

Chief

Obit. Jay, Gerald W. "Jerry"
5-18-2011

DEATH NOTICE

Gerald W. 'Jerry' Jay

Gerald W. "Jerry" Jay of Eagle, formerly of Mukwonago, was born into eternal life on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at the age of 77. He is survived by his loving wife Sandy (nee Hafemeister).



Gerald Jay

Loving father of Sandy (Bob) Westerdahl, Rick (Cheryl Wozniak) Jay, Vicki (Bob Schneeweis) Rebholz, Randy (Tammy Pridemore) Jay, and Jeff (Jean) Jay. Step-father of Mark (Mary) Kleinhans, Brian (Dana) Kleinhans, and Kurt Kleinhans. Proud grandpa of 7 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He is further survived by other relatives and many friends. Jerry was preceded in death by his first wife, Donna Jay in 1997, and his brother Roy Jay.

After his time with the military, Jerry worked for Waukesha Centrifugal until 1967. In 1968, he purchased Wonago Lanes Bowling Alley, which is now Jay's Lanes. He remained active in the business up until his health started to fail. Jerry was an avid bowler and Badger Backer. He loved to fish, golf, travel, and was known for his gardening and pickling skills. Jerry was a member of the American Legion Post #375 of Mukwonago.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, May 17 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church (211 Main St. Mukwonago) from 3:00 PM until the time of Funeral Service at 6:00 PM. The burial will be held on Wednesday at 9:00 AM at Oak Knoll Cemetery with Military Honors. In lieu of flowers, Memorials can be directed to the American Lung Association or Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

SCHMIDT & BARTELT

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Funeral and Cremation

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Mukwonago

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CHIEF

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Jay's Lanes owner, Jerry Jay, remembered

Jay brought laughs,
advice, big fish

By **ANDREA BUDDÉ**

abudde@jcpgroup.com

The man everyone knew as the joke-loving owner of Jay's Lanes, Jerry Jay, died May 11 at age 77.

"He had a good sense of humor, he could tell a good joke," daughter Sandy Westerdahl said of her dad.

Jay worked in the foundry at Waukesha Centrifugal before starting Jay's Lanes in 1967. It is said that he was

always thrilled when anyone bowled a 300 on one of his lanes. While the best Jay ever bowled was a 298, he still loved the game.

"It wasn't just a business with him; it was a hobby he enjoyed," Westerdahl said.

Grandson Josh Brinkman recalled Jay's love for fishing. Jay enjoyed fishing on the Mississippi River, and would often take Brinkman ice fishing on Phantom Lake during the winter. During those moments on the lake, and at other times, Brinkman said his grandpa would teach him life lessons—such as not to turn an

upright shower into a swimming pool.

"You have to work hard for what you got. That was the message he was trying to send me growing up," Brinkman said. "He was more or less a dad and a grandpa."

Westerdahl remembers taking family vacations to northern Wisconsin where they would fish and spend time with family and friends.

"Dad never caught a small fish," she said.

Jay loved gardening, pickling and cooking.

"He was a great gardener," Brinkman said; he attributes

his love and talent for cooking and gardening to his grandpa.

An avid Badgers fan, Jay held football season tickets, and would take turns bringing people with him to the games.

"He always enjoyed people," Westerdahl said.

Jay was always active, Westerdahl said, with hobbies such as making wine, pickling, horseshoe leagues and dart ball leagues. Brinkman said Jay loved to collect old coins and money. He was also participated with fundraising for the American Legion Post 375 of Mukwonago.

He is survived by his wife, Sandy; children Sandy (Bob) Westerdahl, Rick (Cheryl Wozniak) Jay, Vicki (Bob Schneeweis) Rebholz, Randy (Tammy Pridemore) Jay, and Jeff (Jean) Jay; stepchildren Mark (Mary Kleinhans, Brian (Dana) Kleinhans and Kurt Kleinhans; seven grandchildren, four step-grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A funeral service was Tuesday, May 17, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Burial was planned for today, Wednesday, at Oak Knoll Cemetery with military honors.