



James R Ganz Sr.

February 10, 1924 - January 3, 2015

James R. Ganz, Sr, 90, of Kearney, died Saturday, January 3, 2015 at the Mother Hull Home in Kearney. Services will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 10th at the Kearney First United Methodist Church with the Reverend Gary Main officiating. Interment will be held at a later date. Visitation will be 6-8:00 pm at the O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home and one hour prior to service time at the church. Online condolences may be shared at www.osrfh.com. O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

James Robert Ganz was born to Carl Donald and Flora Rose (Boyles) Ganz, in Alvo, Cass County, Nebraska, on February 10, 1924. He attended Alvo Consolidated Schools throughout his youth, and graduated in 1940. He attended Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska for two years, and met his future wife, Doris, while there. He attended UNL for one year, for a semester at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska in the Navy V-12 program, and Midshipmen's School at Columbia University in New York City, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the USNR on February 24, 1944. He was a Stores Officer aboard the USS LST 568 from its commissioning in New Orleans, and participated in three invasions in the South Pacific: Leyte Gulf, Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines, and Okinawa, survived two typhoons that necessitated the sinking of his ship off the Philippine Deep, and was

placed on inactive duty on July 1, 1946.

On June 15, 1946, he was united in marriage with Doris Ruth Jacobson at the Jacobson Ranch at Stromsburg, Nebraska, and to this union six children were born.

He went to Law School at UNL under the GI bill, receiving his Bachelor's degree in 1947 and his Law in 1949.

He practiced law in Cozad, Nebraska, and in 1956 moved to Gibbon, Nebraska to work at Exchange Bank in addition to his law practice. In 1961, he purchased the A.C. Wittera Abstract Co. and continued in the practice of law, abstracts of title, and title insurance, until his retirement on June 15, 2004 and their move to Kearney from Gibbon.

In 1972, he served as President of the Nebraska Land Title Association, and in 1991, was elected Title Person of the Year by his peers in the Land Title Profession. While living in Gibbon, he served on the Gibbon School Board for several terms, and was the Gibbon City Attorney for many years. He also served in many leadership roles at the Gibbon Presbyterian Church and at the Faith United Methodist Church in Gibbon.

He shared his love of music with his wife and children, and aside from part of his military career, he sang in various church, village and city choirs from 1938 throughout his lifetime. One of his favorite sayings was "music is a lifetime sport".

Jim was a diehard Husker football fan. He also was warm and tender to friends and family, and was a world-class gentleman. He celebrated National Hug Day on a regular basis community-wide. From 1980 on, Jim sent out a weekly letter to his children, siblings and a host of good friends. The letters chronicled Jim and Doris' lives but also served as a platform for him to announce, compliment and expound. The letters were anticipated and treasured and were always signed "Your Favorite Dad."

He was a member of Kearney First United Methodist Church, Hastings College and University of Nebraska at Lincoln Alumni Associations, the Gibbon American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Nebraska Land Title

Association, Kearney Elks Lodge, Buffalo County Bar Association, Buffalo County Historical Society, Rob Morris Lodge A.F. and A.M., Tehama Shrine and Fort Kearney Shrine Club.

He is survived by his children: James R. Ganz, Jr. (Kathleen) of Kearney, NE, William D. Ganz (Rebecca) of Tucson, AZ, Sara J. Kurlander of San Francisco, Kathryn J. (Norvell) Brasch of Denver, CO, Dale T. (Nancy) Ganz of Cleveland, OH, and Georgia K. (David) Lambert of St. Paul, MN; eleven grandchildren: Jeffrey Ganz (Hallie), Marcy Neeman (Mark), David Kurlander, Samuel Brasch, Jacob Brasch, Benjamin Brasch, Joseph Brasch, Daniel Lambert, Laura Jane Lambert, Julia Lambert and Elizabeth Lambert and two great-grandchildren, Augusta Ganz and Vivienne Neeman.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Doris, brothers Dale Ganz and Charles Ganz, sister Ruth Edwards, and son-in-law, Daniel Kurlander. Memorials are suggested to the Kearney First United Methodist Church Choir, Kearney Concert Association and the Buffalo County Historical Society.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **9**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Funeral Service

JAN **10**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James R Ganz Sr.



O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations - January 08, 2015 at 02:18 PM



“ James R Ganz Sr.

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ My sincere condolences to Jim & Cathy and all the Ganz Family. Your Dad was a true gentle soul to all who knew him. His great wit, kind heart, and musical talents were so special. I recall family gatherings with Jim, Doris and all the children & so fondly looked forward to them. I remember when the Ganz Family lived in Cozad & Jim would share with us his love of singing & playing his guitar. I also enjoyed reading his Christmas letters. He has a special place in my heart & I am so sorry for your loss. What a wonderful human being and he will certainly be missed by all who knew him.
In sympathy & love,
Ginny May

Ginny May - January 27, 2015 at 01:43 PM

EC

“ Dear Jim and Cathy,
Sorry for your lose. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.
Ed Chinick

ED Chinick - January 11, 2015 at 06:07 AM

JE

“ After reading the life of Mr Ganz it made me smile. So many kind memories, his soft smile and a twinkle in his eye. He was a man of honor to his country,family,church and community. Thank you Mr Ganz for teaching me to respect all these things as well. -Jenith Wicht Hiatt

Jenith - January 10, 2015 at 05:34 AM

LF

“ Our Sympathy goes to all in the family. Jim and Doris were both such a joy to know and very talented. Jim & Kathy we feel your loss! May God's love and peace get you through this difficult time. Know that the memories will always be with you. Gary & Linda France

Linda France - January 09, 2015 at 01:58 PM

LO

“ Thinking of you all at this time. Always enjoyed the coffee and conversational times with Jim during my days in Kearney. He and Doris were super people and will now again be joined!! Larry Ossenkop, Johnson Lake

Larry Ossenkop - January 09, 2015 at 12:46 PM

GU

“ Jim Jr, my thoughts and prayers are with you family.

Greg Urbanek - January 09, 2015 at 12:32 PM

HL

“ Henry Elsen and Andree Larose purchased the Let It Snow for the family of James R Ganz Sr..



Henry Elsen and Andree Larose - January 08, 2015 at 05:57 PM

JS

“ You are the light of many lives.



Jim and Carolann Slouffman - January 08, 2015 at 04:29 PM

RD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of JR Ganz. A great gentleman who will be sorely missed. Rest in Peace. Richard Drews and Family. Oak Park, Illinois

Richard Lynn Drews - January 08, 2015 at 12:02 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James R Ganz Sr..



January 07, 2015 at 09:27 PM

LC

“ *My sympathy to all the family of Jim Ganz. I remember him as such a kind loving family man and it was an honor growing up in the community he was so proud to be a part of.*

*Sincerely,
Linda Catlin-Johnson
Omaha, Nebraska*

Linda Catlin-Johnson - January 07, 2015 at 03:36 PM

LC

“ *Linda Catlin-Johnson lit a candle in memory of James R Ganz Sr.*



Linda Catlin-Johnson - January 07, 2015 at 03:31 PM

CW

“ *Jim was one of the best shipmates one could have. His comments and humor aboard ship are remembered with pleasure, and his friendship since is treasured. It was an honor to receive his family letters -- a record of devotion to family and friends.*

Charlie, his WW2 shipmate

Charles White - January 07, 2015 at 12:38 PM

KF

“ I am saddened to hear of Mr. Ganz's passing. He was a wonderful man with a gentle soul and huge heart. He would always have a smile and a warm welcome whenever I saw him. It is an honor to say I knew this man. May he rest in peace.

Sincere condolences,

Kelli (Keiper) Frew
Ames, IA

Kelli Frew - January 07, 2015 at 07:44 AM

JA

“ Sincere sympathy to all of the Ganz family! Jim was a special friend especially to my parents. Fond memories of them all sitting around our kitchen table solving the problems of the world. And remembering his nice dedication to dad at his funeral. And of course the family letters. What a neat legacy to have those! RIP Jim!

Janell - January 06, 2015 at 08:00 PM

MH

“ My sincere sympathy for the Family! I have many memories cutting Jims hair, we had great talks & many laughs! I know he will be missed but sure he's having a great time with Doris! I hope you find peace with all the memories! God Bless!

Jim & Marie Hoppenstedt

marie hoppenstedt - January 06, 2015 at 06:56 PM

DC

“ *Our condolences to the family of James Ganz, Sr. We consider it a privilege to have known Jim. That he cared deeply for his fellowman, is clearly evident by the way he lived his life. May he rest in peace.*

Sincerely,

Dr. Howard and Mary Christman

Dr. Howard and Mary Christman - January 06, 2015 at 09:17 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James R Ganz Sr..*



January 05, 2015 at 01:00 PM