



Gerald Anthony "Jerry" Jerome

April 8, 1937 - May 17, 2019

Gerald Anthony "Jerry" Jerome, 82, of Bloomington passed away Friday, May 17, 2019 at the IU Health Bloomington Hospital. He was born on April 8, 1937 in Medina, New York, the son of Anthony Patrick and Velma Edvice (Passarelli) Jerome.

He was a graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School Grosse Pointe Michigan and the US Navy School of Music, Washington DC. During his naval career he served on seven different naval vessels touring and performing with the Navy Band in Europe and Asia.

From 1960 to 1990 he pursued other interests in business. He resumed his musical career in Indianapolis performing with the Indianapolis Municipal Band, the Indianapolis Symphonic Band, the Indianapolis Chamber Winds, the Barton Rogers Dance Band and the Greater Greenwood Community Band of which he was a founding member. In 1993 he co-founded the Stardusters Big Band. In 1999, the band became Stardusters Music and over the years grew into a network of ensembles of various sizes performing in all types of venues and specializing in the music of the big band jazz and swing eras.

He was an active member in the Bloomington Community Band, served two terms as band president, founded a BCB affiliate group, the Swing Time Big Band and played with the BCB Dixieland group, the Heritage Hall Ramblers. He was an avid downhill skier and with his wife founded the Alpine Ski Club in Bloomington in 1981. He was a host for the WFHB "Golden Oldies" show for several years, general manager for the Dancing with the Celebrities charity

fundraiser from 2006-2012, and a Be More Award nominee in 2018.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 29 years, Elaine Headley Jerome of Bloomington; his children, Leslie (Dave) Turner and Lisa Peterson both of Oldsmar, Florida, Jeff (Kim) Jerome of Bloomington, Michael (Mary) Jerome of Royal Oak, Michigan, eight grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren; his brother, Dr. Dennis (Pam) Jerome of Huntington Beach, California.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant son.

A celebration of life and his love of music will be held at a later date.

Cremation Rites have been accorded.

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at www.allencares.com.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ I was so shocked to see the news of Jerry’s passing. While I had only rarely heard him play, I remember most his efforts to start the Alpine Ski Club. Jerry and Elaine were so enthusiastic about skiing and encouraging others to join. So many good times we had!

Cathy Meyer - July 09, 2019 at 01:33 PM



“ Dear Elaine and Family,
I had the privilege of singing with Jerry and the Stardusters Big Band when I had moved to Bloomington to care for my father around 2011. Jerry was so welcoming (as were you Elaine). He hired the finest musicians and it was an honor to be on stage with all of them. It also was truly a time when I needed to sing and Jerry afforded me so many wonderful opportunities. I am forever grateful for those experiences. He introduced me to many new wonderful songs and arrangements through his incredible library and was a real historian of big band music. They say old musicians never die, they just move on to the big gig in the sky....where I hear there is no set up or tear down, just a whole lot of heavenly swingin! May joyful memories make you smile and the love of friends and family comfort you in your time of mourning. Blessings to you all, Kathy Gibson~Grand Rapids, Michigan

Kathy Gibson - June 24, 2019 at 06:55 PM

PS

“ Elaine and Jerry's Family,

Jerry and the Stardusters have brought so much joy and music to so many people. I was part of the Player's Pub Faithful and seldom missed a performance. I will miss Jerry as will many of his other followers. I look forward to his memorial dance at Arthur Murray Dance Studio. Phyllis Schwitzer

Phyllis Schwitzer - June 07, 2019 at 04:32 PM

MD

“ Elaine,

So sorry to hear of your loss. It's been a rough year for you and your family. You are in my prayers and thoughts.

Margaret Hall Daniels - May 26, 2019 at 06:15 PM

DW

“ Jerry helped me feel welcomed to the community band. I share many musical connections with Jerry. We both were in the Navy School of music, Indianapolis Municipal Band and Symphonic Band. Jerry was a great musician, leader and human being and will be missed. Dan Wiseman

Dan Wiseman - May 24, 2019 at 05:51 PM

GW

“ Jerry was a good friend and a great band leader and manager. I am so grateful for the good times I shared with him in the Bloomington Community Band and its affiliated groups, the Swing Time Big Band and the Heritage Hall Ramblers Dixieland Band. Gary Wiggins

Gary Wiggins - May 24, 2019 at 08:11 AM

PP

“ *Elaine and family of Jerry: Bob and I loved living next to you for seven years, and hearing the wonderful Big Band sounds streaming from your house as Jerry was working. You were such good friends and always there when needed. We send our sincere condolences, and will always have fond memories of Jerry. We hope to see you, Elaine, dancing in the streets again sometime. Love it! Bob and Pat Powell*

Pat and Bob Powell - May 23, 2019 at 12:38 PM

EF

“ I first saw Jerry and the Stardusters play at Out of the Ordinary in Nashville maybe 5 years ago. I was blown away to see a big band.

The second time was at the Bloomington farmers market in 2017. The third was at the farmers market 2018. I started listening to WFHB IN Bloomington regularly about the same time and found a radio show called Golden Age which plays on Thursdays. I had heard (there) that the Stardusters would be at the Players Pub. Never been there. I started to become a regular after going once and seeing them play.

I met Jerry, personally at the farmers market and again when he was at Players Pub. I approached him to ask if he had any interest in a male singer. We sat at a table in the back and talked. He told me I was pretty cocky! I laughed and agreed and was insistent that I could sing those songs.

We exchanged emails and a week later he sent a playlist of 50 songs. Told me to pick 5 to practice.

About 2 months went by, February 2019 or so, I reluctantly emailed him back to tell him I just couldn't do it with my current work schedule. This lost opportunity made me sick and sad.

Today, May 23rd, I got to tune into Golden Age radio as I work the evening shift today. Kathy Romy, DJ dedicated a lot of the show to Jerry. This is how I knew he passed away.

I feel sad today and very grateful that I got the opportunity to meet him. I think we would have become good friends as I love Doo Wop, old R&B and BIG BAND music!

My most heartfelt condolences go out to his friends, family and all the fans who loved his contribution.

Eddie Franklin, Nashville, In.

Eddie Franklin - May 23, 2019 at 12:30 PM

TB

“ So sorry for your loss 🙏❤️

Trudy Bastin - May 22, 2019 at 10:28 AM