



## James A. Gerken

February 8, 1946 - July 11, 2021

James Arthur Gerken, 75, of Napoleon, Ohio died peacefully on Sunday, July 11th, 2021 at McClaren St. Luke's Hospital surrounded by his family. He was born February 8, 1946 in Napoleon, Ohio to the late Eldor H. and Winfred (Raker) Gerken. On March 24, 1987, He married Dorothy (Logsden) Gerken in Taylor, Michigan and she preceded him in death on April 5, 2020.

Jim served his country in the U.S. Army from 1963-1969. After the military he worked at GM Powertrain in Defiance until he retired in 2006. He was a member of the Napoleon American Legion. He was an avid collector and enjoyed bowling and golfing.

Jim is survived by his children, Candace (Rodney) Gill, Crystal (Terry) Bucher, Clarissa (Ron) Boyd, Jason (Kimberly) Gerken, and Chandra Krass (Jeff); stepchildren, Renee Simpson, Jimmy (Kimberly) Mehall; grandchildren, Bryan Mengerink, Andrew (Jen) Mengerink, Anthony Bucher, Solita Bucher (Adam), Jasmine (Tyler) LaGesse, Logan Dickerson (Alex), Brendan (Megan) Boyd, James Gerken, Sabastian Gerken, Victoria Gonzalez (Tony), Taylor (Zach) Lange, Alexander Krass and Christopher Krass; 5 step grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren with one arriving soon; 2 step great grandchildren; siblings, Mark (Linda) Gerken, Bernadean Rader, Patricia (Dave) Baylis, Darrel Gerken (Betty), Sandra Kay Gerken; sister-in-law, Sherie Gerken; a step brother and step sister; and 6 adopted siblings. He was also preceded in death by a great grandchild, Ella Dickerson; brother, Leonard; infant brother, Terry Lee; stepson, Steven Serratore; and 2 adopted siblings.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 17th at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon. Interment will follow at Highland Memory Gardens, Waterville, Ohio, where military honors will be accorded. Visitation will be held on Friday from 3-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Northwest Ohio, St. Luke's Cardiovascular Unit, or Wounded Warrior Project. Online condolences may be made at [www.rodenbergergray.com](http://www.rodenbergergray.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Highland Memory Gardens

8308 S River Rd  
Waterville, OH 43566

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

JUL 16. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

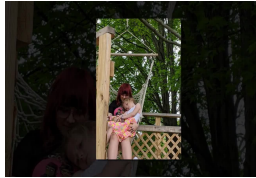
JUL 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



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**Rodenberger Funeral Home** - July 27, 2021 at 04:08 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *James A. Gerken*.



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July 16, 2021 at 02:17 PM



“ *Airmate Family* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of *James A. Gerken*.



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**Airmate Family** - July 16, 2021 at 08:23 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *James A. Gerken*.



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July 15, 2021 at 12:37 PM



“ *Ronald McGhee lit a candle in memory of James A. Gerken*



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**Ronald McGhee** - July 15, 2021 at 11:22 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of James A. Gerken.*



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July 15, 2021 at 10:18 AM



“ *Dad we will miss you!! I will always remember sitting in your truck as a kid at Detroit Metro Airport watching the planes come in. We would sit there it seemed like for hours and watch. I will also remember the time Ron and I and the boys came up North and spent the night up there we were going to put up a tent and you told me we could not put up a tent I said dad we have slept in tents before and you said not up here you wont. Later that night you showed me why we couldn't sleep in a tent a family of bears came into your yard and was eating out of the deer feeder it was awesome to see but a little scary as well. We will love you always and forever. Ron, Clarissa Jo, Logan, Alex, Aurora, Brendan, Megan, and Braxton who will arrive soon. Give my little Angel granddaughter a hug from us!!*

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**Clarissa Boyd** - July 15, 2021 at 10:10 AM

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“ *Alan Eickholt lit a candle in memory of James A. Gerken*



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**Alan Eickholt** - July 15, 2021 at 09:50 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James A. Gerken.*



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July 14, 2021 at 10:44 PM