



Gerald David Oliver, Sr.

July 4, 1932 - June 16, 2016

Gerald David Oliver Sr., 83, of Bourbonnais, family man, churchman, business leader, and sports enthusiast went to be with his Lord on June 16, 2016. Jerry is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jewel Ann (Britton) Oliver, and four children; Cheryl (Mark) Pollock of Oklahoma City, Gerald (Kathryn) Oliver of Plano, TX, Jonathan Oliver Sr. of Plano, TX, and Lori (Darrell) Lewis of St. Louis, MO. Gerald treasured his 11 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Like George M. Cohen's "Yankee Doodle Dandy," Jerry was born on the Fourth of July, 1932. He was the only child of Forrest and Versia Oliver of Centralia, IL. Soon thereafter, the family relocated to Kankakee, IL, where Gerald attended school. He graduated Kankakee High School in 1950.

For college, Jerry enrolled at Olivet Nazarene College in Bourbonnais, IL. This began a lifelong love affair with the institution. He later served on the Alumni Board, as well as the Board of Trustees. Jerry maintained a long-standing relationship with the school, its graduates, and faculty. In 1981, he received an honorary doctorate degree from the university.

He transferred to Illinois State University and graduated there with a degree in Industrial Arts in 1955.

His first job was teaching and coaching basketball in the Mechanicsburg, IL

school system. During this time, he began selling insurance to supplement the family income. His high drive and will to succeed brought success and eventually a full time career in insurance ensued. Jerry eventually became head of sales for the Land of Lincoln Life Insurance Company in Springfield, IL.

Jerry's greatest business accomplishment was as the Founder, Chairman, and President of the Roosevelt National Life Insurance Company. Founded in Springfield, IL in 1966, this firm grew to become a publicly traded company with over one half billion of insurance in force.

Jerry and Jewel sold their interest in that firm in the early 80's and relocated to Denver, Colorado. They both adopted the Broncos as their favorite football team, cheering them on to several Super Bowls. Other teams he cheered include the St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago White Sox, Chicago Bulls, and whoever was playing the Cubs. To be closer to family, they returned to Illinois in 1998 and settled in Bourbonnais.

Active in church work throughout his life, Jerry was dedicated to his Christian faith. He served in a number of volunteer positions including Sunday School Superintendent, District Church School Chairman, Harold of Holiness campaign chair, District Advisory Board and as a member of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages gifts in his name to the Oliver/Granger Scholarship at Olivet Nazarene University or Hospice of Kankakee Valley. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Monday, June 20, 2016 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. There will also be visitation from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at College Church of the Nazarene, Bourbonnais. Burial will follow at All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-2342

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **20**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Visitation

JUN **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave.
Bourbonnais, IL
(815) 933-7749
<http://www.collegechurch.org/>

Funeral Service

JUN 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave.
Bourbonnais, IL
(815) 933-7749
<http://www.collegechurch.org/>

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Jerry.....to this day I constantly use various life altering directions Jerry instilled with me and my family, and never will be forgotten. I know Jerry is up there somewhere organizing and motivating a person....a group. Jewel....our thoughts and prayers are with you. Karen, Larry, Keith Johnson and family.

Larry Johnson - November 08, 2016 at 03:04 PM

FS

“ My sincere sympathy to the family. We have been long-time friends. He was "Best Man" in my wedding July 2, 1950. We will pray for the family, and thank the Lord he is in his glory with his Savior, Jesus the Christ. Our present e-mail address is tworetiredswans@gmail.com. I just happened to check our old e-mail to find this about our old friend from Kankakee. Sincerely,
Franklin Swan

Franklin Swan - June 24, 2016 at 06:08 PM

NT

“ I took care of Gerald when I worked at Miller...he was my absolute favorite him and Jewel were always so nice amd always had kind words to say he will be missed dearly and I am so very sorry for your loss Jewel I send my love to you !

Sincerely, Nadia Terrell

Nadia Terrell - June 21, 2016 at 05:23 PM



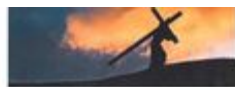
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Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - June 20, 2016 at 01:53 PM



“ 135 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And poor contempt on all my pride.



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - June 20, 2016 at 11:56 AM

PB

“ My great friend MR SUNDAY SCHOOL of the Illinois District was a great encourager in my years of young ministry on the d'sistrict He called me THE JOLLY BLUE GIANT Our District was #1 in Sunday School under Jerry's exciting leadership. One Easter he had a contest and awarded a trip to Jamaica for several on the district that broke records. My church was one that was awarded the trip. He promoted Knock Out 68 in which our district church's were against The Michigan District. I had James Spruce as my competitor and we at Fairmount church won by knock out decision. Jim Spruce later became my District Superintendent. GREAT FOND MEMORIES of my great friend Jerry Oliver I am sure Jerry is busy organizing a new class in heaven.

Pastor James Blue - June 17, 2016 at 07:18 PM

MM

“ Marcia Ervin Musick lit a candle in memory of Gerald David Oliver, Sr.



Marcia Ervin Musick - June 17, 2016 at 04:45 PM

MM

Jewell, so sorry for your loss, Jerry is now with Jesus and has no more pain. You are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time, it has been 11 years that my Leonard has been in Heaven, we will all be together again some day.

Marcia Ervin Musick - June 17, 2016 at 04:49 PM

KW

Sorry Jewel to hear about Jerry. My dad will be there waiting for him, he loved Jerry. I thought so much of Jerry and he was such a sweet man. Praying for you and the family.

Kathy Warby - June 17, 2016 at 10:15 PM

LW

What a man! Jewell and family you are in my prayers. Jerry was such a supporter of us pastors on the Illinois District. I was a young pastor in 1977 and he was there for me in my early years. I have wonderful memories of Jerry. Praying for you all.

Larry :L. Weihe - June 22, 2016 at 08:24 PM