

“Big Jer”

The Western watching, Whist Marvel-
Our Papa Bear.

The neighbor who helped with
unthinkable things

The smirk, the swears, loved the music
of swing.

He toiled, he laughed... He made you
laugh too

He was “One of a kind”
And his Kindness bled through

Happy Trails Dear dad, grandpa Jerry,
old pal- though you’re physically gone ,
your legacy prevails

--

I N L O V I N G *Memory*

Gerald “Jerry” Gay

Age 82

June 10, 1940
Minneapolis, Minnesota

December 10, 2022
Alexandria, Minnesota

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 11 AM
Anderson Funeral Home Chapel
Alexandria, Minnesota

CELEBRANT

Pastor Jay Jenson

PIANIST

Kim Byrne

HONORARY URN BEARERS

Elizabeth Wilken Madisson Gay Mollie Schlafke
Olivia Gay Eva Gay Harper Foline Landon Gay
Luke Gay Leif Gay Ella Gay James Gay MaeLynn Gay

MILITARY HONORS

Minnesota Naval Honor Guard
American Legion Post #87
VFW Post #936
VVA Post #235 Rifle Squad
Marine Corp League #1409

Gerald “Jerry” Gay, the son of Lawrence and Pauline (Reynolds) Gay, was born on June 10, 1940, at Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. Jerry graduated from Anoka High School in 1958 and then enlisted into the United States Navy. After the Navy, Jerry attended Brown Institute where he became an electrical lineman for Commonwealth Edison for 16 years in the greater Chicago area. Jerry met and was united in marriage to Diane Gallagher in September of 1967, out of this union, five children were born.

In 1976, Jerry and his family left Chicago and began farming near Nelson, MN. This was just the beginning of Jerry’s entrepreneurism in the Nelson area. He owned and operated multiple farms and he was a realtor/broker, owning Jerry Gay Realty and many commercial and residential rental properties. He also owned numerous food and beverage establishments including, The Corral, Club 29 and Sidewalks Bar. Jerry refurbished homes with his buddies. He was also the Gambling Manager for the Nelson Community Association, and he was the Mayor of Nelson since 2002.

Jerry worked very hard throughout his life, but he also played hard as well. He liked golfing, fishing, watching Westerns, and making an occasional trip to the casino. He loved to play cards. He started Whist tournaments on a weekly basis at the Corral in Nelson; he also played in Whist tournaments all around the country, and he loved to play cards with his children, and grandchildren. Jerry was an avid Minnesota sports fan, especially Gopher football, Vikings and the Twins. He even attended football games in every Big 10 stadium, twice.

Generous, quick witted, genuine, tough as nails, and an occasional sharp tongue are a few words that described Jerry. He loved his family dearly and was extremely proud of his children and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Gerald “Jerry” Gay, died on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at Knute Nelson in Alexandria at the age of 82 years old. He is survived by his children, Jamie (Fred) Schlafke of Annandale, Gerard (Kaija) Gay of Nelson, Julie (Jeff Windschitl) Gay of St. Cloud, Jennifer (Joe) Foline of Minneapolis, and Sean (Jana) Gay of Nelson; 12 grandchildren, Elizabeth (Jarod) Wilken, Madisson (Krockett) Gay, Mollie Schlafke, Olivia Gay, Eva Gay, Harper Foline, Landon Gay, Lawrence Gay, Leif Gay, Ella Gay, James Gay, and MaeLynn Gay; Special friend, Jane Rehtzagal of Osakis; former wife and close friend, Diane Gay of Alexandria; sister, Phyllis (George) Zubulake; nephew, George (Jane) Zubulake; and niece, GayAnne (Derek) Boundy. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements by
ANDERSON FUNERAL HOME
Alexandria, Minnesota

Celebrating THE Life OF



Gerald “Jerry” Gay
1940 ~ 2022