



Jerrold "Jerry" Ziegler

January 19, 1958 - August 6, 2025

Jerrold "Jerry" Ziegler, 67, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away at home on August 6, 2025.

Born January 19, 1958, in Topeka, Jerry was the son of Raymond and Mary Lou Artzer Ziegler. He was raised in the Oakland neighborhood on Emmet Street, surrounded by a large, loving family including many brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Jerry graduated from Hayden High School in 1976 before earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting, a Bachelor of Science in Art Education, and a teaching certificate from Washburn University. He furthered his education with a Master of Science in Secondary Education from Kansas State University (but wrote "Rock Chalk" on every tuition payment). Jerry dedicated 30 years to teaching art at Seaman Middle School, retiring in 2018 having impacted thousands of students in the classroom and as a coach on the football field.

A talented artist known for his exceptional landscape paintings, Jerry was prone to stopping and staring at a sunset, a cloudy sky, or the horizon over the rolling hills. His paintings received several awards in the annual Mulvane Art Fair.

Jerry had a deep passion for craftsmanship and the details of how things were made. He approached life with a perfectionist's eye and took pride in doing things "the right way." This, to the exasperation of his children, led to extra time at the grocery store. Picking "the right mustard" could take 15 minutes of reading ingredients and pondering the "benefits of stone ground" before making a selection.

He was an avid Kansas basketball fan and was world class at asking the TV "What are they doing out there?" An athlete in his younger days, Jerry took to distance running later in his adult life and completed races in the Topeka area as well as many hours researching the best running shoes and gear. In addition to being a runner, he was a proud member of the REI and L.L. Bean mailing list.

Jerry's legacy lives on in the lessons and memories of his students, the canvas and ceramic creations that grace walls and tables in the homes of his family and friends, and the warmth of his smiles left imprinted in the minds of those he loved.

He was preceded in death by his parents Raymond and Mary Lou Ziegler, and sister Jeanette Ziegler. Jerry is survived by his brothers, Greg Ziegler (Cathy), Kenny Ziegler (Alice), and his sisters, Marilyn Tucker (Doug), and Carolyn Beurman (Todd), and has 15 nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his children Alayna Ziegler, Scott Ziegler, and Nora Browne along with grandchildren, Arthur and Molly Browne.

Jerry's family will greet friends from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, August 15, 2025, where a memorial service will follow at 1 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, Kansas, 66614.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Nora Browne with Seaman Middle School Art Program on the memo, and sent in care of the funeral home.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **15**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Memorial Service

AUG **15**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Kenny and Alice — was so sorry to hear about the passing of your brother Jerry. My condolences to each of you as you work your way thru this difficult time. Prayers are being said for him as well as for all of his family. May God bring you comfort and. Peace and may He bless you all*

Donna Harrington - August 20, 2025 at 12:59 PM

DR

“ *Not sure of the year of this photo. Maybe late 1990's ? Anyway, Jerry was one of my ass't track coaches at NHJH. You will see Rob Davis, too. What a trio we made. We spent countless hours at track practice, track meets and sometimes very long bus rides. Somehow we kept our sanity and sense of humor throughout the process. Thanks, Jerry. You helped make a lot of memories for this aging retired educator.*



Dennis Ransone - August 16, 2025 at 12:45 PM



That group graduated SHS in 2003. So they would've been at NH 96-99.

Michelle Potter - August 19, 2025 at 11:24 PM

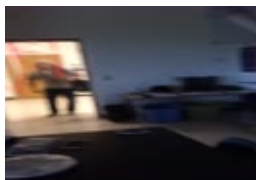
KC

“ *Greg, I'm so sorry for your loss of your brother Jerry. I got to work with him a couple of times in Seaman workshops and enjoyed his humor and talent.*
Kathy Clark

Kathy Clark - August 15, 2025 at 08:57 AM

MB

“ *It was an honor to be one of his students in his last class before retirement. My friend and I threw a retirement party for him on his last day. He was the best teacher I've ever had and his memories will forever live on.*



Makayla Bolze - August 14, 2025 at 08:52 PM

KA

He was a laid back kind of guy. This was great to see.

Kathy Artzer - August 15, 2025 at 11:19 AM

TA

“ *Godspeed Jerry on your journey to everlasting Paradise. Your legacy speaks volume of a life well-lived. Embrace all the glory God has for you.* ”



Tish (Padilla) Alcalá - August 14, 2025 at 02:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jerrold "Jerry" Ziegler.* ”



August 14, 2025 at 01:10 PM



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

August 14, 2025 at 01:10 PM

NB

“ *Thank you for all of the kind words. Here is the Memorial Fund for the Seaman Middle School Art Program.* ”

https://account.venmo.com/u/SeamanMS_ArtProgram



Nora Browne - August 14, 2025 at 12:14 PM

NB

“ 2 files added to the album Jerry



Nora Browne - August 14, 2025 at 11:59 AM

CB

“ Jerry and I were classroom neighbors for many years at the former Northern Hills Junior High School. He was a great teacher and wonderful colleague. The last time I ran into Jerry was at the Nelson Atkins - so appropriate. Of course, he walked up behind me and said in a stern, museum guard voice, "Ma'am, you're standing too close to the painting." Miss you, Jerry.

Carol Ball - August 14, 2025 at 11:58 AM

KA

That WAS my cousin for sure... 🙄🙄

Kathy Artzer - August 15, 2025 at 11:21 AM

CD

“ We went to kindergarten through seniors in high school. Rest in peace Jerry.

Carol Hertlein Debacker - August 14, 2025 at 10:55 AM

JR

“ Our prayers and thoughts to the Ziegler family for their loss.
Jerry was the art instructor and friend to my kids when they attended middle school. Jerry coached my youngest son in middle school football and several summers of baseball at SCABA. He was one of the most patient and positive man our family encountered professionally and personally.
John & Lori Rea and Vicki, Robbie, & Butch

JOHN M REA - August 14, 2025 at 12:40 AM

SS

“ May Jerry enjoy God's peace for all eternity...
May all the wonderful memories Jerry made with all his family bring a smile to your hearts...q

Steve and Barbie Swartzman - August 13, 2025 at 10:56 PM

TS

“ In 1969 I was employed by Topeka Parks and Recreation. My job was scorekeeper for softball games at Santa Fe #2 ball diamond. One fine June evening about 7pm, a huge storm rolled in. Thunder, lightning, buckets of rain, hail, high winds all converged on Oakland. {God's country as my FIL used to call it.} I didn't have a car. There were no dugouts or a press box for shelter. I was stranded. The ZIEGLERS who lived right across the street yelled at me and motioned me to come over and take refuge on their front porch. I was very appreciative.

Fast forward 15 years and I was taking some art work I had purchased to a place on SW 6th Street to get framed. Jerry was working there and during our conversation he mentioned that he had finished classes at Washburn and was looking for a teaching job. I told him I heard that USD 345 had an opening. About a month later at our first big teacher get-together [inservice day] before school starts, Jerry walks in the Seaman Auditorium, sees me, and says "I got the job"

My children were fortunate to have Jerry as an art instructor at Northern Hills Junior High. They found his class worthwhile, challenging, educational and fun.

May the love and memories you shared with Jerry bring you comfort and peace in the days ahead.

"SWO"

Tegan Swoboda

Tegan Swoboda - August 13, 2025 at 10:13 PM

KM

“ I was a classmate of Jerry's at Hayden and he was an art teacher for both of my sons. Jerry was an amazing person with a beautiful smile.

Good teachers always leave an impact on their students and he was one of the good ones.

It is heartbreaking that he is gone. Sending prayers for he and his family at this difficult time. Rest in peace Zigzag.



Kathy & Jeff McKee - August 13, 2025 at 07:07 PM



“ Many great memories of Jerry in art classes throughout high school. He was “zig-zag” as a running back on the Hayden football team. Peace and comfort to the family.

Rod Seel - August 13, 2025 at 06:04 PM

VW

“ Jerry was a great friend and classmate. Enjoyed seeing his artwork. Rest in peace Jerry ❤️🙏

vern welling - August 13, 2025 at 04:36 PM

DS

“ Extending our prayers and sympathy to my Friend Jerry's Family.

Dominic & Linda Gutiérrez

Dominic Gutiérrez Sr - August 13, 2025 at 03:40 PM

MK

“ Rest in peace, Jerry. Your masterpiece is complete! Mary Kay (Grace) Hendrickson

Mary Kay - August 13, 2025 at 03:39 PM

SG

“ Rest in peace Jerry.

Sarah & Dave Gigous



sgigous@cox.net - August 12, 2025 at 09:11 PM

TA

“ Tish (Padilla) Alcalá lit a candle in memory of Jerrold "Jerry" Ziegler



Tish (Padilla) Alcalá - August 12, 2025 at 05:25 PM

JA

“ I was a sophomore when Jerry was a Senior at Hayden. He was our starting running back. He was quick and had good football moves. Coach Lieber would call him Zig-Zag Ziegler.
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen
John P. Anguiano

John Anguiano - August 12, 2025 at 03:23 PM

KA

“ Such wonderful memories growing up with my cousin Jerry- all of us living on the same block of Emmett- seems like the Artzer family "owned that block", getting into trouble, staying out of trouble. It was a blessed time. Our growing years kept us all close- with family functions, pool parties, yearly Octoberfest, wine & cheese parties, Christmans tree picking at Reindeer Tree Farm, back yard in the alley bonfires on Emmett.
(I think the police showed up once 😬) You are missed my cousin Jerry. cousin Kathy Artzer ❤️

Kathy Artzer - August 12, 2025 at 11:28 AM

LR

“ May our Good Lord wrap him in His arms and grant him eternal peace. Our prayers and sympathy go out to all his family.
Tim and Linda Rohr

linda rohr - August 12, 2025 at 09:01 AM

BB

“ My prayers and thoughts are with the Ziegler family. I always enjoyed running into Jerry and at one time having him as a neighbor. God bless you all, may He comfort you at this difficult time.
Beth Blumreich

Beth Blumreich - August 11, 2025 at 11:04 PM

ML

“ No words. Godspeed, buddy.

Mike LaFontaine - August 11, 2025 at 07:58 PM

BG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all the Ziegler family

Bob Grace - August 11, 2025 at 05:58 PM