



Gerald Martin Landherr

May 22, 1930 - June 12, 2019

Gerald Martin Landherr, 89, of Austin, died suddenly of natural causes Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at his home in Austin.

Jerry was born on May 22, 1930, in Austin, a short distance from the family home in Rose Creek, and was the oldest of three children. Jerry played football at Rose Creek High School and was one of 10 students to graduate in the class of 1947.

He enjoyed working at his father's business, Rose Creek Produce, and frequently traveled the gravel roads of Adams, Johnsburg, Taopi, Rose Creek and other small towns picking up chickens and eggs for distribution to New York, Chicago and other larger cities.

In the fall of 1947, Jerry entered St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., and later transferred to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to obtain his bachelor's degree in pharmacy. In the 1950s, Jerry worked at various pharmacies, including Peoples Drug on Main Street and St. Olaf Hospital, where he met his first wife, who worked as a lab technician.

In 1960, he opened his own drugstore, Landherr Rexall Drug, on Austin's east side — fondly known as Dutch Town. The drug store became a thriving business where Jerry employed all seven of his children and taught them to follow his own strong, demanding work ethic.

In 1957, Jerry married Marie Theresa Ellis after a work-inspired romance at St. Olaf Hospital. Unashamed, Jerry later revealed he often made needless trips to the hospital blood lab just to visit with the lab technician — a tall, striking brunette from Ohio. In 1968, Marie died one month after delivering her seventh child. In 1971, Jerry married Rita Ann Ryan who adopted all seven children and made the Landherr family whole again.

After 47 years of marriage, Rita died of metastatic colon cancer in March 2018. During Rita's final years of agonizing pain, surgeries and chemotherapy, Jerry transformed into

the most dedicated, empathetic and diligent care provider imaginable. His unyielding efforts fulfilled Rita's earnest desire to die comfortably at home.

In 1978, Landherr Rexall Drug was devastated by the 100-year flood, which also led to extreme financial hardship in order to restore the business. Jerry's work ethic was hard to fathom and he was steadfast in his mission to again provide for his family. Once the embodiment of strong German stoicism, Jerry slowly revealed his true, loving core and even — eventually — dared to initiate frequent hugs.

Fondly, Jerry would reminisce about his days in the Knights of Columbus and would share photographs of fellow Knights in vibrant, caped uniforms that emitted pageantry and public witness to the faith of Catholic men.

Raising seven children, running his own business and eventually having to endure the death of both wives demanded a strong Catholic faith which Jerry embraced. His home church of Queen of Angels provided stability and purpose at many points in Jerry's life. Parenting the seven children often proved daunting due to their misadventures and propensity toward delinquency.

In the 1970s, the Landherr children launched an ill-fated attempt to collect money for "Jerry's Kids" during the Labor Day Jerry Lewis Telethon, but for Jerry Landherr's kids. In his wise, yet stern response to such shenanigans, Jerry opined: "great enthusiasm — wrong pockets."

Jerry's no-nonsense approach to life and endurance through grief and crisis was quietly admired by and embedded in his children. Jerry didn't preach or lecture; he truly led by example.

Gerald is survived by his children, William (Pat Kohler) Landherr of Minneapolis, Michael (Sarah) Landherr of Austin, Patrick Landherr of Savage, Minn., Michelle (Tom) Halek of Maple Grove, Minn., Andrew (Betsy) Landherr of Lake Elmo, Minn., Kathleen (Chris) Pierson of Ankeny, Iowa, and Kenneth (Shelly) Landherr of Prior Lake, Minn.; sister Jean Fallon of St. Paul; 14 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and life-long friend John Meany of Rose Creek

Preceding Jerry in death were his parents, Martin Joseph and Margaret Greene Landherr, sister Mary Ann Berg, first wife Marie Theresa Landherr, second wife Rita Ann Landherr, and a stillborn child.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, at Queen of Angels Church

in Austin with Father Dale Tupper and Deacon Paul Tschann presiding. Visitation will be Monday, June 17, at Mayer Funeral Home in Austin from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will also be visitation one hour before the Mass at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be made to the Sisters of St. Francis (Assisi Heights) in Rochester, Queen of Angels Church in Austin, or to the charity of choice.

Condolences may be left on line at www.mayerfh.com

Cemetery

Events

Calvary Cemetery

4th Drive SW

Austin, MN, 55912

JUN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

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Mayer Funeral Home

600 2nd Street NW, Austin, MN, US, 55912

JUN **Visitation** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

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Queen of Angels Catholic Church

1001 Oakland Avenue East, Austin, MN, US, 55912

JUN **Service** 01:00PM

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Queen of Angels Catholic Church

1001 Oakland Avenue East, Austin, MN, US, 55912

Comments



“ Very sorry for your loss to the entire Landherr family. Jerbear was my Uncle, having married my Moms' little sister Rita, and blessing us with 7 cousins. Their whole family became the "Sound of Music" love story to me. I knew he was an extra special good man when she chose him. Over the years he proved to be a very devoted, loving, gentle husband and father. And shrewd investment advisor. He will be missed.

May your sweet memories offer you solace.

Rita McKimmy (Frederking)

Rita McKimmy - June 17 at 07:55 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald Martin Landherr.



June 16 at 01:22 PM



“ Sorry for your loss to the whole Landherr family!

I remember your Dad from my days working at Lakeside Red Owl in the 70's! He was always so kind, especially when my Dad would get my medicine for my asthma when I was little!

He was such a Big Austin Packer fan and so very proud of you all!

God bless your family in this time of sorrow!

Brian Slowinski - June 15 at 05:33 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to the Landherr family from the Austin High School Class of 1979.

Ellen Vedder Kruger - June 14 at 07:53 PM



“ I so enjoyed knowing Gerald my entire life. I had great respect for him and what a good man he was. He appreciated neighbors and did not forget them. When I started my heating and cooling business he was my first customer 35 years ago. he supported us to the end. Always insisted on walking in the door to pay because that was the way he liked to conduct business, face to face like the customers he helped over the counter at the pharmacy. I will miss seeing him zooming down the street with his hat in the wind on his scooter or bike.
My sincere condolences to Gerald's family.
Steve Arens

Steve Arens - June 14 at 07:22 PM



“ Jerry was a titan in Austin's business community and as a humanitarian, friend and overall great guy. He will be missed.

Brian Meany - June 14 at 01:00 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Landherr family. Your Dad was a nice, gentle man who was always helpful at the store and always happy and smiling when I would see you at church. Remember all the good times and know he is at peace with the Lord.

With sympathy,
Barb Severson

Barb Severson - June 14 at 12:48 PM



“ To Jean Fallon, his sister, to his own tribe, sincere condolences from a one-time neighbor of his family, who shared good times with Jerry's parents and sisters when we were young. A Mass intention will be sent the monks of New Melleray in Iowa, remembering this man whose life & losses were stepping stones to reach his home with the Lord.

Bless you all,
-Nick Dinneen

Nick Dinneen - June 23 at 03:08 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerald Martin Landherr.



June 14 at 12:32 PM