



John Edward Gerard

March 6, 1936 - July 6, 2021

John Edward Gerard died on July 6, 2021 at Citadel Care Center of Kankakee. Visitation will be held on Friday, July 9 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee, with the Holy Rosary to be prayed at 7:30 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Rose of Lima Chapel in Kankakee by Father Andrew Clyne on July 10 at 10:30 a.m., followed by burial at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Kankakee. Memorials may be made for Masses.

Mr. Gerard was born on his family's farm in Aroma Township, Kankakee County, on March 6, 1936, the youngest child and only son of John E. Gerard and Sarah Lucille Flatt. He received new life in Christ through baptism on May 24, 1936, at St. Patrick Church in Kankakee. In addition to his parents, Mr. Gerard was predeceased by sisters Evelyn Marie Davis, Dorothy Ann Barber and Sarah Jane Martinez.

Mr. Gerard married the former Betty Mae Robbins, who survives him, at St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Church in Kankakee on June 11, 1960. The couple had four children: Robin E. Gerard (deceased), David J. Gerard of Kankakee, Debra A. (Robert) Heinlein of Crown Point, Ind., and John M. (Cindy) Gerard of Fort Myers, Fla. Mr. Gerard also is survived by two grandsons: Michael R. (Gretchen) Heinlein of Fort Wayne, Ind., and John E. Gerard of Fort Myers, Fla.; two great-grandchildren: Joseph G. Heinlein and

Anne T. Heinlein of Fort Wayne, Ind.; many sisters and brothers in-law, nieces and nephews, and former colleagues and friends.

Mr. Gerard proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958-61. He joined the Kankakee Police Department on July 1, 1961, where served for nearly 35 years. Mr. Gerard quickly rose through the ranks and in 1974 was named Kankakee's Assistant Chief of Police and later Deputy Chief of Police in 1985. For a time, he served as acting police chief before his retirement from the department in 1995. During his time at the department, Mr. Gerard helped establish the Kankakee Junior Police Academy, the S.W.A.T. team and the Kankakee Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (KAMEG), and organized many charitable endeavors on behalf of the police department. Over the years, Mr. Gerard represented the police department at many professional shooting competitions and took home several awards. He fired his gun on duty only 2 or 3 times in his career, once to save the life of Sgt. Robert Pepin.

In his retirement, Mr. Gerard stayed active in the community, including several years providing security at Peoples Bank of Kankakee. For over 40 years, Mr. Gerard served as a mentor and coach to dozens of young people at his Gold Star Gym Boxing Club in Kankakee, several of whom were champions in the Chicago Golden Gloves and a few who went on to fight professionally. He was a lifelong fan of St. Louis Cardinals baseball.

Please pray for the repose of his soul and that he be at peace in Jesus Christ as he awaits the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

2000 E. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 9. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

JUL 10. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

EB

“ You were and always will be a great person. In my eyes, your an ICON. When advice was needed, you gave it. If an empathetic ear was the main inquiry, yours was it. If an accomplishment was reached, you were there to congratulate. And now, when the thought arises, it's your face/voice that's present. A very positive individual with whom our higher power/ god/ faith is happy with and accepting.

Eddie Brooks - October 11, 2021 at 07:44 PM

KC

“ I met Chief Gerard when he first established Gold Star Gym in 1980. Though polar opposites in many ways, we came to know and respect each other due mostly to our interest in the Sport. Gained my utmost respect for His Courage in handling the most difficult jobs while serving the public. We know the people of Kankakee could depend on him in the most difficult of circumstances where his Courage never failed him. John became like a brother to me, even closer than than that. I'm going to miss him terribly.
Michael Kim Crawford

Kim Crawford - July 10, 2021 at 09:49 AM

AN

“ Arthur Nickens lit a candle in memory of John Edward Gerard



Arthur Nickens - July 10, 2021 at 01:25 AM

ER

“ Sorry to hear this my condolences to the family, it was an honor to have worked alongside John back in the early KAMEG days.

Ernie Richardson - July 09, 2021 at 10:06 AM

VI

“ My dad, Lt. Dave McClintock used to call John "Big Budda" I remember him as a kid, back in the day when all the cops would get together with their families. Rest in peace John. Deepest sympathies to the entire family.

Vicki McClintock Senesac

Vicki - July 08, 2021 at 09:20 PM

DA

“ Jester and Cindy,
I never knew your Dad, but, Mose did so I knew he had to be pretty special. Because I am out of town I will be unable to attend the wake or funeral. Sorry that I will not get a chance to see the both of you.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Dolores Arseneau

Dolores Arseneau - July 08, 2021 at 05:24 PM

PN

“ I started working out in Doc’s gym when I was in seventh grade. He was the main reason I became a police officer. I had great respect for him and always will. My workouts in the old gym were 2 hours long. The first hour actually working out and the last hour B.S. ing with him.

He loved this country and did a great deal for the community, never seeking the limelight or attention.

He was a great man and I was fortunate to have in my life.

I will miss him. God bless the Gerard family.

May his memory be eternal.

Peter Nicholos - July 08, 2021 at 04:16 PM

DF

“ john and i were kids together and he went by the name jack we spent a lot of time at the house on maple st and helped his friend farm and we done some hunting also we were good guys i worked with jack as was a police officer on kankakee pd he was always good to work with we will miss him. dennis flowers

DENNIS FLOWERS - July 07, 2021 at 10:26 PM

RA

“ The undisputed King of the Kankakee Police. A legend for all officers who knew him. We will never see his likes again. Sincerely, Retired LT from a neighboring area

randy - July 07, 2021 at 09:21 PM

PF

“ My sincere sympathy to the Gerard family. May you find peace, comfort, and strength in the Lord.

Patricia Fisher - July 07, 2021 at 03:01 PM

RR

“ Deputy Chief Gerard was certainly 'One of a Kind.' He would give me hell for being a "Navy Swabby" while I got his goat by calling him a "Jarhead" (Navy term for Marine.) We would butt heads occasionally, yet there was never any doubt who was in charge; which he would remind me of.....

Ron Rimi, LT, Kankakee City Police, Retired.

Ronald J. Rimi - July 07, 2021 at 02:52 PM



“ My late husband, Lt. Robert LeClair, Sheriffs Dept Deputy, thought highly of John, and his involvement in the community. Bob was also a United States Marine! So, from the LeClair family, semper fi!! May your precious memories warm your hearts.

Barbara Lee - July 07, 2021 at 01:48 PM

DO

“ You are my uncle and Godfather. I always looked forward to the times that we were all together. Many memories. My mother was very proud of you. She spoke so highly of you. You will be missed. Prayers for David, Debra, Johnny and all the family and friends. Love you. Dorothy

Dorothy - July 07, 2021 at 09:51 AM

VD

“ Virginia R Dominick lit a candle in memory of John Edward Gerard



Virginia R Dominick - July 07, 2021 at 09:45 AM

JR

“ John was the best possible example of what those who wear the badge should be. A fine man respected by all. All my sympathy to his family in this time of lose. "Another Old Marine Going Home".

Jim Puswaskie, LtCol retired - July 06, 2021 at 07:18 PM

JM

“ John was my Brother in-law. A great man who loved God and his Country and his family. A great role model for all to follow. I am proud and Blessed to call him my friend also. Rest In Peace John. Till we meet . Again. Joan Mullen

Joan Mullen - July 06, 2021 at 04:55 PM