



Gerald A. "Jerry" Ray

October 15, 1938 - July 16, 2019

Gerald A. "Jerry" Ray, 80, of Mason City passed away Tuesday July 16th at Hospice of North Iowa. Memorial Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 am Saturday July 20th at Grace Church, 440 N. Illinois Ave., Mason City with Rev. Nick Dougherty officiating. Interment will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery, Mason City.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service time at the church.

Jerry was born October 15, 1938, in Waterloo, Iowa, the son of Thomas Ray and Helen (Hasik) Ray. He graduated from Teachers College High School in Cedar Falls, Iowa. After high school he attended the State College of Iowa, which was previously Iowa State Teachers College and later became the University of Northern Iowa. There he earned a teaching degree and had a successful collegiate wrestling career. He then went to the University of Illinois where he earned his master's degree.

Jerry was married to Shirley M. Petersen on June 15, 1962. To this union, three children were born: Daniel, Julia and Debra. Jerry taught in Waverly, Iowa; Aurora, Illinois; and Downers Grove, Illinois, before moving to Mason City in 1969. He was a teacher in Mason City until he retired in 1998. He also coached several sports and was the head wrestling coach until 1984. In 1982 he was recognized as the Class 3A Wrestling Coach of the Year, and in 2005 he was inducted into the Iowa High School Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Jerry enjoyed running, biking and tennis; and he placed a high value on physical fitness. He was also fond of getting together for coffee with friends and following his grandchildren's activities. An annual highlight for eighteen years was gathering with his children and grandchildren at Mahoney State Park in Nebraska for a week of family fun.

Jerry was a member of Grace Evangelical Free Church and over the years was active in teaching, youth ministries, leadership, and building and grounds maintenance. A committed follower of Christ, he shared his faith with others in many ways such as participating in Bible studies and serving in jail ministries.

Jerry is survived by his wife Shirley; his son Dan (Mindy) Ray; his daughters, Julie (Dan) Feddersen and Deb Wilmot; twelve grandchildren; his sisters Marlyn Stewart and Corinne Dowd; nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his son-in-law.

Memorial gifts may be directed to Youth for Christ or Hospice of North Iowa.

Cemetery

Memorial Park Cemetery

11495 265th St.

Mason City, IA, 50401

Events

JUL **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Grace Evangelical Free Church

440 N. Illinois, Mason City, IA, US, 50401

JUL **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

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Grace Evangelical Free Church

440 N. Illinois, Mason City, IA, US, 50401

Comments



“ I'm so sorry for your loss! I will always have great memories of you and your dad during our track years! Hugs to you and your family

Jodee (Knudtson) O'Brien - July 26 at 05:03 PM



“ Coach Ray came into my life just when I needed him. A skinny basketball player I decided to start wrestling my freshman year. My older brothers, both brilliant young men and great athletes, suffered from mental illness and I was a bit lost. Coach Ray told me over and over that I had talent and what it takes to succeed. Surrounded by world class athlete, like Tim and Todd Kroeger, he took the time to talk to me directly everyday with kindness and support and a strength I still feel today. He was courageous and kind and loving. He was, in a word, fatherly in the best sense of the word. My heart goes out to Dan and Julie and the whole family. Their dad lives in them and everyone who had the honor of knowing him, including me. Much love, Michael Judge, MCHS Class of 1985

Michael Judge - July 21 at 12:29 PM



“ Many people come into our life and we know them over a number of years! I became acquainted with Jerry through "Life Long Learners" as we took a harmonica class together. We would lots of times go to the track and walk and it was at that time that we would share things with each other and I then got to know him better as well as the health issues he was dealing with. And while I knew he was dealing with an ongoing health issue you keep thinking they will be able to maintain and wish that they could enjoy as many years as possible! So I was saddened when I read this in the paper as I feel we have lost an individual that gave so much to every life that he came in contact with! Our sincere sympathy goes out to all of the family members as you will particularly feel the void in your family but the community will also feel the void of this great person! May you definitely cherish the memories that you are left with as I know I will always remember the brief acquaintance I had with him and the times shared! We look forward to that "Great Reunion" that await us all! May you also celebrate "Jerry's" life!

Love In Christ,
Warren & Margaret Torkelson



Warren Torkelson - July 19 at 05:58 PM



“ Great guy. Super athlete.

Rick Sullivan - July 19 at 03:58 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald A. "Jerry" Ray.



July 19 at 11:08 AM



“ Julie- Sorry to hear of your father's passing. Through our "fireside chats" so many years ago after various rehearsals, it was evident that he played a big role in your life. He will be greatly missed I am certain but his memories will live in all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Steve Peters

Steve Peters - July 19 at 10:47 AM



“ Feddersen Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gerald A. "Jerry" Ray.



Feddersen Family - July 19 at 10:22 AM



“ Shirley and family, Our sincere sympathy to you at this sad time. Jerry was an amazing man and we're blessed to have had him as a friend. In her book, Healing After Loss, Martha Whitmore Hickman said, "In the weeks, months and years that lie ahead, you may find qualities and actions in your own lives that surprise you, until you smile and think, 'I wonder. Yes, maybe that's a part of Jerry/Dad living in me.'"

Linda Moen Muth - July 19 at 07:54 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerald A. "Jerry" Ray.



July 18 at 07:11 PM



“ My sympathy to the Ray family. He was such a kind caring person to everyone. We are all better people for knowing Jerry.
Rest in peace. Tim Fleming

Tim Fleming - July 18 at 06:45 PM