



Gerald Leo Ayres

March 7, 1948 - April 4, 2020

Gerald Leo Ayres was born March 7, 1948 in Los Angeles, California to Leo and Grace Ayres. From his home, he took his Lord and Savior's hand on April 4, 2020 and peacefully left his earthly life with his wife by his side.

Gerald lived in Okemah most of his life except for a short time in Chicago. He owned and operated several food establishments in Okemah, namely the Dairy Boy and the K-Bar Restaurant. He later owned and operated Ayres Service Center for 25 years before he sold the business and retired on May 1, 2019. He was a very honest and dedicated business man. He often appeared grumpy but was very kind and generous man. Gerald looked forward to Christmas time when he received a bag of goodies from Bearden School. Gerald liked talking to his buddies, riding his tractor on his land and keeping his lawn in tip top shape. He also enjoyed watching the University of Oklahoma play ball and attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Holdenville.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Cyndi; two sons, James Ayres and David Ayres and wife Brooke; grandchildren, Luke, David Mark, Jacob, Isaac, Colton, Cayden and Haley; his sister, Shirley Jones and nephews, John and Justin Jones. He is also survived by his two cats, Ms. Kitty 1 and Ms. Kitty 2 and many cousins and dear friends.

The family would like to thank the kind folks in the Bearden Community who offered their generosity by sitting with Gerald, bringing food, calling and caring. A very special thanks to Heartland Home Health, especially Jan and Linda.

A celebration of Gerald's life will be announced and held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers; please make donations in Gerald's memory to Heartland Home Health, 2802 N. Kickapoo, Shawnee, OK 74804 or to Bearden School to help with Christmas candy.

All arrangements were handled by Parks Brothers Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be made at www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com.

Comments



“ I honestly had no idea that you had passed until reading this today, I so wish that I would have known so I could have attended your services because you were and always will be very special to me dear friend. I think of you often and still smile at some of the memories that I have of our times together doing the U-Haul rentals. When I first started working for U-Haul, I was never warned about what to expect when dear ole Gerald got fired up over our programs that were always messing up or something else to do with U-Haul, I must say that my first few times of getting a real earful from you were a little scary, but you quickly became my favorite out of all the dealers. You made me laugh many times when you were "voicing your thoughts" on things, you sure didn't sugar coat anything, that is why I loved you so much. Thank you for your friendship and I know that we will meet again one day dear friend. You will be greatly missed here on earth. Love you dearly.

Janice Patrick - October 24, 2020 at 09:34 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Cyndi Gilks-Ayres - April 07, 2020 at 12:32 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Cyndi Gilks-Ayres - April 07, 2020 at 12:30 PM



“ Some of special cousins in the top photo. Sharon, Betty, Karen & Jeanie

Shirley Jones - April 07, 2020 at 01:18 PM



“ He always loved watching the boys play their sports.

David, Cayden, Gerald and Colton Ayres



Brooke Ayres - April 07, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ Even though we called him cranky we loved him and think of him fondly! He will be missed! Couldn't come visit him because I'm at frontline! But know I thought of him often!

Connie Gober - April 06, 2020 at 08:15 PM



“ Thanks Connie. Yes he could be cranky but he really loved his friends and you were one of them. He was all bark and no bite.

Cyndi Gilks-Ayres - April 07, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Cyndi Gilks-Ayres - April 06, 2020 at 07:57 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. As a cousin, we spent hours at our grandparents home. Awesome memories of making ice cream on the porch. Enjoyed our visits when I stopped by on my way to poteau. Always loved his smile.

Christina Myers - April 06, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ He was very fond of his cousins and enjoyed your visits. I think the picture captures his great smile.

Cyndi Gilks-Ayres - April 06, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ So, so sorry for your loss. Praying for God's comfort.- Becky (Sill) Terrell

Becky Terrell - April 06, 2020 at 05:04 AM



“ Thank you so much Becky

James Ayres - April 06, 2020 at 07:56 PM



“ I remember the good times we had growing up together, James and David. I remember going out to eat-laughing, playing, having fun. I remember playing cowboys and Indians with you guys. I also remember when Gerald loved fish sandwiches. Good, happy times. I know Gerald loved his family.

Becky Terrell - April 07, 2020 at 05:18 AM



“ Gerald Ayres will be missed. He watched my 3 girls grow up and move off. He would let them tick or treat him in Halloween and he always told them that they was the only ones who he let do it. Rest easy Gerald

Maylene Galbraith - April 04, 2020 at 09:03 PM



“ Maylene, he would say many times that he was proud of you and what you had made of your life with your girls. Gerald could appear rough on the outside but he had a heart as big as the world.

Cyndi Gilks-Ayres - April 05, 2020 at 08:38 AM



“ Gerald is my cousin and I have memories of him and Shirley playing with me and my sisters in Okemah. He was always friendly and happy to be around.

Carol Ann Green - April 05, 2020 at 12:35 PM



“ Cyndi Gilks-Ayres I thought alot of him and to know that it makes me happy to know he was proud of me. When he told me he sold the store I cried and told him I wont like them or go there and he laughed at me and said to keep using the store. I don't go there very much because it's just not the same. I knew he had a big heart and sometimes had a hard day that made him crummy but he worked all day everyday up there and the dang Uhaul people drove him nuts. I will truly miss him

Maylene Galbraith - April 05, 2020 at 02:03 PM



“ Cyndi and family, So sorry for your loss. Sorry too, that first cousins haven;t had that much time together except for funerals in recent years. As I shared on the phone, I enjoy the memories of stopping by the station to gas and say "hi" to Gerald. It was always a surprise and now, a wonderful memory.

Some years back, Sharon, Karen, Jeanie and I stopped after a funeral in Okemah, and had a great visit with Gerald. It was fun with lots of hugs and photo opts. We were dressed in our funeral attire and several station regulars wondered who the women were hugging Gerald.

Another time, my son, Tom Decker and I stopped by the station. Gerald didn't immediately recognize Tom, but quickly figured they must be related. Tom, a head taller than Gerald, looks a lot like Gerald and they bonded quickly as big OU fans.

Another time, I stopped with my daughters, Laura and Stephanie and Laura's husband Robert Gobright from Seattle, WA. Robert was interestered in finding bodark wood to make an authentic Indian bow. Gerlald quickly held up a fore finger and went in the back and produced an old bow made of bodark. Gerald said that one of his dad's friends an old Indian man had given him the bow whenever he was a kid. He presented the bow to Robert with the prerequisite that he keep it in the family..

Cyndi, James, David, Shirley and family, so sorry for your loss. Perhaps, we'll have time to share more memories at the memorial in the summer.

Betty Jo Ayres Decker

Betty J Decker - April 05, 2020 at 03:25 PM