



Morris Richard Gerken

October 25, 1955 - March 1, 2022

Morris Richard Gerken, 66, passed away peacefully into the arms of his Savior at Vancrest of Holgate on March 1, 2022. He was born October 25, 1955, in Napoleon to Richard W. and Marie A. (Rohrs) Gerken. Morris was baptized November 11, 1955, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and affirmed his baptism through Confirmation on March 22, 1970. He had many challenges throughout his life but met them with a smile.

Morris worked alongside his mom and dad on the family farm in Freedom Township where he raised hogs. He especially enjoyed working the fields on his Allis-Chalmers tractor and would frequently drive to Gerald Grain Elevator to get feed or sell grain.

Morris enjoyed becoming a part of Hope Services of Henry County in later years where he loved bowling and being a part of the Henry County Special Olympics basketball team. After playing on the team for a while, he decided to try coaching where he always had high expectations of the team. Morris was chosen Senior of the Year in 2016. The Henry County Sheriff's Office was a favorite place to visit; and he was proud of his badge. Morris loved horseback riding, baseball, ice cream and always had a Pepsi in his hand. He was a tried and true fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes.

He was a dear friend of Angie and Victor Gaucin and the rest of the staff of COREe Residential who provided him with lasting memories of trips to the Daytona 500, New York City and Washington DC. He had amazing care givers who offered their time and energy to help him live life to the fullest. The family

will always be grateful to the many individuals who gave so much time to him, and most recently the staff of Vancrest.

Morris is survived by his sister, Patricia Basselman of Archbold, numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, and his many friends who will miss him. He was preceded in death by his parents Richard and Marie, sister Carolyn Pahl, brothers-in-law Jack Pahl and Rudy Basselman; nephews Kenny Pahl, Bob Pahl and Denny Basselman; and great nephews, Andrew Miller, Jeffrey Lyn Pahl Jr., and Clinton Basselman.

Friends can visit with family on Friday, March 4, 2022, from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon. Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 5, 2022, at 11:00 AM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Twp with an hour of visitation prior to services. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Memorials may be given to Henry County Special Olympics, or the Filling Memorial Home of Mercy. Online condolences and messages may be shared with the family at rodenbergergray.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery- Napoleon Township

16976 County Road Q1
Napoleon, OH 43545

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery- Napoleon Township
16976 County Road Q1
Napoleon, OH 43545

Funeral Service

MAR 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Napoleon Township
16976 County Road Q1
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall

JK

“ I’m so very sorry to all who loved Morris
He was such a character!!
I remember his smile and how he was so kind
and he loved Pattie’s!! Having people over was
so much fun for him he would tell me it was a
fun night having so many people over!



He’d always be leaving letters for staff
He made such an impact on my heart!
One of my favorite memories was when I took him and his room
mates to Port Clinton
We rented a house and had so much fun!
I will always treasure my memories and I will be praying for your
family.
Jamie Beck

Jamie Kay - March 05, 2022 at 12:22 AM

JS

“ I have so many fond memories of Morris that I’ll always hold close
to my heart. The minute he came into my office and sat down, I
knew I was in for a treat. He always started with, "You know what
I've been thinkin'?!" I'll tell you, I could never guess - but I was never
let down! I'll always cherish the many photos, letters, and drawings I
get to display on my office walls. Rest easy, sweet friend.

JoAnn Dennie - HOPE Services - March 03, 2022 at 09:11 AM

PH

“ *The Staff of Putnam County Hospice sends our deepest sympathy for your loss. We will keep Morris and all his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.*



Putnam Co Hospice - March 03, 2022 at 09:07 AM

JS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



JoAnn Dennie - HOPE Services - March 03, 2022 at 09:05 AM