



Gerald William Bursek

October 23, 1934 - May 21, 2019

Gerald “Jerry” Bursek, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, passed away May 21, 2019 in Santa Barbara, California.

Gerald William Bursek was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Jerry was the oldest of 5 siblings. He was a good student at St. Paul’s Catholic School and he graduated from Lincoln High School in the class of 1953. As a child, Jerry was fascinated with trains – a passion that continued throughout his life. He was also a guy who liked to work with his hands – whether it was working on cars, or inventing things like a homemade garage door opener and dishwasher that are now commonplace in our lives.

After high school, Jerry enlisted in the Marine Corp. and specialized as a radar technician. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and served as a drill instructor. He was on active duty from 1953 – 1956. After the military, Jerry attended DeVry School in Chicago and also the Milwaukee School of Engineering. He eventually earned his Masters degree there in 1971. In an interesting twist, one of Jerry’s last graduate school classes included a beginning graduate student, his brother, Ronald “Ron” Bursek.

While living in Milwaukee, Jerry met the love of his life, Mary Wagner. They married on October 24, 1959 and went on to raise four sons together. In 1973, Jerry accepted a transfer to Delco Electronics and the family moved from the Milwaukee suburbs of Wisconsin to Goleta, California.

Jerry’s career as an electrical engineer for Delco offered him opportunities to train astronauts in the Apollo Space Program, Air Force military personnel in

the C130 gunship systems, Army personnel in the M1 Abrams (main battle tanks for the Army), and Marine Corp personnel in light armored vehicles. After raising their children and taking early retirement from Delco, Mary and Jerry could be seen around Goleta riding their tandem bicycle, crafting toys for Toys for Tots, doting on their grandchildren and visiting with friends and family. Jerry also enjoyed genealogy and finding new relatives.

Jerry was a man of faith and service. As a Marine Corp Veteran, he volunteered for Toys for Tots and picked up toys from different donation stations around Santa Barbara. Later on, Jerry joined the Marine Corp League of Santa Barbara and advanced to the rank of Commandant. He supported many community efforts for different parades and the local Eagle Scouts. Jerry and Mary were active members of Saint Raphael Catholic Church for over 40 years. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Jerry is survived by sons Michael (Stephanie), Mark (Julie) and Gary, along with his grandchildren: Spencer, Audrey, Evan, Sean, Zachary, Connor and Maren. Jerry is also survived by his siblings, Donna Scherer, James "Jim" Bursek and Ronald "Ron" Bursek (Carol) along with his nieces and nephews. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, William and Ella Bursek, brother Donny, sister Joanne, wife Mary Louise Bursek, and his son, Gregory Michael Bursek.

A Wake/Rosary will be at 6:30pm at Welch-Ryce-Haider funeral chapel on Thursday, May 30, 2019. Funeral Mass will be Friday, May 31, 2019 at 10:00 at St. Raphael's Church followed by burial services at Calvary Cemetery in Santa Barbara.

Semper Fi. Rest in Peace.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

199 North Hope Ave
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 687-8811
http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3

Previous Events

Rosary

MAY 30. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider Goleta
450 Ward Dr.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Funeral Mass

MAY 31. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Raphael Catholic Church
5444 Hollister Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
<http://www.straphaelsb.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Jerry was magical to my family and kids when they were younger, he visited for several years as Santa- complete with pre-phone calls to see if they had been "being good" and what was on their X-mas list. It made for a lifetime of memories when his "elf" would arrive followed shortly by Santa himself at our home. They still talk about Santa's visits to this day as adults, it was so real to them and a gift from an altruistic man. Rest in Peace Jerry Bursek, you did well in life- raised a wonderful family and gave back to all of us!

-Don Barthelmess, Carol Kallman, Rob Barthelmess and DeeDee Barthelmess



Don Barthelmess - May 30, 2019 at 05:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Don Barthelmess - May 30, 2019 at 04:35 PM

LR

“ I worked with Jerry at Delco's Holiday Hill plant in the mid-1980s. I wasn't there very long, but I remember his sense of humor. Then this year, he shared a room at Villa Alamar with my brother, John Fitch. My father, Larry Fitch, was one of the many Delco engineers transferred to Goleta from Oak Creek, WI in 1974.

Lynn Ryan - May 29, 2019 at 11:26 AM

DO

“ Jerry & I attended MSOE together. I bought my first car from him as he needed the money to buy a refrigerator. He was starting his new life with his wonderful bride Mary at that time. Our friendship reconnected here in Goleta years later as I had been in Anaheim for ten years. He & Mary always seemed to be at the same class, lecture or party that Ardis and I were at. His never ending good humor wa an inspiration to me. God bless, Don Rowley

donardis@cox.net - May 28, 2019 at 12:51 PM

 Vince Wagner

“ Jerry is my one and only brother in law. He stole the heart of my sister and of coarse her mother, Ethel. I am sure Ethel had a blueberry pie waiting for him as she always did when he visited. Jerry was always wiling to share his advise on cars, TV's, marriage and document it with his ever trusty Kodak 110 camera. He was the videographer (super 8 movie camera) on our wedding the day when Apollo 11 reached the moon. Kept loosing him to the black and white TV in the American Legion bar. Jerry was truly a great and caring man. He will be missed. Rest in peace brother

Vince Wagner - May 28, 2019 at 07:52 AM