



Harold "Butch" Gerlach

June 7, 1941 - September 27, 2013

Harold Dean "Butch" Gerlach, 72, Topeka, passed away Friday, September 27, 2013. Butch was born June 7, 1941, in Wichita, the son of Harold W. and Hazel Thompson Gerlach, who moved to Topeka when Butch was just a few months old. He was a 1959 graduate of Topeka High School. Butch attended the University of Kansas, where he was initiated into Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He graduated from Washburn University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1964 and earned his Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law in 1967. Butch was on the swim team at Topeka High and on the first ever swim team at Washburn. He was a life member of Washburn University Alumni Association and Topeka Country Club. He was a long-time member of Civitan Club of Topeka, of which he was a past president and held the office of District Lt. Governor in 1988 and '89. He was named Realtor Emeritus of the National Association of Realtors, honoring his dedication to the profession from 1966 to 2010. Butch raised and trained field trial Brittany Spaniels, including National Field Champion, Christy's Featherduster, for whom a traveling trophy was named, "Field Champion Christy's Featherduster Memorial Trophy". On March 4, 1981, Butch and Paula Aldridge were united in marriage. They enjoyed over 32 years together. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed playing cards with his friends. He was involved with and attended many events of his grandchildren. Throughout his life, Butch perfected the art of generosity, always putting forth other's needs before his own. He made sure everyone was comfortable and

taken care of before himself. Butch's family loved him dearly and he will be greatly missed. Survivors include his wife, Paula A. Gerlach of the home; daughter and son-in-law, Christy and Jimmy McMullen; son, Dean Gerlach; daughter and son-in-law, Kim and David Reed; son and daughter-in-law, Brent and Krystal Aldridge; grandchildren, Kolby, Kelsey, Ashton, Trevor, Wil, Joe, Braydon and Colby; and a sister, Lynne Zoellner Stark. A Memorial service will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday, October 4, 2013, at Topeka Country Club. Private inurnment will be at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Helping Hands Humane Society, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ *Harold "Butch" Gerlach*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Paula...we were so sorry to hear of Butch's passing. We saw him not to long ago at Cheeseburger Cheeseburger picking up dinner...we had a nice chat with him....such a nice man. Sorry for your loss.*

Jim & Lila Lee - October 08, 2013 at 12:21 PM



“ *Christy and Dean,sorry to hear about your dad.I'll always remember you from Central.*

Mike Branaman - October 05, 2013 at 11:00 AM



“ *Paula and family, I am so sorry to hear of Butch's passing. May I extend my deepest sympanthy and prayers to you and all of your family members. I recall you and Butch were so kind to me early in my young adult life when I first moved to Kansas, and I have never forgotten. I just wanted you to know I'll be thinking of you today - please take care. My condolences to you.
Sincerely, Linda Pritchard*

Linda Pritchard - October 04, 2013 at 10:13 AM



“ *Dean Gerlach, Thinking of you and your family in this time of loss.
Phil, Earl and Vera*

Rissen Family - October 04, 2013 at 09:45 AM

JP

“ Oct 3, 2013

Dear Paula and family,

I was so sorry to hear of Butch's death. Words say very little at a time like this, but knowing people are thinking of you all, maybe helps. I hope so.

Please accept my deepest sympathy.

I know you all have many memories of Butch; as do his friends.

Sincerely,

Jackie Campbell Petersen

Jackie Campbell Petersen - October 03, 2013 at 06:00 PM

JD

“ *Dear Paula, I was so sorry to read that Butch had died. My heart goes out to you and your family. Sincerely Julie.*

Julie Duran - October 03, 2013 at 01:33 PM

BH

“ *Paula & Family,*
Sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. I will always appreciate Butch's worrying about me as I mowed the lawn...he would walk down to our house with a bottle of cold water and insist I take a break.

Bill & Cheryl Hodges

Bella Vista, AR

Bill & Cheryl Hodges - October 02, 2013 at 07:56 PM

BS

“ I am saddened to hear that Butch has passed. My mother, Erma Hostetter, worked for Butch. He was so very kind to have employed her when she had no experience, was in her fifties and had numerous health issues. He was good to her. Throughout the years he showed other members of our family great kindness and understanding.

My sincere condolences,

Bobbi Storm

Bobbi Storm - October 02, 2013 at 07:50 PM

CM

“ Christy,
We are all saddened by the loss of your dad! You and all of your family are in our hearts and prayers!

Kevin, Cinnie, Scott, and Allan McFarland

Cinnie McFarland - October 02, 2013 at 03:43 PM

TC

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this hard time. The memory of Butch driving the legion baseball team to the tournament in Springfield (and car breakdown in a small town) always brings a smile to my face.*

Tod Cordill - October 02, 2013 at 02:06 PM

RK

“ *Paula and family- Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

Ronda Kanicki - October 02, 2013 at 12:41 PM

LT

“ *Christy and Paula,
I am so sorry to to hear of your tragic loss. I always enjoyed working
with Butch on Civitan Projects, he was fun to be with. My prayers
and thoughts are with you.*
Lynn

Lynn Thompson - October 02, 2013 at 09:57 AM

SK

“ *Dear Paula and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Know that
friends are thinking of you during the difficult time.*

Love, Stacey, Doug and Shawn Kramer

Stacey Kramer - October 01, 2013 at 06:14 PM