AM

KS

“ Sending our sincere condolences to the Retzer family. Gerry will be truly missed. I'm glad we were able to spend the weekend playing sheepshead with all of you. Ron Jr. and Gerry will be watching over each one of us as our guardian angels. Sending hugs your way.

Kathy and Cyd Swihart - September 09, 2013 at 09:18 PM

CH

“ Gerry and I were both hired in 1998. I have fond memories of being part of the 727 crews in Lansing staying at the doubletree sharing warm cookies with Gerry. He would remark on what a great job we had and how lucky he was to get to fly so close to home. I will miss his friendly personality in the late night sort in SDF. God Bless and Give strength to Gerry's family and friends. He can fly with no engines or crews and I'm sure he is smiling all the way.

Chris Harper - September 09, 2013 at 05:22 PM

MM

“ Never having met your father, but reading what other people have said, I can appreciate the loss of such a good father, husband and friend. It tears at my heart to attempt to feel your loss. I had just turned 24 when my father unexpectedly passed away so I do remember those feelings. But also know that in time the loss carries less of a sting. Remembering the good times and knowing where he is now will help. Good bless your family Patrick.

Mark Mox - September 09, 2013 at 04:27 PM

AR

“ Saddened to hear of Gerry's passing. We flew together for a period a few months ago. A great pilot and fun to talk to; he will be missed.

Andy Raines - September 09, 2013 at 12:08 PM

JW

“ Jerry brought music, kindness and faith to the St. Mary community. He will be missed.

Joanne & Art Williams - September 08, 2013 at 09:38 PM

JS

“ He will be missed by those of us at the IPA family.

Jeff Seitz - September 08, 2013 at 07:08 PM

SH

“ Dear Patty, Patrick, and Alana, I was so sorry to hear of Gerry's passing. He was a wonderful person, full of life, and loved the polka music. Not enough generous people like him . Deepest sympathy to all of you in your loss of Gerry.

Sharon Henriksen - September 08, 2013 at 04:45 PM

FS

“ Patty, Patrick & Alana - We were so sorry to hear of Gerry's passing. We will always remember him playing guitar or even banjo with us in church. He loved music, and loved making music. No matter what was going on with him, he always tried to be upbeat. We wish you peace, and our prayers are with you.

Frank & Deanna Boston & sons - September 08, 2013 at 12:39 PM

MD

“ Dear Patty, Alana, and Patrick, We were shocked and saddened upon learning that Gerry had passed away so suddenly...We will miss his friendship, quick wit, and dedication to his family. Our prayers thoughts are with you.

Marg and Mike Crawford and Doug - September 07, 2013 at 09:35 PM

JF

“ Patty, Patrick & Alana Our deepest sympathy to you. Our love and prayers will be with you always. I pulled out my old yearbook and there were so many great memories. God bless you always Joe & Terri

Joe & Terri Hammer family - September 07, 2013 at 06:47 PM

JH

“ Gerry & I met when we moved into his neighborhood back in 1975. He became one of my best friends. We spent numerous hours in the basement of his parents playing pool. (I never won a game against him) We also frequented Pasquale's Restaurant for their all you could eat buffet. He was the only person I know to this day that ate his pizza from crust to the point. We also had many wonderful marching band memories. Gerry left a great legacy with a wonderful wife and two fabulous children. He will be truly missed. Our loss is heavens gain. Joe Hammer

Joe Hammer - September 07, 2013 at 06:41 PM

KT

“ Patti, I was so sorry to read about the passing of your husband. If you don't remember me, I used to own The Yarn Garden. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

KimberLee Torkko - September 07, 2013 at 06:12 PM

JS

“ My deepest sympathy to your family for the loss of Gerry. Gerry and I flew together on the 757. He was always upbeat and had a good sense of humor. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jack Sprankle - September 07, 2013 at 12:13 PM

BS

“ So sorry to hear. Gerry and I were in the same initial hire class at UPS. You could always count on him to lighten the mood during our serious initial training sessions. A great guy who always liked to talk about his family; Gerry was a breath of fresh air.

Bill Senn - September 07, 2013 at 09:52 AM

DA

“ To the entire Retzer family, I was shocked to hear of Jerry's passing. I saw Jerry from time to time at music events. He had a great fun-loving personality. He was always happy having a great time, whether he was playing his banjo or dancing. He will be missed by all that knew and loved him. My deepest sympathy to all of you.

Denny Anderson - September 07, 2013 at 08:53 AM

MD

“ I knew of Gerry, he flew through PHL frerquetly and always had a kind word. Always was sure to say hello and how are you. I am sorry for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. God bless.

Missy DiGiacomo - September 07, 2013 at 03:41 AM

KC

“ I am sorry for you loss and you have my deepest condolences. I knew Gerry from years ago when we flew at Superior Aviation. He always had such a warm personality and was a joy to work with.

Keene Cameron - September 07, 2013 at 12:58 AM

BC

“ Keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers.

Brent and Julie Crossman - September 06, 2013 at 11:05 PM

MC

“ Dear Patty, Alana, and Patrick, As you know we were all stunned and saddened at the loss of your husband and father. We very much valued Gerry's dedication to God and family, friendship, and his great sense of humor. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.

Marg and Mike Crawford, and Doug Crawford - September 06, 2013 at 10:10 PM

DB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Gerry and I were hired at UPS in 1998 and we were training partners together on the 727. We spent a lot of time together then. Gerry always lit up when he talked about his family. He loved you guys very much. What a good hearted guy he was. david

David Byerley - September 06, 2013 at 04:59 PM

MG

“ Gerry flew through our Philly gateway often. He was a wonderful person and all of us in Philly will truly miss him.

Marian Gleeson - September 06, 2013 at 04:10 PM

JR

“ I am a pilot for UPS and will always remember Gerry and his generous nature. What a wonderful person. I am so sorry for your loss.

Jeri Rue - September 06, 2013 at 01:23 PM

BY

“ Patty, Alana and Patrick -- I am so sorry for your loss. Gerry was a great husband and father and I know you will miss him greatly. Please don't hesitate to call us - you are family. Love Joel, Brenda, Jennifer and Janelle Young.

Brenda Young - September 06, 2013 at 08:45 AM

CF

“ *Patty, Patrick, & Alana, Please know that we are keeping your family in our prayers during this difficult time. Gerry was an amazing man, husband, and father to your family and all of his friends. We will always remember his contagious laugh and smile! We are here if you need anything at all. May you find comfort and peace in the loving memories of Gerry. Love, Chris, Kim, Sam, & Noah Freiburger*

Chris, Kim, Sam, & Noah Freiburger - September 06, 2013 at 08:42 AM

CS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Gerry seemed to always be smiling! Such a great man and he will be missed!*

Cindy Stanton - September 05, 2013 at 11:35 PM

BF

“ *Dear Patty and family, We were so saddened to hear of Gerry's passing and for the shock it brings to your family. We remembered how he loved to share his cooking with everyone--especially at his 50th birthday party. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all. May God bless you and keep you in this time of great sorrow.*

Brynda and David Filkins - September 05, 2013 at 11:27 PM

JS

“ *Gerry was a great man. I feel privileged and honored to have had such a person in my life. May he live on through each and every person he touched.*

Jeffrey Spangler - September 05, 2013 at 11:24 PM

JJ

“ *What a pleasure it was to know Gerry. He always had a smile on his face! We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers...God Bless*

Jeff and Shelly Judy - September 05, 2013 at 10:20 PM

CF

“ *We are so very sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. We have know each other since the days at St. Mary's, scouts, sports, graduations and so much more. Our family enjoyed Jerry's wonderful personality and his ever present smile. He will be missed at all upcoming events but his presents will be with us. I will pray Jerry and for your family. The Chris Stanton Family*

Chris Stanton Family - September 05, 2013 at 09:49 PM

LN

“ *Patrick, Jeffrey told us of your great loss , you and your family are in our prayers !
iprayersour our thoughts and prayers*

Linda Nunez - September 05, 2013 at 09:41 PM

RH

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Gerry's passing. I pray that Gods peace will be with you at this time. I have had the pleasure of flying with Gerry many times here at UPS. I always looked forward to sharing time with him. He was a great friend that I will miss very much. There is one thing I can tell you about Gerry, that is that he loved his family very much.*

Ron Henderson - September 05, 2013 at 08:51 PM

KD

“ I count it a privilege to have known Gerry, and to have been able to fly with him on numerous occasions. Gerry was always a true gentleman, very friendly to everyone and a pleasure to work with. I know that he loved his family very much and was very proud of his son and daughter. Gerry will truly be missed by myself and his other fellow pilots at UPS.

Ken Drewyor - September 05, 2013 at 08:48 PM

AR

“ So So Sorry! Our hart felt prayers for you guys.. I'm glad we spent time with you just a few weeks ago. God Bless you all

Arnold Retzer - September 05, 2013 at 08:03 PM

TF

“ Although we never had the pleasure of meeting your Dad, Patrick, he must have been great to raise such a fine son. Sincere sympathy to you, your Mom and family.

The Hindenach Family - September 05, 2013 at 07:30 PM

RG

“ Sincerest codolences. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Rob Guinn - September 05, 2013 at 05:20 PM