



Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaft

November 3, 1945 - December 6, 2024

KLAFT, Gerlyn Ann "Gerrie". Passed peacefully on December 6, 2024 at the age of 79 in her sleep surrounded by her husband Ken and her children. Gerrie was greeted in heaven by her son Don with open arms. Beloved wife of Ken. Loving mother of David (Cindy) Klaft, Donna (Dave) Finzel, Deborah "Debbie" Klaft, and the late Donald (the late Lisa) Klaft who both passed away on Flight #255. Proud and adored grandmother of Christopher (Courtney) Klaft and Adam Finzel. Dear sister of the late Phil (Janet) Kaley, the late Jackie (Paul) Brown, Cindy (Ray) Raymon, Lynn (Gary) LaBonte, and Chris (Judy) Kaley. Treasured aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Tribute to Gerrie: A Love Story

Gerrie grew up on Detroit's east side, on 3 Mile Drive near Mack Ave. It was here that she first met her husband, Ken, through her brother Phil. The boys would gather to play street sports on 3 Mile Drive, and afterward, they'd hang around Phil's house. It was during these gatherings that Ken and Gerrie's teenage love story began - one that lasted for 62 years and will continue even after Ken's passing.

Throughout her life, Gerrie was blessed with many friends, but her childhood friendship with Geri and Cheryl was particularly special. Their bond lasted through the years, sharing countless laughs, memories, secrets, and good

times. Gerrie's kindness, genuine spirit, and infectious happiness drew people to her. She was easy to love, and she loved easily in return.

Family was everything to Gerrie. She took immense pride in watching her four children grow, and her joy was in hosting get-togethers - any excuse to bring family and friends together. Her home was always filled with warmth, love, and laughter.

Gerrie had a deep connection to the outdoors. She loved gardening, sewing, and boating, but most of all, she loved sharing these experiences with Ken. Whether helping with yard work, working in the woods, preparing for hunting camp, or painting one of their many projects, they did everything together. At Grand Lake, her first question upon arrival was always, "Are we going fishing today?" She especially loved ice fishing.

A generous soul, Gerrie was passionate about giving back to others. She donated to many charities, with a special place in her heart for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Wounded Warriors.

Animals also held a special place in her heart. She couldn't resist stopping to pet a stray cat or dog she encountered. Up north in Michigan, she delighted in feeding peanuts to chipmunks, watching the deer, and admiring the birds - especially the hummingbirds that visited her property. The wildlife around her was a constant source of joy.

Above all, Gerrie was Ken's love, his partner, and his best friend for 62 beautiful years. Together, they built a life and a family that many can only dream of. Their love was steadfast, and it created a legacy of warmth, kindness, and devotion that will be cherished forever.

Gerrie will be deeply missed, but her spirit - her kindness, love, and laughter -

will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

Visitation Wednesday from 3-8pm with a 7pm Scripture Service at Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc., 54880 Van Dyke at 25 Mile (SHELBY TOWNSHIP).
Funeral Thursday Instate from 9:30am until 10am Mass at St. Kieran Church, 53600 Mound Rd. (Btw 24 & 25 Mile) Shelby Twp., 48316. Memorial contributions are appreciated to the Capuchin Mission Association, 1820 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105. Please share memories with the family at their online guestbook at WujekCalcaterra.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 11. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons - Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Scripture Service

DEC 11. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons - Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Instate / Funeral Mass

DEC 12. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Kieran
53600 Mound
Shelby Twp., MI 48316

Tribute Wall

LH

“ As an Up North resident, near Ken and Geri’s home, I worked for them at Grand Lake.
Geri was very proud of her family and her lovely, welcoming home. I heard endless stories of her family. I knew how close they were. Family was everything.
I last saw Ken and Geri at the Posen Potato Festival in September. I was very happy to see them , as we had lost touch over the last few years. In my mind , our meeting was meant to be.
Geri, you were always a busy lady going over and above to provide a warm , loving home. Now is your time to rest. Your heavenly reunion was long awaited. Rest In Peace.💕

Linda Hall - December 18, 2024 at 07:12 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaff.



December 11, 2024 at 01:00 PM

YC

“ Your Bonar Cousins purchased the Rose Romanesque Bouquet for the family of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaff.



Your Bonar Cousins - December 11, 2024 at 11:13 AM

YC

“ Your Bonar Cousins purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaf.



Your Bonar Cousins - December 10, 2024 at 07:11 PM

TF

“ the Tisdelle Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaf.



the Tisdelle Family - December 10, 2024 at 03:22 PM

TF

“ the Tisdelle Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaf.

the Tisdelle Family - December 10, 2024 at 03:22 PM

LG

“ Love, Geri planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaf.

Love, Geri - December 10, 2024 at 01:19 PM

LG

“ Love, Geri purchased the A Full Life for the family of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaf.



Love, Geri - December 10, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaf.



December 10, 2024 at 10:20 AM

TF

“ My family and others from the crash of N W Flight 255 met when we formed a support group to help each other through a very difficult time in our lives st a time when these types of support groups were virtually non-existent. We became extended family. My mother, Gerrie and other mothers shared a special bond because they lost children in the prime of their lives whose lives were dashed in the crash.

Gerrie was a "tell it like it is" individual. In the early years following the crash, our group had difficulty trying to erect a memorial to our loved ones. We were met with resistance and were even threatened with arrest if we gathered for our yearly August 16th memorials. Gerrie showed up one year with handcuffs offering to cuff herself to one of the trees, if necessary. You didn't mess with her! Thankfully, there is now a federal law to guarantee such gatherings and memorials. Gerrie now has all the answers that we sought 37 years ago.

All our love and continued support goes to Ken, Dave, Donna, Debbie and their families. May Gerrie's Spirit Live On with Don, Lisa, her unborn grandchild and all our loved ones who she now meets. What a reunion that must be! We love you and will miss you, Gerrie.

Tony Zanger, Flight 255 Families - December 10, 2024 at 07:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klafft.

December 09, 2024 at 02:15 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaff.*



December 09, 2024 at 02:15 PM



“ *Terry Murphy, Jackie & Jon Benson, Catherine Murphy purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Gerlyn "Gerrie" Klaff.*



Terry Murphy, Jackie & Jon Benson, Catherine Murphy -
December 09, 2024 at 12:15 PM



“ *Gerri and Ken were our neighbors across the street from us. Grew up babysitting their children and they were best of friends with us. Water fights with our hoses and friendly pranksters with all the neighbors. Miss those times very much. Ken if there is anything we can do for you please call us the Burns family. We will never forget Gerrie and she is now at rest and with her son and daughter in law and their little baby.*

Teresa Butler - December 08, 2024 at 06:38 PM