



Gerald R. Michalek Jr.

January 18, 2023

Jerry died unexpectedly at his home on January 8, 2023 at the age of 63 years.

He is preceded in death by his parents Gerald & Mabel and leaves behind treasured friends & relatives.

After more than 20 years of service as a Commercial Building Inspector for the City of Milwaukee, Jerry was enjoying his retirement years by spending time with family or at "The Farm".

Jerry was a proud US Navy and US Army Veteran.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to benefit Veterans such as DAV would be appreciated.

A private Inurnment will take place at Southern WI Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Union Grove, WI.

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services

Rozga-Walloch Chapel

414-281-7145

Cemetery Details

Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery

21731 Spring St
Union Grove, WI 53182

Tribute Wall

“ When Jerry was a little kid he had tons of energy, he was helpful and also got into some trouble because he was always getting into things, because he always wanted to know how things worked. But it’s so important to remember that that’s the kind of kid that’s going to grow up and be climbing up on granny’s 100 year old roof to fix the leaks. And he grew up to do exactly that.

As a boy he liked to run, and bike ride, and explore things. Jerry loved being outdoors especially at The Farm and Up North, the woods, the rivers and the lakes, especially the great Lake Michigan. He knew the currents and sailing history of that lake; and he knew the underwater of that lake, the depth variation, the lakebed, the fish, the rocks, and the history of shipwrecks.

When Jerry was a young adult he went into the military. He sailed around the world in the Navy.

He said the Army taught him how to blow things up, which he thought was a total blast. The army also taught him how to dismantle bombs to keep the world safer. When family told him to be careful he said he would pay attention, learn what he needed to learn, and keep his eyes open to danger; but that if necessary he was ready to die for his country. Someone’s got to be willing to do it was how he put it. On Fourth of July the yard would be blazing with his fireworks and sparklers.

Back in civilian life Jerry looked for work that would build things and make his city better. He loved his job as a commercial building inspector, and took it very seriously. When family was remodeling something and complaining about nitpicky permits and building codes, he would state “they didn’t just make that stuff up for no reason”. Each building code was added due to a fire, an explosion, chemical toxicity, or other risk. He took it seriously and he knew it all.

In grade school he had struggled with writing and spelling, probably due to dyslexia. He said the computers and spellcheck were

invented especially for people like him. But Jerry excelled in hands-on learning about construction and safety. He loved old buildings, the older the better; the bricks, the seasoned timbers, the iron infrastructure. It was his favorite type of artwork and his favorite type of work work.

Yes, he had seven ladders, and he knew what each one was for. Step ladders and extension ladders, aluminum, fiberglass, wood, and then a few ladders kept just for their historical significance. He agreed with the advice that if you didn't know what to get for the guy who has everything, get him another flashlight, especially the bendable snaky kind that could shine bright light into dark corners, or a headlamp flashlight to keep your hands free for working late at night. He talked about how on a Navy ship he was assigned a little locker to keep all his belongings, and nothing more. When he was back in civilian life he enjoyed having space to have tools, from sledgehammers to micrometers; and books about tools, and books about houses, and ships, and frontier days, and the tools used in frontier days. And he had rocks, lots of them, just because they were cool.

Jerry loved fun times with family; and he was also there to help his dad through tough times with cancer, and there to help his mom with the difficulties of getting older until she died at the age of 93. If a sister or brother ever needed home maintenance advice he was a wealth of knowledge about how to do it right and make it last. He was an old school advocate for oil over latex paint, and on that topic we will have to agree to disagree.

Jerry loved being an uncle, and was always a fun uncle, or what we might call a funcle; and then he lived long enough to see his niece and nephews having children and he loved them all too. He was a Great Man says his niece. We are sad that he is gone and we will miss him.

RM

When I first married into this family, Jerry was the hardest to get to know. He was kind of quiet. My husband, Jim and Jerry both had May birthdays and with mother's day also in May, we invited them to our house for dinner. Jerry roamed around the house and yard checking things out. The Michalek's celebrated Christmas in July with Cook outs and Christmas trees.

Jerry handed me a large gift, 2'x3', and wrapped in pink. When I opened it I saw a framed poster of the Great Milwaukee Circus Parade. Jerry must have seen the photos in my room of me as a clown. YES, ME A CLOWN. We never spoke of my clowning or the poster but occassionally I saw a glint of clown in him and I knew we were kindred spirits. I love you Jer and will miss you greatly!

Retta Michalek - February 09, 2023 at 04:53 PM



When Jerry had candy or cake or pie, EVERYBODY had some. Even as an adult.

James Michalek - February 18, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ *Gerald it was a pleasure working with you and sharing good times outside of work. Your enthusiasm in telling a story was so infectious, there was no way you could not stick around for the ending. Great man, great human being, great friend. You will truly be missed. God Speed Gerry!*

Matt Dama - January 30, 2023 at 08:28 AM