

Gerald E. Stinson

March 11, 1927 - August 13, 2024

Mr. Gerald E. Stinson, 97, died at home in Bloomington, IN, on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. He had a full week of visitors, friends, and family to send him off.

Jerry, as he liked to be called, was born at home in Arthur, Pike County, IN, on March 11, 1927, to Etolia Naomi (Swan) and Bart Stinson, the middle son of 3 boys. He learned to read at age 4 then attended local schools, graduating from Winslow High School in 1944 as Vice President of his class. He could not join the military because he was too young; he finally convinced his parents to sign his papers to join the Merchant Marines at 17 and left for California that same day. After 6 weeks of training, he shipped out at San Francisco and traveled the world, bringing oil to military efforts in WWII. He received an Honorable discharge from the United States Coast Guard.

Upon return to the states, Jerry matriculated to Indiana University in Bloomington, where he received his Bachelor degree in Economics and Political Science. He met and married Sharon Louise (McGee) on June 8, 1952, as he embarked on a journey to attend Indiana University Law School. He worked nights and attended school by day, securing his JD law degree in 1955. He worked as a Deputy Prosecutor in Marion County, IN, and later joined the law firm of DeWester, Rafferty, and Andrews in Indianapolis, where he practiced until 1970. He and Sharon were divorced in 1963; he later met

and married Dr. Lillian Marie (Powers) on February 14, 1964, and was married until her death on September 17, 2009.

In 1970, Jerry and family moved to Guam, USA, so he could serve as Assistant Attorney General on behalf of the federal government. Lillian taught 2nd grade. He served in that capacity for 2 years then went into private practice at Shoecraft and Crain until 1978, when he joined Lillian in Fairbanks, AK, where she had gone to be an Elementary Education Professor at the University of Alaska. They lived in Fairbanks until retirement in 1988, when they moved back to the "Lower 48" to the family farm in Cedar Springs, MI. In retirement they traveled in their camper with their pets, visited family far and wide, and made an annual summer trek to Fairbanks and wintered in Naples, FL. After he became a widower, Jerry still traveled between MI and IN and FL until 2018, when he downsized and began to spend summers in Bloomington. When the pandemic started, he came to Bloomington and spent the remainder of his amazing life here.

He finished his bucket list of continents in December, 2023, when he traveled to Argentina and then, Antarctica. His reputation as a storyteller is legend; his penchant for patriotism and active membership in the Democratic Party were his life's passions. His support for public education and higher learning helped many nieces, nephews, and grandchildren achieve their goals. He was a 71-year Mason, a Shriner Noble, and a supporter of all their endeavors. Jerry honestly was beloved by all who met him, a force of nature. There will not soon be another like him.

He is survived by his children: Dee Owens, Bloomington; Bruce Stinson, Greenwood; Dayne Stinson, Bargersville; and Holly Osborne, Trafalgar. His grandchildren include Ben Priest (April), Fishers; Lorelei Woods (Tramell), Indianapolis; Larisa Stinson, Bargersville; Tina Stinson, Franklin; Kayla Stinson, Atlanta, GA; Brandi Ward, Franklin; Hilary Osborne-Nowling (Rick),

Franklin; Chelsey Osborne Kemp (Ian), Morgantown; 14 great grandchildren, and one great-great grandson. He is also survived by his younger brother Conrad Stinson (Donna) and many, many nieces and nephews scattered across the country, from Alaska to New York.

There will be a celebration of life Saturday, September 7, at Karst Farm Park, Shelters 9A and 9B, from 2-6pm, with a program at 4pm. All are welcome to come, eat, and spend time with others who loved this vibrant soul.

Any donations in his honor can be sent to the Monroe County Democratic Party, PO Box 92, Bloomington, IN, 47402, or <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/monroedemocrats> , or to support the Masonic Home in Franklin at <https://imhf.org/support/donate-online/> or by mail to Indiana Masonic Home Foundation, 525 N. Illinois Street, Indianapolis, IN, 46204.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home & Crematory in Bloomington.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.allencares.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 7. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Karst Farm Park
2450 S Endwright Rd
Shelters 9A and 9B
Bloomington, IN 47403
(812) 349-2800

Shelters 9A & 9B

Tribute Wall

AL

“ Jerry aka Dee's Dad (that is how I will ALWAYS refer to him by!) was a kind, smart, and loving man. I am so honored to have the privilege of knowing him. He was a hoot at our wedding three years ago and was such a great storyteller for the table -- I still hear about it. So sorry for your loss, Dee. I know he was your world. Looking forward to celebrating his life with you and all who loved him.

Alexa Lopez - September 03, 2024 at 01:30 PM

AS

“ Loved his passion for life and politics. It was always interesting to see what topic he talk about whenever we met. A good life well lived.

Amy Swain - August 21, 2024 at 09:57 PM

DF

“ Deby Stinson and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Gerald E. Stinson.



Deby Stinson and Family - August 19, 2024 at 04:53 PM

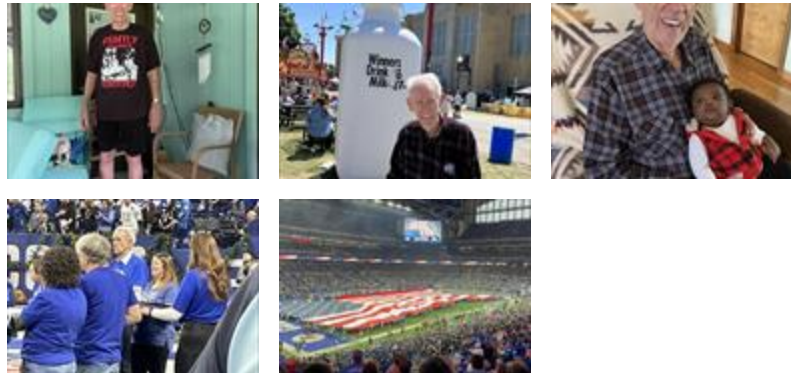
DF

“ Deby Stinson and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald E. Stinson.

Deby Stinson and Family - August 19, 2024 at 04:53 PM

DS

“ 7 files added to the album Pictures



Dee Stinson - August 18, 2024 at 10:22 AM

MR

“ It was such a pleasure to meet Jerry and hear a few of his stories....my heart goes out to you, Dee. His was a life well lived and for that a blessing as well.

Meri Reinhold - August 17, 2024 at 09:29 AM

RB

“ Jerry was the best. My wife and I were so very fortunate to meet him (and daughter Dee) through one of my former church members. I ALWAYS delighted in listening to Gerald's thoughts on any subject, but especially on political and economic issues. I was honored to call him a fellow union supporting DEMOCRAT!!! His life experiences, education and critical thinking skills made him a powerful source of wisdom. Indeed, that profound wisdom, his wit and overall great spirit will leave a huge emptiness in our lives and world in general. I could always count on Jerry for a trusted and in-depth thought on current issues confronting us. May the love of the cosmos hold him in gentleness and peace until we meet again.

Rev Bradford N Bray - August 16, 2024 at 05:32 PM

AB

“ *I will miss getting a Christmas card every year. Prayers and hugs during this difficult time.* ”

Aimee Barnett - August 16, 2024 at 11:32 AM