



Gerald Lee Greminger

August 10, 1944 - April 4, 2022

Went home to our Lord on Monday, April 4, 2022 at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL at the age of 77. Born August 10, 1944 in Fargo, ND to the late Wesley and Amanda (nee Dey) Greminger. After multiple run-ins with local law enforcement in his teens, Gerald decided it was time to harass the federal government and joined the United States Navy on August 24, 1961. Gerald, known as the “F’n Comedian” by his Superiors and “Babysan” by native Japanese Mama-sans, loved to share stories from his time overseas including scrubbing the ship deck with a toothbrush and pranking new recruits. He served during the Vietnam War until he was honorably discharged from duty on June 28, 1963, losing his appendix to shrapnel in the process.

Known to his co-workers and friends as “Mr. Nice Guy,” Gerald worked as a welder for Caterpillar, Inc. before they encouraged his early retirement on December 1st, 1999.

After receiving an Advanced Certificate in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration in 1987 from Kankakee Community College, Gerald started his own business, Greminger’s Heating & Air. He said it was to help supplement his income from CAT, pay down the house quicker and take his family on nice vacations, but it was likely a ploy to share more jokes and stories with new people.

He loved many things, which he would often tell you about at length

(sometimes numerous times over), including his days of amateur Boxing, working concessions at the Moorhead Armory, vacationing with his family, and crafting his patent-pending Grem-Lights. In retirement he enjoyed spending time with his friends at the VFW Wilmington Post #5422, the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #241, dining at the Chickadee restaurant in Wilmington, calling everyone he had phone numbers for wishing them a “happy holiday” for every holiday that popped up in his pocket calendar, and riding around on his rascal scooter harassing his neighbors. Gerald also became known as the “Nickel man”, giving out nickels for hugs and if he really liked you, a \$2.00 bill to buy yourself a Christmas drink at the holidays.

Overall, he was a big guy, with a big personality, who wanted to live his life to the fullest with as many people as he could. He cared deeply for those who cared for him.

Surviving are his wife, of fifty years, Karen (nee Strege) Greminger of Braidwood, whom he married July 3, 1971 in Kewaskum, WI; two children, Jason Greminger of Braidwood and Kerry (Justin) Dexter of Oswego, IL; grandson, Jerald Jay Dexter; brothers, Gene Greminger of Lockport, IL and Dennis Greminger of Maynardville, TN; brother-in-law, Richard Michniewicz of Lockport; and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families. Preceding him in death were his parents, Wesley and Amanda; and four siblings, Dale (Carol) Greminger, Robert Greminger, David Greminger, and Pamela Michniewicz. Visitation for Gerald will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Monday, April 11, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the funeral services at 1:00 p.m. Private interment with military honors will be at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to VFW.org.

For more information and to sign his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Rd.
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
(815) 458-2336
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

Service

APR 11. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
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Tribute Wall



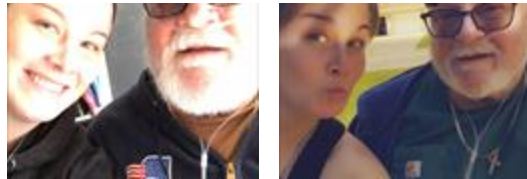
“ Jerry gave so much love to so many people. He had the gift of spreading joy as soon as he entered a room. He truly became like a family member to me and I cared about him deeply... It's pretty rare to meet a person like him with such a big heart, joyous personality and integrity. It really impacted me to live my life to the fullest. I'm grateful to have met him in my lifetime and will cherish the good memories and many many laughs we had.
Rest in peace Step Opa, you will live on through the hearts you have touched. ❤️



D - April 11, 2022 at 04:23 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Ashley Coyle - April 11, 2022 at 11:26 AM

AC

“ *My fiancé and I moved in on Orchard Lane about two years ago. Jerry was our neighbor across the street and he was one of the first ones to introduce himself. He yells from his house and was like hey I want to give you something. He hands me to two 2 dollar bills and a dollar and says here buy yourself a drink, welcome to the neighborhood. I didn't really know what to think of it but I was just so surprised and just gave him a hug and said thank you that's very nice of you. As years went on Jerry became more of a grandfather than a neighbor to us. He would call us sometimes at like 7 o'clock in the morning on a random day just to say hey a neighbor or or even on holiday so I wish us whatever holiday it was. Or come by our house and ring our doorbell just to see what we were doing. Jerry was definitely one of a kind and we will definitely miss him riding his scooter up and down our block. RIP Jerry we love you*



Ashley Coyle - April 11, 2022 at 11:24 AM

TG

“ Jerry was my uncle and in recent years the uncle I was closest too on either side of the family. I can't really recall being super close when I was a kid but as I grew older we would sit on the phone and chat all the time. I've moved a lot the past years and he's always kept his tabs on me. Even when my husband proposed to me Jerry called me right away! I'm pretty sure he was the first to call! I loved hearing his stories even the fifth time hearing it, haha. Truly a man that always brought positivity to any situation. I will miss our phone conversations and meet ups at the chickadee when I'm in town. He didn't get a chance to meet his great niece, "the boobie baby" he would call her. But she knows his voice and I have over 10 voicemails saved wishing us happy holidays.



Tiffany Greminger - April 07, 2022 at 02:45 PM

RG

R.I.P. BIG MAN. WE LOVE YOUR HUGS. RAY AND ARELENE.

RAY GIBSON - April 17, 2022 at 10:49 AM