



Gerald "Jerry" F. Menke

June 20, 1938 - May 24, 2025

Gerald F. Menke, age 86 of Kearney, Nebraska died on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at Good Samaritan Society – St. John's in Kearney, Nebraska with the peace, love and prayers of his family and friends. A Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, May 30, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Kearney. Father Paul Colling will celebrate with Deacon Thomas Martin assisting. The service will be live streamed and can be viewed by clicking the following link <https://youtube.com/live/4SYrwGjlsil?feature=share> Private family burial will be later. Visitation will be on Thursday, May 29, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the church. In lieu of flowers, Jerry supported these groups and organizations: Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Kearney Public Schools Foundation, (Horizon Middle School), Aquinas Catholic Schools, and Dobytown Kiwanis. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a message or condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

Jerry, son of Aloys (Al) and Clara (Dolnicek) Menke, born on June 20, 1938, the eldest of four siblings, Elaine, Marilyn and Raymond. Dedicated to his Catholic Faith, daily mass and praying the rosary were very important to him. Jerry was known to have a friendly disposition. Whenever someone asked how he was doing he often responded with "I'm Blessed". He was incredibly grateful for his life.

Jerry and Carolyn (Pohlmeier) Menke were married on August 20, 1962 at Sacred Heart Church, Lawrence, NE. They have two children. Gary Joseph, Lynette Marie, three grandchildren, Esston, Connor and Jillian. He was proud of his children, grandchildren and their accomplishments. He was always pleased that his grandchildren affectionately called him, "Gramps"! He was a graduate of Lawrence High School, Hastings College; Masters Degree and Specialist Degree from University of Nebraska Lincoln.

He began his career as a math teacher at the Milford Public Schools 1961-1963. In 1963, he accepted a position at Aquinas Catholic High School in David City, NE. He was a math, business teacher, and business manager until in 1974 he moved to Kearney, NE as Assistant Principal at Kearney Junior High School. In 1977 he became the Principal of Kearney Junior High and later Horizon Middle School. As Principal, the faculty fondly referred to themselves as "Jerry's Kids".

He always enjoyed connecting with former students and catching up with their careers and families. They often said, we just can't call you Jerry, you will always be "Mr. Menke" to us.

Jerry was a member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church; served as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and co-chair of the church building programs. Jerry's involvement with community service was instrumental to his life and faith. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus for 69 years and served as Grand Knight. Other service organizations he was involved with were the Kearney Elk's Lodge, Dobytown Kiwanis Club, Citizen Advocacy Council; Bible Study Group and the American Red Cross, he was proud to have donated 27 gallons! His life was a steady beacon of love, generosity and service; a man who walked humbly and lived fully. He will be remembered not only for the life he led but for the lives he touched.

He served as president of Nebraska Association for Middle Level Education in 1993. He was named the State Principal of the year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 2001. He was honored to receive such a prestigious award and recognition.

Jerry's favorite hobbies were gardening, traveling and playing golf. He enjoyed many holidays in Pennsylvania with family and was fortunate to travel to several countries. Israel and Italy topped his list. He treasured the lifelong friends he made playing golf; especially proud to have achieved a hole in one at the Kearney Country Club.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carolyn; son, Gary Menke and Adeline Bashaw; daughter, Lynette (Brandon) Eyerly; grandchildren, Esston Menke, Connor Eyerly and Jillian Eyerly; sisters, Elaine (Gene) Hansen, Marilyn (Ken) Kaup; brother, Raymond (Carolyn) Menke; brother in law, Virgil Brockman; brother and sister in law, Clint and Lorraine Buller, Gene and Jayne Pohlmeier; many nieces, nephews and a host of incredible friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; parents in law, Bill and Rose Pohlmeier; brother in law, Bill J. Pohlmeier; sister in law, Mary Lou Brockman.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **29**. 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
2407 W 56th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY **30**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
2407 W 56th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall

VK

“ Carolyn and her family, I just learned of your loss of Jerry today. You were my mother's neighbors in David City, and she was so fond of all of you. I remember that she shared so many things about you. Just wanted you to know that your kindnesses are not forgotten. My sympathy and love to you. (Helen Sisel's daughter). Vi Kroeger. Schuyler, ne. I hope that you will see this since it is so late.

Vi Kroeger - September 05, 2025 at 11:16 AM

JP

“ Blessings on the whole Menke and Pohlmeier families, as well as many friends who will miss Jerry Oh so much. I know you have many memories; one of my precious ones is the many Kentucky phone gatherings, Carolyn. I also know you will be gentle with yourself during these transition days. Love you! Janet

Janet Pohlmeier - June 01, 2025 at 02:19 PM

CD

“ When I joined the church 7 years ago and started attending daily mass Thursdays and Fridays, he came up to welcome me. He radiated love and devotion.

Clark Dissmeyer - May 28, 2025 at 07:53 PM

JK

“ Jerry was the emphasis for me becoming a CPA. Sister Edmund gave me my love for math but Jerry gave me the idea what to do with my knack for math.

John Kopecky - May 27, 2025 at 08:51 PM

KC

“ *Typo on purpose. Lol*

Kim Claiborne - May 27, 2025 at 03:55 PM

KC

“ *Mr. Menke was a great teacher. He could relate to us in a friendly yet teachable manner. I'll never forget my first word I typed..."as" He laughed so hard. What a great guy. Thank you Mr. Menke for a fond memory os school at Aquinas. Kim*

Kim Claiborne - May 27, 2025 at 03:54 PM

DS

“ *We will miss a good friend.
Dave and Pat Snyder*

Dave Snyder - May 27, 2025 at 02:10 PM

JL

“ *Deepest condolences to you and your family. Please know that the sadness you feel today will lessen but the memories will be strong forever.*

Janis Lovitt - May 27, 2025 at 08:39 AM

DK

“ *Carolyn, Gary, Lynette and families
So many memories of our get togethers after Aquinas school activities. We would crowd into each other's homes, kids and all, and enjoy the company and the food! It was so good to see both of you last summer in Bellwood. Time may take its toll on our physical abilities but it can't steal our good memories. We will be praying for Jerry's soul and all of you as you adjust to life without him. God keep you in His care. Dale & Vickie Kerkman*

Dale & Vickie Kerkman - May 27, 2025 at 12:31 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" F. Menke.*



May 26, 2025 at 09:29 PM



“ *This is Sharen Wroblewski. Both my husband, Jim Wroblewski and dad, Ralph Roland, taught school under Jerry Menke. They both loved him dearly and he will be truly missed. He was a great principal and always supported Dad and Jim. Carolyn and family, so sorry for your loss. He was such a wonderful man!*

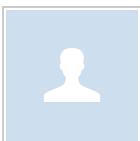
Sharen Wroblewski - May 26, 2025 at 07:12 PM



“ *For 22 years Jerry was Maria's principal. I also fondly remember him from Marriage Encounter. My deepest sympathies to his family.*

Gary Weddel

Gary Weddel - May 26, 2025 at 06:57 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" F. Menke.*



May 26, 2025 at 03:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Jerry" F. Menke.

May 26, 2025 at 03:32 PM



“ Our family does remember Gerald (Mr.) Menke and the years and years he spent supporting our school systems in Kearney. We thank you for all those years and times you gave to all of us who knew you and your work in our schools.
Rest in Peace, Mr. Menke. Carla Brooke and families.

Carla Brooke - May 26, 2025 at 12:09 PM



“ Sending thoughts and prayers. He was such a nice substitute teacher that I got to have.



Tiffany - May 26, 2025 at 12:34 AM



“ Mr.Menke....Thank you. At Aquinas you encouraged and fostered leadership....As our Student Council Advisor you encouraged and supported my campaign for State Student Council vice president. You must have heard my campaign speech a hundred times. You drove our Aquinas student council to the state convention and conferences. Our school dances and community projects are still fond memories...54 years later. Your passion for teaching and student commitment serve as a true testament of service. Carole Augustin Hoyt

Carole Augustin Hoyt - May 25, 2025 at 07:16 PM

LS

“ *Many memories, many joys, and tremendous love always shown to family and friends.*
Lisa Menke Stidd



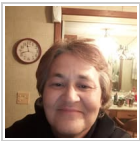
Lisa Stidd - May 25, 2025 at 06:35 PM

JF

“ *Judy Fisher lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" Menke*



Judy Fisher - May 25, 2025 at 06:20 PM



“ *I remember every morning he would meet and greet all of us kids as we came in before school he had a smile and advice he will be misses God's many Blessings to you always*



Lori Stauffer - May 25, 2025 at 12:08 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" F. Menke.*



May 25, 2025 at 11:16 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Jerry" F. Menke.

May 25, 2025 at 11:16 AM



“ *Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" Menke*



Patty Johnson - May 25, 2025 at 09:36 AM



“ *Sincere Condolences to Jerry's family!! Many memories of "Mr. Menke" from Jr. High days!! Thanks for your service to KPS and our community over many years.*



Krista Sheldon-Fritson - May 25, 2025 at 12:11 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" F. Menke.*



May 24, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Jerry" F. Menke.

May 24, 2025 at 10:27 PM