



Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry"

January 3, 1936 - September 1, 2024

Gerald G. Roosen, January 3, 1936 — September 1, 2024 of Livonia. Jerry is survived by his beloved and devoted wife of 69 years, Delphine (nee St. Louis), his sons Richard (Sue) Roosen, Michael Roosen, and Christopher (Karen) Roosen. He was devoted to his five grandchildren (Chris, John, Paul, Tony and Liz) and six great grandchildren (Rose, Rory, Sophia, Eleanor, Matthew and Stella Mary). He is also survived by his best friend of 70 years, Gerald Scott of Sterling Heights.

Gerald George Roosen was born in Detroit on January 3, 1936. His father, Bertram worked at the US Rubber (later Uniroyal) tire factory on Jefferson Avenue near Belle Isle. His mother, Georgia Opal Dees, who worked as a corset fitter in Downtown Detroit Department Stores, was the daughter of a coal miner from the small village of Bulpitt, Illinois. He was also predeceased by his older Brother Kenneth Roosen, who left home at 17 to join the U.S. Navy in 1944. Kenneth was Jerry's real life World War II hero as a boy.

Jerry graduated from East Detroit High School and met the love of his life, Delphine on a blind date. They married on September 10, 1955 at the age of 19 and have been inseparable ever since. Delphine's uncle helped Jerry get a job as a machine builder at the George L. Nankervis Company, later known as Cox Instruments. Jerry quickly rose through the ranks to team leader and then foreman. On Jul 20, 1969, Jerry and nine co-workers left Cox to found their

own company, Testek, in Livonia, where Jerry managed production and purchasing. Testek quickly became successful and later acquired Cox and several other competitors. The company is still a leader in the test equipment industry, 55 years later. Jerry was proud of the men he hired and trained, who stayed with Testek and retired from the company.

From his humble origins, Testek allowed Jerry to live the American dream. He enjoyed camping in the 1970's, and then boating, golf, and snowmobiling with Del and their children and grandchildren, and long holiday weekends at their cottage in Canadian Lakes. It seemed those summers would never end, and we cherish the memories he created with us. He also enjoyed travel with Del and friends, seeing the world on their many travels to Europe and Asia, photographing their journeys with a series of cameras, from 8mm home movies to an iphone camera.

After retirement, Jerry and Del wintered at their condo on Lido Key in Sarasota, quickly making friends with people from across the United States and Canada. He enjoyed golf, walking the beach, and dinners out with friends and family, always as the driver for the elderly and sick neighbors. He was active in his homeowners associations in Livonia and Sarasota, always quick to help fix or repair something for neighbors, or just drive them to the airport. Remembering his humble upbringing, he was known for his generosity.

His Faith was very important to him, providing Catholic education to his children, visiting the Vatican on a trip to Rome, and praying at the tomb of Solanus Casey for healing from cancer.

Jerry will be remembered and missed by so many friends, relatives, neighbors, and colleagues who cherish his generosity as well as his strength and determination to live with cancer.

Visitation Thursday, September 5 at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home,

46401 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with a 7:00 p.m. Rosary Service. Instate Friday, September 6. from 10:30 a.m. until the 11:30 a.m. Funeral Mass at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd, Livonia. Internment at St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights.

We ask donations to be made to the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit or the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit in memory of Jerry and in Thanksgiving for the time that we had with him during his six years with cancer. His dying wish is that everyone get their colonoscopy.

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 5. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Rosary

SEP 5. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

In state

SEP 6. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Colette Catholic Church
17600 Newburgh Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Funeral Mass

SEP 6. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Colette Catholic Church
17600 Newburgh Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Burial

SEP 6. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM.

St. Hedwig Cemetery

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ Im so sorry to hear this. I saw the Christmas card sent to my parents with the news. He was a wonderful godfather. I wish we could have stayed in touch but only wonderful memories. Love you to Del, my wonderful godmother.

Linda Johnson - December 20, 2024 at 10:31 AM

JV

“ Julie V. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".

Julie V. - September 05, 2024 at 05:25 PM

LM

“ Love, Raj, Madhu, & the Mangrulkars purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".



Love, Raj, Madhu, & the Mangrulkars - September 05, 2024 at 07:31 AM

LM

“ Love, Raj, Madhu, & the Mangrulkars planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".

Love, Raj, Madhu, & the Mangrulkars - September 05, 2024 at 07:31 AM

OF

“ Orin & Tina Mazzoni & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".



Orin & Tina Mazzoni & Family - September 05, 2024 at 12:18 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".



September 04, 2024 at 09:45 PM

GF

“ Guenther-Atma Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".



Guenther-Atma Family - September 04, 2024 at 05:01 PM

TF

“ The Atsalakis Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".



The Atsalakis Family - September 04, 2024 at 03:33 PM

DB

“ Dorothy Barnes purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".



Dorothy Barnes - September 04, 2024 at 01:00 PM

DB

“ Dorothy Barnes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".

Dorothy Barnes - September 04, 2024 at 01:00 PM

TF

“ The McCloskey, Valcke&Sonnenburg Families purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Gerald G. Roosen "Jerry".



The McCloskey, Valcke&Sonnenburg Families - September 04, 2024 at 09:35 AM

FL

“ Hope our Lord help you all pass through this difficult time. My prayers and thoughts for your family.

Francisco Fernández de Lara - September 04, 2024 at 09:16 AM

DT

“ I moved into the condominium complex Jerry lived with his beautiful wife Del couple years ago I live right behind them and they quickly became great friends of mine and I got to meet his whole wonderful family and his grandkids and great grandkids over the years. He would always come outside when I was outside watering my flowers and he would tell me stories and his quick witty comments I came to love to hear! Del and Jerry always checked in on me when I had many surgeries in just the few years I've been here and I checked on them always as well. I texted him every night to check in on them. They always welcomed me into their home and always there to chat and laugh. Jerry had a wonderful smile and I would always come walking into the house with my hands held high and yell JERRY hey buddy and he laugh and get kick out of it and I did it up to the end for him and he loved it I also took over to help take care of his yard for him to ease task of watering and tending to his roses for his family when it became harder for him to come down the deck steps and I'd do it all over again for them ! He and Del always asked me to go to dinners with them since I live alone and we did many times to the Senate and three brothers and DeLuccas and many others and it was a blast ! Jerry also loved cats and dogs as I do and we love our kitties his Gilligan and my Boris who always would wander over to Jerry when he was sitting on his deck relaxing and would call my kitty “SASSY”. We laughed . I tried to help his family as much as I could and share my expertise with my knowledge of medications since I am a pharmacist and a doctor and i often just went to sit with Jerry in his room and talk for hours with him and Delphine about any topic and had lots of laughs, I will always cherish that and I was with him most of the day on Sunday with his family and he smiled at me and squeezed my hand. I love ya buddy Jerry always.... I got into a habit when I was outside I come knock on his bedroom window and wave to him and Del everyday. Jerry was a great father, grandpa, great grandfather, husband, and friend and there will never be another Jerry !! I'm sorry you had cancer but you fought so hard and valiantly for many years my good friend. I know you are free of pain and you are whole again and back to your sassy witty personality we all love and miss. I keep looking for you

to come and give me some lip and tell me a story on your deck and you also came down to sit with me on the bench that we share in our backyard and just chat away. Thanks Jerry for being my friend and I will always treasure my time with you and Del and your family forever miss you so much and I hope you come to visit in spirit love you always my Good friend forever. Love Dr. Mary Elizabeth Thorsby (DOC)

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Thorsby - September 03, 2024 at 08:08 PM

MM

“ *Where do I begin to tell of the kindest man, one of my favorite clients as his barber for over 45 years, his laughter, the tears we cried, the stories that he shared with me of his wife Del and his three sons, the dumbest jokes I told him, and he still laughed at them just to not hurt my feelings. Jerry had a smile that could light up the darkest room and could warm the hearts of a stranger if they needed a shoulder to cry on. I always thought he didn't know my name, because he always referred to me as touts. I will keep his memory with me forever in my heart. He was truly one of my best friends and he will be missed greatly. The Lord has welcomed him home. 🙏*

Mikki Montana - September 03, 2024 at 07:00 PM

DB

“ *Dear Roosen family,
My deepest condolences 🙏 Jerry was a beautiful man. He was my neighbor and good friend. Rest in peace my dear friend. We are all here to support the family. Most importantly my dear friend Del, Jerry's beautiful wife. Prayers.
Love,
Dorothy Barnes.*

Dorothy Barnes - September 03, 2024 at 02:59 PM