



Jerome P. Kern

September 8, 1939 - December 17, 2024

Jerome P. Kern, age 85, of Kankakee, passed away on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at his home. He was born on September 8, 1939, in Chicago, the son of Harry and Stella (LaPlant) Kern. Jerome married Nancy Smith on July 16, 1966 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. She preceded him in death on December 31, 2015.

Jerome was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in Germany between World War II and the Korean War. He went on to work for Roper Corp. in product analysis. After Roper closed, he became a realtor. Jerome was a past member of Kankakee Knights of Columbus, a member of the Realtor Association, was past President and very active in the Lions Club, and was a board member for the Salvation Army. He enjoyed reading and participating in the family miniature golf yearly tournament. Jerome was very interested in the news and current events. He was an avid Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears fan. He was of Catholic faith. Most of all, Jerome loved spending time with his family.

Jerome is survived by one son, Stephen and Lisa Kern, of Mequon, WI; one daughter, Michelle and Ryan Zettle of Pleasant Prairie, WI; four grandchildren, Jennifer (Peter) Berg, Leah Kern, John Zettle, and Jonah Zettle; one sister, Lavon and Gary Blasey of Clifton; two sisters-in-law, Leora Smith of Bourbonnais and Tricia Smith of Las Vegas, NV; one brother-in-law, Lee Smith

of Nashville, TN; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife, Jerome was preceded in death by his parents; and one brother, Allen Kern.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until the time of the 11:00 AM funeral mass on Monday, December 23, 2024 at St. Rose Chapel in Kankakee. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Chebanse. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to family wishes.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

Chebanse, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Rose of Lima Chapel
486 W. Merchant
Kankakee, IL 60901

Funeral Mass

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Rose of Lima Chapel
486 W. Merchant
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

KR

“ I worked with Jerry in real estate and enjoyed our many conversations when we worked on in the same office. RIP Jerry.

Kathy Roy - December 27, 2024 at 10:51 AM

RM

“ I met Jerry and Nancy through the Roper Corporation days and became friends. The many trips we shared, the flights and other employees at that time have become memories that make me smile. The family has my true sympathy. Rosalind (Demers) Marcotte

Rosalind (Demers) Marcotte - December 22, 2024 at 11:28 AM

LS

“ So Jerry and I go back 58 years, when he married my sister Nancy. There are so many stories of family get togethers and fond memories that are too numerous to share and others probably will. But the true bonding for Jerry, son Steve, and I, came with the infamous road trip we took in a 1939 Chevrolet from Kankakee to Scottsdale AZ, for a classic car auction in 1982. The story has grown over the years, as stories will, with many embellishments, but also many harrowing lows and exalting highs. It was a tale with many “close calls” - will we get there, will we freeze in the mountains because the heater didn't work - can we pop the clutch after pushing it down the road to get it started - making adjustments to the carburetor because of the thin air of the altitude in the mountains, but we kept going. We made it, through teamwork, with trust and faith in each other, without a Plan B, and I think we each took something more important away from that trip than the car or the auction itself. Thank goodness God was watching over us, as he is now, guiding Jerry home.

Lee Smith - December 20, 2024 at 03:53 PM