



## Robert V. Gerken

September 21, 1955 - February 8, 2014

Robert V. Gerken

September 21, 1955-February 8, 2014

Robert Victor Gerken, 58, of Hamler, Ohio died unexpectedly on Saturday night, February 8, 2014 at the Henry County Hospital, Napoleon, Ohio. He was born September 21, 1955 in Bowling Green, Ohio to Victor and Waneta (Burner) Gerken. On September 28, 1974 he married Barbara Bishop at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Hamler.

Bob was a 1973 Patrick Henry High School graduate. He received a Bachelor of Science in Economics Degree from Bowling Green State University in 1997.

Bob was an electrician with Local 8 IBEW for 35 years, currently working for Lake Erie Electric. He was a supervisor on countless projects, and was particularly proud of the Wolfe Center for the Arts and Sebo Athletic Center on the BGSU Campus.

He was a member of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Hamler where he was a deacon, trustee and high school Sunday school teacher. He was the 1999 Hamler Summerfest President.

Bob will be remembered for his constant friendliness. His positive attitude and happy demeanor led to a constant desire to give of his time and share in conversations with family, friends and even strangers. He enjoyed sports, particularly the Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Indians.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; father, Victor; children, Brooke (Tommy) Vance; Kris (Shanna) Gerken; Kurt Gerken; grandchildren, Tommy "LT" Vance, McKenzie Vance, Kaleb Gerken, Skylar Gerken, Klayson Gerken; sister, Vickie (Frank) Dengg; brother, Jeff (Stephanie) Gerken; stepmother, Wilma Gerken; brother-in-law, Mathew Bishop; sisters-in-law, Colleen (Tim) Phillips; Bonnie (Robert) Blake, special nieces and nephews and an endless amount of friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Waneta Gerken; grandparents, Alfred & Meta Gerken; Pearl Burner; and his parent-in-laws, Billy & Matilda Bishop.

Services are 11:00 a.m., Friday at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Hamler with Rev. Tamara Wood officiating. Interment will follow in Marion Township Cemetery, Hamler.

Visitation is 2-8 p.m., Thursday at Rodenberger Funeral Home, Deshler and 10-11 a.m., Friday at the church.

The family suggests memorials to St. Stephen Building Fund or Donor's Choice.

Online condolences can be made at [www.rodenbergerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rodenbergerfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 13. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Napoleon Funeral Home  
1010 Westmoreland Avenue  
Napoleon, OH 43545  
(419) 592-2333  
help@rodenbergergray.com

## Visitation

FEB 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
Hamler, OH

## Service

FEB 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
Hamler, OH

# Tribute Wall

MV

“ To my family it was when I was in preschool he would always feed me in his truck and I would always ask him which way to go and he would point backwards and we always went past this one house with horses and if they weren't there he would always say they were grocery shopping at Kroger .

*Love, McKenzie*

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**McKenzie V.** - July 06, 2014 at 06:35 PM

SH

“ To all of Bob's loved ones,  
Growing up with Bob many years ago was always fun. We always seemed to be playing ball of some kind in the neighborhood. We played basketball in his garage, sandlot football, baseball, whiffleball, etc. We had a grand time and he was a great friend and neighborhood pal. I believe he may have been the one to coin my nickname. There is no doubt he will be greatly missed by all. My prayers are with all of you.

*Steve "Scamp" Hill  
Ashland Ohio*

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**Steve Hill** - February 14, 2014 at 12:07 PM

RZ

“ *Barb and family,  
Please accept my deepest sympathy on Bob's death. We worked together for many years on several different projects and Bob was always professional and a great representative for our company to the customer.  
Bob was a good electrician and would take on any project that was asked of him and do it with a smile.  
May God keep you in his care and comfort you.*

*Russ Zimmerman*

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**Russ Zimmerman** - February 14, 2014 at 08:08 AM

CH

“ *Barb and family, Steve and I are so sorry for your loss. Bob was a good friend to many and will be missed by all. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Steve and Cyndy Hoops Engelwood Fl.*

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**cyndy hoops** - February 14, 2014 at 07:17 AM

MA

“ *I was deeply saddened to hear of Bob's passing. It was my great privilege to meet, and work with Bob a number of years ago. I always considered Bob one of the most intelligent, thoughtful, and energetic men that I have ever worked with. Although I have not seen Bob often in recent years, I will continue to consider him a friend. Please know that your family has been, and will continue to be, in my thoughts and prayers. "Roll Along" Bob, you will be missed!*

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**Mike Aspacher** - February 13, 2014 at 06:15 PM

DP

“ *Dennis & Becky Panning lit a candle in memory of Robert V. Gerken*



Dennis & Becky Panning - February 13, 2014 at 03:31 PM

KL

“ *Kathy & Steve Lieb lit a candle in memory of Robert V. Gerken*



Kathy & Steve Lieb - February 13, 2014 at 11:38 AM



“ *Sentimental Dreams was purchased for the family of Robert V. Gerken.*



February 13, 2014 at 08:07 AM

ML

“ *Dear Barb and family, Such a shock to hear about Bob's death and know he will be missed. Will always remember his jovial personality and glad we got to visit this past Summerfest. Marty Lehenbauer*

marty lehenbauer - February 13, 2014 at 06:55 AM

TF

“ *The Dengg Family purchased the Rays of Light S pray for the family of Robert V. Gerken.*



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**The Dengg Family** - February 12, 2014 at 05:27 PM

GC

“ *May God Bless Your family on your loss we were good friends when we we were young I will pray for you and your familiy God Bless Greg Collins Hicksville Ohio*

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**Greg Collins** - February 12, 2014 at 02:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert V. Gerken.*



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February 12, 2014 at 12:58 PM



“ *Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Robert V. Gerken.*



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February 12, 2014 at 09:19 AM

CN

“ *Barb and family,*

*I am so sorry for your loss. Bob was quite a funny and happy-go-lucky guy! I'm certain he and my dad will be best buddies in heaven.*

*Carla (Peck) Niese  
Hilliard, Ohio*

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**Carla Niese** - February 12, 2014 at 07:53 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Robert V. Gerken.*



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February 12, 2014 at 07:30 AM

PB

“ *Barb and family,*

*We are so sorry for your loss. We so enjoyed when you visited Indiana and loved hearing Bob tell stories. He sure could tell a tale. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

*God bless,  
Peggy and Greg Buckhout*

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**Peggy Buckhout** - February 12, 2014 at 07:13 AM

CM

“ Barb,  
Words cannot express the sadness I feel for your family. I am praying for comfort and strength that only God and your timeless memories can provide. It was so nice to visit with you at Rachel's wedding. My husband, who just met Bob for the first time said, "I can tell - that is a man with some good stories!" I am sure He is continuing to tell stories and ask deep questions in Heaven.

*In sympathy,  
Char (Koppenhofer) Mervenne Jenison, MI*

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**Char Mervenne** - February 11, 2014 at 11:08 PM



“ Sacred Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert V. Gerken.



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February 11, 2014 at 10:29 PM

CB

“ Dear Barb,

*Our thoughts go out to you and the family. It is hard to imagine him gone, and we know that it will be hard for you all, but know that he leaves a legacy of being larger than life by always being friendly, kind, caring and fun.*

*With our sympathies,  
Cathy and Blair Basye*

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**Cathy Basye** - February 11, 2014 at 09:30 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Robert V. Gerken.*



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February 11, 2014 at 04:31 PM



“ *Barb, though we've never met, we feel we know you and Bob through all of the wonderful stories and quotes that Kris has shared with us over the years. We are so sorry for your loss, but I am certain that God will definitely show you the way to smiling again. Just remember all the good times you shared with Bob, and all the love he gave you. He will live in your heart forever, and will shine through your children and grandchildren. You and your family are in our prayers.*

*~Leslie and Bill Fether*

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**Leslie Talkington** - February 11, 2014 at 04:16 PM



“ *Barb and family,  
We were saddened to hear of Bob's passing. As a classmate Bob's long hair in school and his bubbling personality will be remembered by many in years to come. He will be greatly missed. May all of your precious memories help strengthen and sustain you at this time.  
God Bless Ken and Val Schulze*

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**Valerie Schulze** - February 11, 2014 at 02:26 PM

CA

“ Dear Barb & Family, I was of great sadness to hear go Bob's sudden passing. He was was a great role model to me and my fellow student in our H.S Sunday School classes. My thoughts a prayers are with all of you! Candy Altman, Albany, NY



Candy Altman - February 11, 2014 at 12:26 PM

JA

“ Joyce (Bishop) Arthur sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert V. Gerken



Joyce (Bishop) Arthur - February 11, 2014 at 12:15 PM

JA

Barb, so sorry to hear about Bob. I know that he will be missed greatly, he was a good classmate. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of the family. May God hold you tightly in His arms to comfort you during this time of need.

Mark & Joyce Arthur, Chris & Erin Davis, Isaac & Ashlynn Arthur

Joyce (Bishop) Arthur - February 11, 2014 at 12:20 PM

JM

“ Jennifer Siefker and Michael McChesney purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert V. Gerken.



Jennifer Siefker and Michael McChesney - February 11, 2014 at 11:10 AM

MS

“ So sorry to hear about Bob. I was lucky enough to work with Bob on several jobs over the last 25 years. What a great man. Mike Shindorf Local #50

mike shindorf - February 11, 2014 at 10:03 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert V. Gerken.



February 11, 2014 at 09:59 AM

JT

“ Jeff, Mike and the entire Reliance team purchased the Love Everlasting Bouquet for the family of Robert V. Gerken.



Jeff, Mike and the entire Reliance team - February 11, 2014 at 08:50 AM

WK

“ Kris, I'm so sorry for your loss. I lost both of my parents a few years back, and i still think of them everyday. Time has a way of healing, but never forgetting. My deepest sympathy to you amd your family. Wade and Tami Kohn

Wade Kohn - February 11, 2014 at 08:07 AM

RM

“ Barb,

*So very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. There are not enough words for me to express what a great guy and friend he has always been to me. My prayers and sympathies go out to you and your family.*

*Rudy Melchor*

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**Rudy Melchor** - February 11, 2014 at 07:06 AM



“ *Platinum - Angel Holding Flowers was purchased for the family of Robert V. Gerken.*



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February 11, 2014 at 01:05 AM



“ *Platinum - Angel Holding Flowers was purchased for the family of Robert V. Gerken.*



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February 11, 2014 at 01:04 AM

TD

“ *The Family of Steven and Beverly Diem purchased the Platinum - Angel Holding Flowers for the family of Robert V. Gerken.*



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**The Family of Steven and Beverly Diem** - February 11, 2014 at 01:02 AM

BR

“ Barb, Our deepest sympathy to you and the rest of the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Bob's smile, his laugh, and friendly hello will always be missed. May God comfort everyone in your time of sorrow.

*Brent and Sue Reese*

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**Brent and Sue Reese** - February 10, 2014 at 11:14 PM

KL

“ I had recently spent time with Barb and Bob as they visited with friends and loved ones at the nursing home. It was always good to see them and to know that they gave time to people in the home. All of the residents were so glad to see them. I cannot imagine your grief and I am so very sorry for your loss.

*Kim Lange*

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**Kim Lange** - February 10, 2014 at 05:38 PM

RD

“ So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. My thought and prayers are with you all.

*Becky (Spangler) Dew  
Tucson, AZ*



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**Rebecca (Spangler) Dew** - February 10, 2014 at 03:59 PM

RJ

“ Dear Barb and family,  
There are no words to express our feelings of  
sadness at your great loss of Bob. Our  
prayers go to you and your family.  
John & Ruth ( Burner) Jasko



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**Ruth Jasko** - February 10, 2014 at 02:05 PM

LG

Bob was a good friend and he will be missed. Larry Getz at the BGSU  
football staduim.

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**Larry Getz** - February 11, 2014 at 05:12 AM

TS

“ Timothy J. Phillips Sr. purchased the Amazing Grace  
44" Sonnet for the family of Robert V.  
Gerken.



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**Timothy J. Phillips Sr.** - February 10, 2014 at 01:49 PM