



## Gerald "Jerry" Girard

October 28, 1937 - March 27, 2022

Gerald (Jerry) Girard passed away peacefully on March 27, 2022, at his home in Hurricane, Utah. He fought many health issues and became our "Superman" after surviving four different cancers, major surgery, and a broken back all in the last 5 years. He fought them, never complained, always saying "it is what it is".

He was born October 28, 1937, in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, to the late Joseph and Mabel Girard. In 1956 he joined the Marine Corps and was stationed in Camp Pendleton, California. Following his service, he returned to Michigan and became a sheriff's deputy with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department in Pontiac, Michigan. His career there lasted 33 years, until he retired at the rank of Lieutenant. After retirement he and his wife, Shirley, traveled by RV for a year destined to find a life in a warmer climate. They ended up residing in Las Vegas for 10 years, then moved to a beautiful location in Hurricane, Utah where they have been for the last 17 years.

Jerry will be remembered for his wonderful and witty sense of humor, his joy of tinkering in the garage, and his handyman ability to fix anything. Jerry loved trucks, traveling in their fifth wheel, visiting campgrounds, family, and most always stopping at casinos along the way. He was very fond of Miller Lite, Peanuts, Nutter Butter Cookies, and playful pranks. Jerry left a heartfelt impression on all those he encountered with his warmth and contagious smile.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 40 years, Shirley Girard; his adoring daughter Julie Whalen, and her husband Lance Whalen, his wonderful son, Steven; his grandchildren, Anna Girard, Alexander Whalen and his wife Elizabeth, Collin Whalen and his wife Betul, and many dear and beloved nieces and nephews. He was able to meet his first great-grandson, Julian Whalen, son of Alexander and Elizabeth, just weeks before his passing. He also has an “adopted by love & friendship” little sister, Penny, who he was proud to walk down the aisle of marriage several years ago.

Jerry was preceded in death by his first wife and mother of his children, Sue Ann Girard; his brother Lewis Girard, and his dear sister Luella Ginger.

He and his family are forever thankful and appreciative for the wonderful care he has received from his cancer doctor, his Hospice Nurse and all the Hospice and Senior Helpers staff who made his life kinder and more comfortable than one could ever imagine.

A viewing will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., with a funeral at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 7, 2022 at Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah located at 1316 S. 400 E. Suite A5 St. George, Utah. Graveside services will be held on April 7, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at Tonaquint Cemetery, 1777 S. Dixie Dr. St. George, Utah.

# Cemetery Details

## Tonaquint Cemetery

1777 S. Dixie Drive  
Saint George, UT 84770

# Previous Events

## Viewing

APR 6. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (MT)

Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah  
1316 South 400 East, Suite A-5  
St. George, UT 84790  
(435) 986-2085  
mail@serenitystg.com

## Funeral Service

APR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah  
1316 South 400 East, Suite A-5  
St. George, UT 84790  
(435) 986-2085  
mail@serenitystg.com

## Graveside Service

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APR 7. 11:30 AM (MT)

Tonaquint Cemetery  
1777 S. Dixie Drive  
Saint George, UT 84770

# Tribute Wall



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.*



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April 11, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Shirley, Julie, and Steve: You are in our thoughts and prayers. We are so very sorry on Jerry's passing. Know that he will be missed. Lots of good memories to be had.*  
*Shari and Bill Hickok*

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**Sharon Hickok** - April 06, 2022 at 05:07 PM



“ *The last of a generation for our family.*

*Uncle Jerry and Dad were two of a kind - they could be counted on to be scheming something, scrounging something, or just enjoying life.*

*Of course, there were thing like Mom getting pulled over on our way to get groceries, so Uncle Jerry could chat...*

*He will be missed by all.*

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**Larry Girard** - April 06, 2022 at 02:31 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.*



April 06, 2022 at 02:28 PM



“ *Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.*



April 05, 2022 at 08:34 PM



“ *In Loving Memory Friend, Annette Heppler purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.*



**In Loving Memory Friend, Annette Heppler** - April 05, 2022 at 03:50 PM



“ *With love and prayers, Roy and Betsy purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.*



**With love and prayers, Roy and Betsy** - April 05, 2022 at 02:35 PM

DR

“ We were so sorry to hear of our brother-in-law Jerry's passing. We had great times together and have many happy memories (those are the ones that really count in life). Our children, Tim and Julie, are grateful to have had Uncle Jerry in their lives as well.

*As a family, we celebrated birthdays, holidays, family dinners, graduations, weddings and, of course, many camping adventures. We took Shirley and Jerry on their first camping trip in our RV to Amish country in Indiana. They must have enjoyed it because they bought their own RV shortly after that experience! Over the years we camped in MI, NV, UT and AZ. Our last trip together was to visit a number of state parks in AZ. We even walked over the Mexican border to look for a large bird (pajaro mas grande) ornament that Jerry wanted for his yard.*

*When I was an instructor for the criminal justice program at the Livonia Career Center, Jerry served on my law enforcement advisory committee as a representative of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. He was also a judge for our regional law enforcement competition. He was a true professional and his contribution were always appreciated by my students and myself.*

*Jerry was a welcomed and loved member of our family who shall not be forgotten. To Shirley, may the emptiness that you are now feeling in your heart be filled with the memories of the life you shared together. The love Jerry had for you can never be taken away. Hold on to that and know he is with you always.*

*Dar and Dennis*

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**Darlene Reefer** - April 05, 2022 at 08:33 AM

DR

“ *Darlene and Dennis Reefer purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.*



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**Darlene and Dennis Reefer** - April 04, 2022 at 03:09 PM

GB

“ *When Jer' was up and amongst us he could always be counted on for a beer in the garage or to help in whatever hair brained project was planned. He'd be there, eager with tools in hand. In recent years health challenges, for the larger part, have taken Jer' away from us but, on the phone we could still enjoy his eternally positive outlook. I will forever miss my buddy.*

*Gary Bovyer*

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**Gary Bovyer** - April 04, 2022 at 12:13 PM

KG

“ *Uncle - We will be eternally grateful for our many, many phone conversations that always made us feel like you and Aunt Shirley were right across the street. They will be in our memories forever. We miss you and will love you always - Joe "The Big Guy" and Kris*

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**Kris Ginger** - April 04, 2022 at 10:29 AM

DS

“ A big Thank You to Jerry and Shirley for their devoted and consistent love for Mom (their Aunt Mildred) " over the years. They would faithfully and without fail, call her every weekend to just check on her and update her regarding what they were up to the past week. Mom loved this call so very much and it was a big part of the quality of her life in her later years, when health issues for both Mom and Jerry prevented travel for visitations. I will be forever grateful for these phone calls. What a blessing! It was also so much fun when Shirley and Jerry would make a pit stop in Casa Grande in their RV, to visit us, while they were traveling though Arizona, and spending extended time in Tucson. I think of them every time I see a Trader Joe's or 99 cent store, which were both one of their "must go to" stores! Always looking for a good bargain!

Cousin Deb Severson

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Debra Severson - April 02, 2022 at 02:38 PM

TR

“ When I met Uncle Jerry, he was dating my Aunt Shirley and he came by our grandma's house with a candy apple dune buggy that had a musical horn and a Miller Lite beer handle for the shifter, we would go to his house on Orchard Lake road and he would take us out for a ride on the pontoon boat and we would watch the Detroit Tigers or Lions games on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. When we all lived in Las Vegas, Uncle Jerry and I would meet up at the Casino close by and we would have a beer and play the machines and then get a seafood buffet, he loved crab legs. Uncle Jerry was the kindest person, he loved everyone around him and I will truly miss him.

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Tim Reefer - April 02, 2022 at 08:04 AM

JW

“ To my Uncle Jerry – my first memory was of you was pulling up to my grandma’s house in your dune buggy and honking your funny tune horn. I was mesmerized with your zest for life and instantly fell in love with you and that buggy, as did Grandma. I was young, if my memory serves me correct, it wasn’t long after that I was making endless tissue flowers and serving as a flower girl for your marriage to my amazing Aunt Shirley. We have celebrated many holidays, camping trips spitting watermelon seeds at the dog, Shirley getting pooped on by a seagull, backing into trees, propane tanks that might blow—we enjoyed life, laughed and it always reminded me of those dune buggy days! You lived an amazing life and I have so many wonderful memories on Orchard Lake, camping, Las Vegas, and Hurricane. Uncle Jer you adopted my husband Rob like he was your own. No project was too big if there was a cold beer involved! Our house was a constant work in progress because it gave them an excuse to laugh, drink beer and make “necessary” repairs. We loved the times that you were our less than a mile neighbors -- dinner and drinks were so much fun! Oh, cow pie and drinks!!! Grateful for the times we could roll though Hurricane in the RV, share a meal and drinks like old times. I hope you are riding in that dune buggy, hair blowing in the wind with the horn tunes playing!

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**Julie Williamson** - April 02, 2022 at 12:30 AM

NB

“ Our friendship with Jerry and Shirley had an unusual start, with a police officer knocking on our door! Long story, but an even better outcome was the friendship that began after that. Jerry was such a special man who captured my heart with his kindness and love for Shirley and his family. So many visits (we are part timers in Utah) including meals, drinks, more neighbors and "Peanut Time" on our back patios facing one of the best views in Southern Utah. The 1050 Club will not be the same without Jerry. As we'd spend time with our friends, Jerry would listen, laugh and be responsive to the convos but didn't speak up much. However, when he did, it was often a profound observation and/or SO funny! He'd deliver it with the most deadpan timing. Brilliant! I loved that about him. He loved my cooking and I loved spoiling him with my brownies. He knew he could get away with it at my table even if Shirley was giving me the side eye! I mourn the loss of a gentle soul I held dear. My hope and comfort lies in believing Jerry is in paradise with no pain or sorrow. What joy when Shirley and all of his loved ones can meet up with him again. I see him waiting there, smiling and waving with his cold beer in hand!

Nina Borello

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Nina Borello - April 02, 2022 at 12:26 AM

LB

“ Love, Mark and Nina Borello purchased the Heart felt Memories for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.



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Love, Mark and Nina Borello - April 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Nina and I bought a house two doors down from Jerry and Shirley in 2004. When we saw the view we thought what a special place. Not long afterward I met Jerry while he was repairing a sprinkler for our shared neighbor. Thus began a long friendship, get togethers over food and drinks and lively conversation marveling over the view. As we were “part timers” Jerry was always there for us lending a hand, or a tool, checking on our house when we were away. We were blessed to have Jerry as our neighbor and friend. And more so the realization that what really makes a place special are people like Jerry and Shirley.

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**Mark Borello** - April 01, 2022 at 06:50 PM

KL

“ We will miss a kind and wonderful friend...Mr. Jerr and Miss Shirley moved to Sky Mountain about the same time as we did. We became instant friends and enjoyed the sport of ATVing together. We ATVed all over beautiful Southern Utah. He’s probably up in Heaven right now sharing all his escapades. We’ll miss you Mr. Jerr.  
Our love to you Miss Shirley and family,  
Putz and Mimi aka Ken and Carlene

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**Ken and Carlene Livingston** - March 31, 2022 at 07:30 PM

DF

“ Deb/Steve/Kev/Steph & family purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.



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**Deb/Steve/Kev/Steph & family** - March 31, 2022 at 05:12 PM

YF

“ Your Oakland County Sheriff Family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.



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**Your Oakland County Sheriff Family** - March 31, 2022 at 02:25 PM

MM

“ I hired into the Sheriff's Office in October of 1977 as a Patrol Deputy and I retired 3 months ago as the Undersheriff.

*Jerry was one of the first Command Officers I met. He treated me like gold until the day he retired and I always appreciated him as a leader, role model and mentor. He was someone I always looked up to as did everyone at the Sheriff's Office. He was the best!*

*God Bless him, Shirley and the entire family.*

*Mike McCabe*

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**Mike McCabe** - March 31, 2022 at 01:07 PM

JB

“ 'Remember how low-key Jerry always was and how He and Dad were seemingly joined at the hip while joyfully planning and playing nickels together in Vegas. Jerry, please join both Mom and Dad in heaven now. We know how they both loved you and Shirley!

*Jamie Lynn & Julia*

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**Jamie Lynn Barche** - March 31, 2022 at 11:29 AM

JJ

“ *Jamie Lynn & Julia purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.*



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**Jamie Lynn & Julia** - March 31, 2022 at 11:14 AM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Girard.*



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March 31, 2022 at 11:08 AM

DT

“ *When Jerry was in his garage and we walked by, Jerry always had time to chat and get water for our dog, Boomer. Jerry was a kind, relaxed, and fun guy, and we'll miss you friend.*

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**Diane Thoreson** - March 30, 2022 at 11:41 PM