



Jerry C. Kranz

November 28, 1950 - March 5, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Jerry Clemens Kranz on March 5, 2025, at the age of 74. Born and raised in Harbor Beach, Michigan, he was the son of the late Clemens “Tim” and Lillian Kranz. He was a lifelong member of the Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic church.

Jerry was the beloved husband of Elaine (Essenmacher) of 55 years and the cherished father of Noelle (Rick) Essig, Jesse (Kelly) Kranz and Jason Kranz. He was the loving grandfather of Hannah (Ben), Andrew, Kyle, Audrey, John, Steven, Grant, Zach and Griffen. He was the dear brother to Theresa (Art) Satchell, Nancy (Steve) Capling and Robert (Kathy) Kranz, and brother-in-law to Marlene (Ron) Kirsch, Joan (Jim) Sanseverino, Jerry (Yvonne) Essenmacher, Nancy (John) Beniecke, Jean (Herb) Holdwick and the late Paul (Carol) Essenmacher.

Jerry had a magical way of leaving a lasting impression on everyone he met. His warmth and genuine spirit made him unforgettable to all who had the privilege of crossing his path.

Jerry had many passions throughout the various phases of his life. As a young boy, he loved sports playing baseball, basketball, and fishing. He was a competitor at heart and loved a good game of euchre, never hesitating to “go alone” on nothing more than two trump. Jerry’s first job was at Sandman’s

Grocery, where he had fond memories of stocking shelves and helping customers.

He graduated from Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic High School, where he met the love of his life Elaine. They were born two days apart and their mothers shared a hospital room. Jerry and Elaine were destined to be together. Through 55 years of marriage, they thoroughly enjoyed being together. He affectionately called her “my bride” throughout his life and we all knew his deep love for her.

Jerry spent many hours as a young adult in bowling and softball leagues. The many times spent at the ball fields formed a bond with the players and their families which are forever treasured.

In his 30s, Jerry became an avid fisherman with his first boat, “Black Beauty,” and his upgrade to “Special K.” He spent many early mornings and late evenings with his sons trying to catch the “big one.” Growing up just blocks from the shores of Lake Huron, Jerry loved the water and the peaceful escape it provided.

In his 40’s and 50’s, Jerry developed a huge passion for golf. As a member of Verona Hills Golf Club, he participated in numerous golf leagues, and tournaments, and enjoyed the time spent teasing and joking with friends. He was fortunate to have hit two hole-in-ones in his lifetime and was very proud of this.

In his later years, Jerry loved traveling to Florida to escape the cold winters. His wife, always by his side, valued the friendships they made. He was a lifelong Tigers and Lions fan, and this season gave him great joy.

Even though Jerry’s passions through his life changed, the common thread

was that he loved people. He valued his friendships and you were a lucky one if he was in your circle. His quick wit, and funny jokes (even if sometimes inappropriate), were to provide joy to others.

Jerry worked for GTE, now Verizon, for over 35 years, climbing poles and fixing people's phones. He worked hard to provide for his family. He took an early retirement option and worked a variety of jobs where he enjoyed interacting with others.

Jerry created a beautiful legacy with his children and grandchildren. He loved when the grandkids came to visit, putting them on the tractors at Uncle Jay's, playing in the annual Kranz Cup golf outing, followed by smores by campfire with games and stories that will be treasured forever. He enjoyed the Minute to Win it games at Christmas and cherished time together. He had tremendous pride in his family and enjoyed sharing their accomplishments. Jerry will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Visitation will be Friday, March 7th, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, with a Prayer Service and Sharing of Memories at 7:00 p.m. at Ramsey Funeral Home. Visitation will also be on Saturday, March 8th, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, followed by an 11:00 am mass, at Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church in Harbor Beach. Donations can be made to Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic School.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 5:00 PM (ET)

Ramsey Funeral Home, Inc
425 State St
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3407
<https://www.ramseyfh.com>

Sharing of Memories

MAR 7. 7:00 PM (CT)

Ramsey Funeral Home, Inc
425 State St
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3407
<https://www.ramseyfh.com>

Visitation

MAR 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church
Harbor Beach, MI 48441

Funeral Mass

MAR 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church
413 S 1st St
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3393

Tribute Wall

SE

“ I honestly don't think I ever met or had a conversation with Jerry. But I met and knew his whole sweet family, so I guess you could say I knew him indirectly, via his influence. My sincere condolences to you.

Stephen Elandt - March 10, 2025 at 07:58 PM

LF

“ Love, Tribul Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.



Love, Tribul Family - March 08, 2025 at 10:20 AM

TF

“ The Shubnell Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry C. Kranz.

The Shubnell Family - March 07, 2025 at 08:19 PM

DK

“ My sincere condolences to Elaine and all of the family on Jerry's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Denise Kish



Denise Kish - March 07, 2025 at 04:32 PM

JW

“ Our condolences and prayers are with the Kranz family.



Joan Woodward - March 07, 2025 at 04:07 PM

LF

“ Love, The LaHaie Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.



Love, The LaHaie Family - March 07, 2025 at 11:38 AM

LF

“ Love, The LaHaie Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry C. Kranz.

Love, The LaHaie Family - March 07, 2025 at 11:38 AM

LF

“ Laura Beneicke-Campbell and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.



Laura Beneicke-Campbell and Family - March 07, 2025 at 11:23 AM

LF

“ *Laura Beneicke-Campbell and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry C. Kranz.*

Laura Beneicke-Campbell and Family - March 07, 2025 at 11:23 AM

WB

“ *Jerry’s love for family, people and the Michigan State athletics will remain in with me. His competitive spirit at Orange Manor West was always fun. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.*

Wanda Mills and Bob Brileya - March 07, 2025 at 08:54 AM

TF

“ *The Elezaj Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.*



The Elezaj Family - March 07, 2025 at 08:17 AM

TF

“ *The Elezaj Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry C. Kranz.*

The Elezaj Family - March 07, 2025 at 08:17 AM

TD

“ *The WBHS Counseling Department purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.*



The WBHS Counseling Department - March 07, 2025 at 07:18 AM

AM

“ *My sincere condolences to the family.*
Amy Potter



Amy - March 06, 2025 at 08:45 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.*



March 06, 2025 at 07:46 PM

DD

“ *Debra & David Duane planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry C. Kranz.*

Debra & David Duane - March 06, 2025 at 05:26 PM

DO

“ Duke & Stella Osentoski lit a candle in memory of Jerry C. Kranz



Duke & Stella Osentoski - March 06, 2025 at 05:15 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.



March 06, 2025 at 04:29 PM

TL

“ Tina Learman lit a candle in memory of Jerry C. Kranz



Tina Learman - March 06, 2025 at 03:59 PM

LP

“ Linda Schornack Peoples lit a candle in memory of Jerry C. Kranz



Linda Schornack Peoples - March 06, 2025 at 02:15 PM

MG

“ *My Deepest Sympathy Elaine Barb Gorney lit a candle in memory of Jerry C. Kranz*



My deepest sympathy Elaine Barb Gorney - March 06, 2025 at 01:43 PM

LM

“ *Larry & Marcie Melton purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.*



Larry & Marcie Melton - March 06, 2025 at 11:19 AM

MS

“ *Mick And Marge Schott lit a candle in memory of Jerry C. Kranz*



Mick and Marge Schott - March 06, 2025 at 11:17 AM

JF

“ *Jean and Herb Holdwick family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry C. Kranz.*

Jean and Herb Holdwick family - March 06, 2025 at 11:08 AM

MM

“ *Mark, Jill and Cole Murray planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry C. Kranz.*

Mark, Jill and Cole Murray - March 06, 2025 at 10:31 AM

BH

“ *Bonnie Hurren lit a candle in memory of Jerry C. Kranz*



Bonnie Hurren - March 06, 2025 at 09:50 AM

TC

“ *The Family of Roger D. Collins purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.*



The Family of Roger D. Collins - March 06, 2025 at 09:49 AM

TC

“ *The Family of Roger D. Collins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry C. Kranz.*

The Family of Roger D. Collins - March 06, 2025 at 09:49 AM

NF

“ Nancy and John Beneicke family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Jerry C. Kranz.



Nancy and John Beneicke family - March 06, 2025 at 09:11 AM

NF

“ Nancy and John Beneicke family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry C. Kranz.

Nancy and John Beneicke family - March 06, 2025 at 09:11 AM