



## Jewel Brown

February 27, 1932 - February 1, 2019

Jewel Brown, 86, of Bourbonnais, IL and Ft. Myers, FL, passed away in his Bourbonnais home on Friday (February 1). He was born February 27, 1932, in Champaign, IL, the son of Lewis and Eva Gertrude Brown. He was one of 14 children, cultivating in him a great devotion to family. He married his wife, Jacqueline Brown, on August 9, 1953, in Rantoul, IL, and she survives.

Following graduation from Paxton High School Jewel enlisted in the US Navy, serving during the Korean War. He later built a career in the food industry, first employed by IGA wholesaler in Chicago. In 1964 he moved his family to Manteno, where he and his wife established Manteno Foods, Inc. They were in business for more than 40 years. During that time Jewel developed a passion and side career in harness horse racing, educating himself and performing every task as breeder, trainer, and driver.

He regularly attended Manteno United Methodist Church, was a member of the Manteno Rotary Club, the US Trotter's Association, VFW, and was a 32nd Degree Mason. An avid golfer (with two holes in one) and world-wide traveler, he enjoyed seeing what he referred to as "so many beautiful places."

In addition to his wife he is survived by three children, Cindi (Dennis) Reddish, of Ft. Myers, FL, Cathie (Mike) Williams, of North Judson, IN, and Michael (Amanda Cirks) Brown, of Oak Forest, nine grandchildren and their spouses:

David Reddish, Natalie Williams (Phil) Wiseman, Mark (Sonya) Reddish, Nicolas (Katie) Williams, Alex (Lauren) Williams, Logan Brown, Matthew Brown, Erin Williams, Julie Brown (Larry) Arquilla, and great-grandchildren Adrienne Williams, Bella Wiseman, Aunaleigh Williams, Vienna Wiseman, Tristan Williams, Addilyn Williams, Rowan Wiseman, and Elizabeth Reddish. He was also anxiously awaiting the June birth of baby boy Arquilla. His remaining siblings include Beverly Brown, Lewis (Corinne) Brown, Jr., and Patsy (Roy) Elliott. He had no greater love in life than his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents and many siblings, and one daughter, Julie Michelle.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the noon funeral service on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Manteno. Rev. Joy Schlesselman will officiate the service.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley or the Manteno United Methodist Church.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

FEB 6. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Manteno - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
291 N. Main St.  
Manteno, IL 60950  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Memorial Service

FEB 6. 12:00 PM (CT)

Manteno - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
291 N. Main St.  
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# Tribute Wall

CR

“ Mike, Jacque, Cindi and Cathie,

*It has been many years since we've seen each other but I have many fond memories of you all. I just happened upon Jewel's obituary and wanted to share my condolences with you all. I have so many good memories of our years at Kirkwood, going to Florida with Mike, harness racing with Jewel and our briefly shared time at Simpson (Mike). Jewel taught me to water ski, and I always appreciated the fact that you stayed an extra day to see me graduate Simpson. You're old and dear friends to me. My sympathy goes out to all of you. My folks passed on about five years ago and I know well the loss you are feeling. We keep our memories of the great times we had together. Would love to hear from you and know how you all are doing.*

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**Craig Rupert** - March 03, 2019 at 11:28 PM

GH

“ I have many memories of Jewel. Mike and I were best of friends in our youth. Jewel and Jacque always treated me like part of the family. Jewel was one of the hardest working people I have known. Working for Jewel in his grocery store taught me the work ethic I have today. Jewel was passionate about everything he did whether it be work, play, life or love. A lighthearted memory that I have is during a trip to Lake Shelbyville, Jewel was water skiing and got into some rough water. Down went Jewel and when he came back up there was Jewel holding his toupee in his hand. I am sorry that I could not be there today. My heart goes out to Jacque, Cindy, Kathy and Mike. Jewel will truly be missed in this world but he will make heaven a better place.

**Greg & Brenda Hagener**

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**Greg Hagener** - February 06, 2019 at 08:55 PM

CR

*Thanks for the nice sentiments, Greg. You were a much-beloved extension of our family.*

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**Cindi Reddish Reddish** - February 08, 2019 at 10:02 AM

BB

“ *Jacque,*

*To you and your family our deepest thoughts and sympathies. Toni and I have treasured our visits with you and Jewel over the past several years – Santa Maria, South Lake Tahoe, Manteno, Ft Meyers, Fredericksburg, Williamsburg, Bourbonnais, Chicago – seems like there were other places. Jewel would be out the door to welcome us before we could exit the car. Just terrific memories with both of you. Toni made mention, in her Facebook post, about her and Jewel’s political debates – always made me nervous. I think you and I mostly stayed out of it. But, after they had their say that would be the end of it for the rest of the visit. Meeting your whole family on some of those occasions was very special for us. We will miss him. We’ll stay in touch.*

*Bob & Toni*

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**Bob & Toni Brown** - February 06, 2019 at 10:52 AM

CR

*Without question Dad welcomed those debates, Toni! Thanks for your kind remembrances.*

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**Cindi Reddish Reddish** - February 08, 2019 at 10:03 AM

DB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Jewel Brown family. I learned so much while working for him- lessons I will never forget. David and Debbie Brown*

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**David Brown** - February 06, 2019 at 10:08 AM

CR

*Thanks, Dave.*

**Cindi Reddish Reddish** - February 08, 2019 at 10:04 AM

KW

“*Jewel was a huge booster for the community of Manteno. He was a big supporter of the high school basketball team. He also helped the first grade classes learn about Earth Day by supplying each student with paper grocery bags, that the children decorated, and then used them in his grocery store to bag groceries. The first graders were so pleased when someone got his or her decorated bag. This went on for a number of years. We both send our prayers to his whole family. We will miss his smile. He is leaving quite a legacy for Jackie, his children, his grandchildren, and his great grandchildren.*”

**Ken & Barb Wenzel** - February 05, 2019 at 05:57 PM

CR

*Thanks, Ken and Barb. Dad was so very fond of you both.*

**Cindi Reddish Reddish** - February 08, 2019 at 10:04 AM

TM

“*Some of my best childhood memories, from a toddler through high school, was with Jacque and Jewel. We grew up across the street. I played a lot of basketball until after dark with Mike in their drive way, flashlight tag with all the neighborhood kids, saw the 85 Bears with them and worked for them many times. Cindy and Kathy were always like my older sisters that I adored. Jewel was always a no nonsense hard worker, a kind neighbor, who I loved and was terrified of at the same time. I am so sorry not to be able to see you all tomorrow, but please know you are all in my hearts and will forever be in my memories.*”



**Tonia OKeefe Morez** - February 05, 2019 at 02:20 PM

CR

*Growing up with you in the neighborhood was the best! Thanks for sharing your memories.*

Cindi Reddish Reddish - February 08, 2019 at 10:05 AM



“ 100 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - February 04, 2019 at 03:12 PM

JO

“ *To Jewel Brown Family sending you my deepest sympathies. Mr. Brown was my first boss when I started working in high school at Manteno Food. He taught me how to work hard during my years working under him and I will always be grateful for the opportunity he gave me and the lessons he taught me. He was always smiling and always so welcoming. Even years later as I got older when I would see him and Jackie in town they always would stop and talk and catch up. You will be missed.*

Jenny O'Reilly - February 04, 2019 at 02:39 PM

CH

“ Sending thoughts and prayers to all of you. I worked for Jewel for over 13 years at the grocery store. As one of his long time employees, he took such good care of me over the years. Even after I took a new job he would still stop in and visit me there whenever he was in Manteno. We would catch up on life and family for a few minutes, give him a hug and off he would go! Jewel truly was one of a kind, he had a great passion and love for work and life. I will always remember his kindness and generosity to me.

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**Carla Hilbert** - February 04, 2019 at 11:54 AM

GW

“ The Brown family our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you. Gerry and Cindy Von Wahlde



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**gerry von wahlde** - February 04, 2019 at 08:20 AM

DL

“ My deepest condolences to the Brown family. I grew up in Manteno when it was small enough to know everyone in town. Jewel played an important roll in the community by demonstrating generosity, leadership and accountability. Only fond memories.

*David Lamore*

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**David Lamore** - February 03, 2019 at 08:05 PM

IL

“ Words cannot express my sadness. May the comfort of God help You through this difficult time.

*With our love and deepest sympathy as we remember Jewel .*

*Ilmeda & Ricardas Sabaliauskas*



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**Ilmeda** - February 03, 2019 at 11:40 AM



“ *Wildflower Seeds - Build A Memory Garden was purchased for the family of Jewel Brown.*



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February 03, 2019 at 02:01 AM

BF

“ *Denny and Cindi: wish we could be with you at such a difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Bob and Mary Ann*

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**Bob & Mary Ann Ford** - February 02, 2019 at 01:59 PM

MP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Loved playing golf with jewel he will be sadly missed. Mike and Val Palmateer*

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**Mike Palmateer** - February 02, 2019 at 01:57 PM

KN

“ Our sympathy to you and your family. We are not in Manteno to give you a personal hug, but be assured you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Jewel was always such a kind and caring person. He will certainly be missed.

*Kevin & Janis Nugent.*

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**Kevin & Janis Nugent** - February 02, 2019 at 10:09 AM