



## Gerald Harlan Shirley

April 15, 1933 - January 11, 2015

Gerald Harlan Shirley, age 81, passed away on Sunday, January 11, 2015 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Gerald was born on April 15, 1933 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to his parents Encil Dean Shirley and Lois Bain Shirley. He was the first of five children. Gerald attended his general education at Coweta and Woodward Public Schools before his attendance at Arizona State University. After his schooling, he began his career in the United States Air Force as an Airborne Radio Operator. He served with the Air Force from 1953 to 1975, obtaining the rank of MSGT. After his service, he began working as a clerk for the United States Postal Service. Gerald retired from the Postal Service after twenty three years of diligent work. Gerald married the love of his life, Patricia Ann Shirley, on July 31, 1956 in Northampton, England. He was involved with the National Hot Rod Association and the American Postal Workers Union. Gerald enjoyed fixing cars, racing, tinkering with remote controlled planes, and flying real planes. He was a big-hearted, stubborn joker who loved above all his family. Gerald is preceded in death by his wife Patricia Ann Shirley, his mother Lois Bain, his father Encil Dean Shirley, his stepmother Rose Shirley, his brother Ray Dean Shirley, his parents-in-law John and Mary Taylor, his brother-in-law Roger Baxter, and his sisters-in-law Jean Lawson and Lynn Taylor. Gerald is survived by his son Rickey (Vicki) Shirley, his daughter Gail (David) Stroup, his daughter Donna Shirley, his sister Rosemary Totty, his brothers Charles Shirley and Leon Shirley, his grandchildren David (Chenoa) Stroup, Bradley Shirley, Tonie (Brian) King, Jessica (Lee) Dewey, his six great-grandchildren, his three brothers-in-law John (Elaine) Taylor, Andrew Palmer, and Jack Lawson, his sister-in-law Brenda Palmer, and numerous nieces and nephews. Services will be held at Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma on Friday, January 16, 2015 at 3:00 pm.

# Comments

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“ Gerald I shall miss all our chats on skype even if it was unusual times some days I have always looked up to you and I tried to be as upright and honest as yourself will think of you and my sister PAT allways my love and regards for ever JOHN&ELAINE  
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john taylor brother in law - February 02, 2015 at 09:23 AM

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“ Dear Dad While I have done my best this week, it has been a very tough time without you. I will do better as time goes by....but, I have missed you so much, and that will not change.We got out your best suit for your cremation and Donna, Gail and myself stayed with you until it was time to go. If you get time, please read the note Donna placed in your suit pocket, I think it would mean a lot to both you and her. I will do my best to watch over Gail and Donna for you while you are gone.Today, you will be placed next to the love of your life ....I know that makes you happy. Since we know how happy you are to see mom again, we are placing a picture of you two on your wedding day at the service....back together again like you should be.Gail brought in some of your Official Air Force Commendations etc and Donna brought over your dress blues, medals and insignias. We are going to display it at the memorial services. The local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be there to honor your military service. It should be nice, we all hope you like it.Do you know how proud of you I am?Have I told you how much I miss you yet?Love...Your son

Rickey Shirley - January 16, 2015 at 06:44 PM

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“ He will be greatly missed by many, most of all his family. He loved joking with people and pulling their leg whether he knew them or not. When he was younger, he loved whizzing by in his car at the track. When he was older, he STILL loved whizzing by,,,,,in his scooter. He used to love whizzing around at Reasors in B.A. and having people ask about his home-made "upgrades" to his cart. He liked picking at the "wardens" at his assisted living facility, and was always on time at meal times:) He was a loving father, son , husband, brother, grampa. He enjoyed his life the best way he could and kept in touch with friends of old through his computer. This is a great reminder that tomorrows are not guaranteed. His passing was quick and unexpected by me, so now "tomorrow" will never come. I wish in my mind I had said "I will visit him today, I will call him today, I will take the grandkids by today. I will email that joke today. " but I always thought, I will do it tomorrow. Guess what, there IS no tomorrow anymore. Now all I will get to tell him is "goodbye, I love you, I will miss you and will think of you often. So if you are a tomorrow person too, call that person today or go by and see them, or make up with them if you've been on the outs. You might not get a tomorrow either. Love Gail

**Gail** - January 13, 2015 at 11:04 PM

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“ I never met Gerald in person, but saw his face and heard his voice each time we got on SKYPE on the Internet. It was almost every week. I would have liked to have seen him. We will meet again some day and have lots to talk about. Gene Selby A Friend of his Brother Charlie

**Gene Selby** - January 13, 2015 at 09:27 PM