



Gerald "Jerry" Heinen

November 20, 1937 - May 2, 2025

Gerald "Jerry" Bernard Heinen, 87, passed away peacefully in the arms of his daughters, Brenda Sweezey and Tammy Koch, on Friday, May 2, 2025.

Jerry was born on November 20, 1937, in Seneca, Kansas, and graduated from St. Peter and Paul Catholic School in 1955. In 1956, he began his service in the United States Navy aboard the USS Gregory, serving in regions from Pearl Harbor to the waters off China and Japan. After his Honorable Discharge in 1962, Jerry dedicated over 40 years to the Kansas Department of Transportation as an engineer, where he played a significant role in shaping Kansas's highway design and infrastructure.

In retirement, Jerry continued to enjoy watching K-State athletics, pursued his passion for woodworking, and was a constant and proud presence at his grandchildren's sporting events and activities.

On November 24, 1959, Jerry married the love of his life, Janice "Jan" Sunneberg. They shared an inspiring 65 years of marriage. He leaves behind his beloved wife Jan and their daughters Brenda Sweezey (Mark) and Tammy Koch (Jeff).

Jerry was a devoted grandfather to Tyler Sweezey (Lindsey), Kyle Koch (Kaleigh), Dalton Sweezey, and Isaac Koch (Jenna), and a cherished great-

grandfather to Dalton “DJ” Sweezey Jr., Raylynn Sweezey, Aurelia Sweezey, and a future baby Sweezey expected soon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Aurelia Heinen. He is survived by his sisters, Karen Rilinger (Paul - deceased), and Marilyn Evans (Gary); and many loving nieces and nephews.

Jerry’s legacy of love, hard work, and family devotion will live on through all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be at 10 a.m. Rosary at 10:30 a.m. and Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 10, 2025, at Christ the King Catholic Church, 5973 SW 25th St. Topeka KS 66614. Burial will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Parkinson’s Foundation, in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 10. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
5973 SW 25th Street
Topeka, KS 66614

Rosary

MAY 10. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
5973 SW 25th Street
Topeka, KS 66614

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
5973 SW 25th Street
Topeka, KS 66614

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gerald "Jerry" Heinen



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - May 06, 2025 at 01:04 PM

JJ

Dear Jan, Tammy & Brenda, I am so sorry to hear of your husband & father's passing. He was a truly fine man. You are in my thoughts and prayers during the difficult time. Jan Jenkins (Jill Sittenauer's Mom)

Janice Jenkins - May 08, 2025 at 06:24 PM

JJ

“ Jon, Jan, Julie, Jeanine and Joni planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Heinen.

Jon, Jan, Julie, Jeanine and Joni - May 09, 2025 at 12:14 PM

JJ

“ Jon, Jan, Julie, Jeanine and Joni purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Heinen.



Jon, Jan, Julie, Jeanine and Joni - May 09, 2025 at 12:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Heinen.

May 08, 2025 at 04:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Heinen.



May 08, 2025 at 04:39 PM



“ Brenda, your dad was one of the kindness gentlemen I ever knew. I always enjoyed visiting with him and your mother as we watched Tlyer or Dayton play baseball. Prayers for you and the family. Louie

Louie Warren - May 07, 2025 at 10:46 AM



“ Gene Lackey, Jeremy, Ken & Bill purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Heinen.



Gene Lackey, Jeremy, Ken & Bill - May 05, 2025 at 06:43 PM



“ The Jacobs Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Heinen.

The Jacobs Family - May 05, 2025 at 05:47 PM

TF

“ *The Jacobs Family purchased the Divine Light for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Heinen.*



The Jacobs Family - May 05, 2025 at 05:47 PM

DW

“ *Brenda,
My deepest sympathy. Your mother and father have been in my thoughts and memories forever. You deserve many thanks for everything you have done for your family. I am sure the rest of the Sunneberg family shares the same thoughts.
Don Whitmer and family*

Don Whitmer - May 05, 2025 at 05:39 PM



“ *Brenda,
I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Prayer to you and your entire family.
Marie Apel*

Marie Apel - May 05, 2025 at 03:16 PM

CN

“ *Brenda,
So very sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Deepest sympathy and cherished memories. May he rest in peace.
Cathy*

Cathy Novak-Wood - May 05, 2025 at 02:56 PM