



Galen Jay Gerken

June 1, 1966 - February 8, 2026

Galen Jay Gerken, 61, of Defiance, Ohio passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, February 8, 2026. He was born in Napoleon, Ohio on June 1, 1964, to the late Edwin and Marie (Hoops) Gerken. On August 16, 1986, Galen married Tina Marie Kunesh at St. Isador Catholic Church Marysdale site, Ney, Ohio.

Galen was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul Lutheran Church -Napoleon Township. He worked in construction for ES Wagner for over 40 years. He enjoyed woodworking, John Deere tractors and cart rides with friends and family. He was known for his dad jokes and “Galen-isms.”

Galen is survived by his wife of 39 years, Tina; children, Chelsea (Dan) Bostelman, Elise Gerken, and Ethan (Erin) Gerken; grandchildren, Dade Bostelman, Klara Bostelman, Garrett Gerken and Grant Gerken; siblings, Eldor (Jane) Gerken, Judy Arps, Edwin (Karen) Gerken, Cathy Mohring, Larry (Sue) Gerken, Mike Gerken, Denny (Lynnette) Gerken and Scott (Connie) Gerken; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers-in-law, Gary Arps and Don Mohring; and nephew, Greg Gerken.

A memorial gathering will be held at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon on Friday, February 13, 2026, from 2:00 PM until the time of the

memorial service at 6:00 PM. Plant a tree or make a contribution to the Arbor Day Foundation. Online condolences and messages may be shared with the family at rodenbergergray.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

FEB 13. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

Memorial Service

FEB 13. 6:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall

EF

“ Eldor Jane, Jennifer, Phil & Family planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Galen Jay Gerken.

Eldor Jane, Jennifer, Phil & Family - February 19 at 10:16 PM

AS

“ Alex & Family & Steph. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Galen Jay Gerken.

Alex & Family & Steph. - February 19 at 10:10 PM

EA

“ Eric A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Galen Jay Gerken.

Eric A. - February 13 at 11:01 PM

KB

“ Kelly & Adam Batt purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



Kelly & Adam Batt - February 12 at 07:09 PM

JF

“ Jayme Arps and family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



Jayme Arps and family - February 12 at 05:17 PM

PL

“ Pam, Shannon, Jena and Lexi. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



Pam, Shannon, Jena and Lexi. - February 12 at 04:15 PM

MB

“ Tina, so sorry to hear of Galen's passing. May your memories sustain you at this difficult time. Mary Bevk

Mary Beck - February 12 at 01:25 PM

LR

“ Love Joan Rauh purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



Love Joan Rauh - February 12 at 12:25 PM

LR

“ Love Joan Rauh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Galen Jay Gerken.

Love Joan Rauh - February 12 at 12:25 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



February 12 at 08:10 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Galen Jay Gerken.

February 11 at 08:08 PM



“ Colorado Springs Surgical Associates purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



Colorado Springs Surgical Associates - February 11 at 06:35 PM



“ Toledo Triangle Fraternity purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



Toledo Triangle Fraternity - February 11 at 01:17 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



February 11 at 12:03 PM



“ Your Butterball Live Ops family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



Your Butterball Live Ops family - February 11 at 10:59 AM



“ Your Butterball Live Ops family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Galen Jay Gerken.

Your Butterball Live Ops family - February 11 at 10:59 AM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



February 11 at 10:00 AM

SF

“ Szirony Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.



Szirony Family - February 10 at 07:07 PM

SF

“ Szirony Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Galen Jay Gerken.

Szirony Family - February 10 at 07:07 PM



“ Oh I am absolutely heartbroken to hear this. I was born on Galens birthday and I always looked up to him like a Big brother. I will forever miss him and always remember him. My thoughts and prayers to Tina and his kids/grandkids. Love, Carol Norden Niese

Carol Niese - February 10 at 03:36 PM

CF

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss Tina and family. May God wrap his loving arms around you all during this difficult time as you grieve. Love you all, God Bless Cindy Freshour



Cindy Freshour - February 10 at 03:05 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Galen Jay Gerken.*



February 10 at 02:08 PM