



Jerry J. Blaha

March 23, 1961 - August 22, 2019

Jerry J. Blaha, 58, formerly of Kearney, loving father of two, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at his Belle Terrace home in Tecumseh Nebraska. Memorial Mass will be 10:30 am, August 28, 2019 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church with Fr. Paul Colling officiating. Inurnment will follow the service at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, August 27, 2019 at the Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services, with a wake service following the visitation. Memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

Jerry was born on March 23, 1961 in Tilden, Nebraska to Leora (Richart) and Richard Blaha. The family relocated to Kearney, where he later attended Kearney Catholic High School, and excelled as a multisport athlete in football and was a two-time state champion wrestler. He continued his education and athletic career at Kearney State College and later devoted time to help coach and mentor wrestlers at his alma mater. Jerry's charm and charisma would bring a smile to anyone's face. He had a successful career in Sales and Management and was adored by his company and customers alike. Later in life, Jerry suffered from brain cancer and transitioned his efforts to help cancer survivors in Nebraska. He focused his time and energy on raising money for the American Cancer Society.

He is survived by his son, Nathan Blaha and fiancée Olivia Marks of

Scottsdale, AZ; daughter, Ashley Ryder and her husband Chris of Naperville, IL; his grandson, Jackson Ryder; his sister, Christine Welliver and her husband Doug of Pleasanton, NE; his brothers Jim Blaha and wife Terri of Council Bluffs, IA and Doug Blaha and wife Jackie of Grand Rapids, MI; and several nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father, mother and infant sister, Lori.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Christian Wake Service

AUG 27. 6:30 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Memorial Mass

AUG 28. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Jerry J. Blaha*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jerry J. Blaha.*



August 27, 2019 at 03:02 PM



“ *Candy Kreutzer lit a candle in memory of Jerry J. Blaha*



Candy Kreutzer - August 27, 2019 at 09:23 AM



“ *I remember Jerry from the old Pioneer Park neighborhood and being in grade school together. He was upbeat and fun to be around and I'm glad to see that he kept that positive attitude throughout his life. My condolences to the family through this time of loss. May they know God's peace.*

Mike Osterberg - August 26, 2019 at 10:39 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jerry J. Blaha.*



August 26, 2019 at 08:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jerry J. Blaha.*



August 26, 2019 at 06:55 PM



“ *Was very sorry to hear of Jerry's passing...my thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time...Elly Hansen*

Elly Hansen - August 26, 2019 at 05:13 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jerry J. Blaha.*



August 26, 2019 at 12:21 PM

FS

“ As a neighbor to the Blahas during the "70s and '80s, and having 3 sons similar to the "Blaha boys"age, I watched Jerry grow up from the 4th grade on. He could be a rascal as a kid, but then he would smile, and his everlasting charm was already developing!
Jerry had the potential to be the best of the best, but a terrible disease as an adult,
caused him to struggle the rest of his life. And what a fight he gave!
Now there must be an angel with the brightest smile of all!

*Rest well, Jerry. Your children and siblings will carry on your legacy!
To them I say, Fear not tomorrow, God is already there!*

Fay Sechtem

fay sechtem - August 25, 2019 at 06:53 PM



That was a beautiful tribute Fay, thank you!

Christine Welliver - August 26, 2019 at 10:33 PM

DB

Thank you Fay, you have a way with words. Its the trials we have that builds our strength in God, friends and family

Doug Blaha - August 27, 2019 at 05:42 PM

SF

“ So saddened to read of Jerry’s passing. I had the distinct pleasure of teaching Jerry at KCHS. He was always so easy going and quick witted. Just a pleasure in school and part of a very good family. My condolences and prayers. Steve Flaherty

Steve Flaherty - August 25, 2019 at 05:25 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jerry J. Blaha.*



August 24, 2019 at 09:17 PM



“ *Blaha family.*

I remember Jerry from our Kearney Catholic days and that smile was contagious. He loved to have fun too. Thinking of you all.....May he now the true meaning of peace.



Tammey Elliott Frick

Tammey - August 24, 2019 at 07:40 PM



Thank you Tammey

Christine Welliver - August 25, 2019 at 02:31 AM



Thank you Tammey

Doug Blaha - August 27, 2019 at 05:46 PM

"F

“ *"The Running Gals" (Terri's friends) purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Jerry J. Blaha.*



"The Running Gals" (Terri's friends) - August 24, 2019 at 03:16 PM

JS

“ *Chris, Doug and Jim,*

Your brother will be remembered for the great guy that he was. I know you will miss him very much as we all will. Please extend my sympathy to your entire family.

John Smith

John Smith - August 24, 2019 at 03:10 PM



Thank you John

Christine Welliver - August 25, 2019 at 02:31 AM

DB

Thank you John. I know you know the struggle. God bless.

Doug Blaha - August 27, 2019 at 05:46 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Jerry J. Blaha.*



August 23, 2019 at 04:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jerry J. Blaha.*



August 23, 2019 at 04:32 PM



“ *My first memory of Jerry was in third grade at Central Elementary School in Kearney. My family had moved from Fall City. I loved 3rd grade... I especially loved P.E. That year we had “Run -offs” to see who was the fastest girl and the fastest boy! I was the fastest girl and Jerry was the fastest boy, so we had a race between the two of us. It was a tie! Jerry with his huge smile, smiled at me, and I back at him. Jerry always had a smile and a kind heart too! I’ll miss his smile and kind heartedness.*

Lisa Kennedy - August 23, 2019 at 02:18 PM



Thank you Lisa ❤️

Chris - August 23, 2019 at 07:08 PM



He was one of a kind. Thank you for your memories.

Doug Blaha - August 27, 2019 at 08:37 PM

BM

“ Jerry was such a kind and loving man. I will always remember his beautiful smile and big hugs. He was always laughing and quick with a joke, usually at your expense! I'm so sad of your suffering with your illness for so many years. Jesus now has you in his loving arms and you are pain-free. Love and prayers to Jerry's family, Chris, Doug, Jim, and all his relatives and friends.

Bernadette Manhart - August 23, 2019 at 12:44 PM

CH

Thank you Bernie. ❤️❤️

Chris - August 23, 2019 at 07:09 PM

 Doug Blaha

Thanks Bernie.

Doug Blaha - August 27, 2019 at 05:50 PM