



Jerry L. Arent

June 2, 1945 - November 1, 2015

Jerry L. Arent, 70, of Kearney, died Sunday, November 1, 2015 at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital after a courageous nine-month battle with lung cancer, his family was by his side.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 am Friday at Prince of Peace Catholic Church with Fr. Joe Hannappel officiating. Visitation will be from 5-7 pm Thursday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home, with a Vigil Prayer Service at 7 pm. Burial will be at 2:30 pm at Westlawn Memorial Park in Grand Island with Fr. Art Faesser officiating.

Memorials are suggested to Kearney Tackles Cancer. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com.

Jerry Lee Arent was born on June 2, 1945 in Grand Island the son of Donald W. and Mildred M. (Stolle) Arent. He grew up in Grand Island and graduated from Grand Island Senior High School in 1963.

He was united in marriage to Gaylene Palu on January 16, 1965 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island. In January the couple celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Jerry entered the United States Army on March 30, 1966 and served in

Vietnam during the Tet Offensive. He was honorably discharged on March 29, 1968.

Jerry returned to Grand Island where he and Gaylene owned and operated the Five Points Conoco. In 1973 they sold the Conoco station and moved to Kearney where they purchased the Phillips 66 on 25th and D. They also operated a U-Haul dealership at the same location and have continued with U-Haul for over 45 years. They later opened Exhaust Pros in Kearney which they owned and operated until selling it to long time employee Scott Classen. In February of 1999 they closed the Phillips 66 and developed the 56th St. Sinclair Plaza. Throughout the years Jerry has remained a constant provider for his family through successful businesses, achieved through his customer service oriented philosophy and his dedicated employees, which Jerry appreciated for all their hard work.

He was an animal lover and was very close to his three therapy animals. Most of all Jerry loved spending time with his family, especially his grandson, Cooper. They spent countless hours horsing around, riding ATV's and he always looked forward to attending Cooper's sporting and musical events. Jerry also loved cars, and enjoyed the challenge of finding particular cars that would fit the needs of family members.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Gaylene of Kearney; his daughter, Christine and husband Cory Johnson of Amherst; his grandson, Cooper Johnson of Amherst; two brothers, Ronald and wife Kathy Arent of Grand Island and David and wife Victoria Kraft of Grand Junction, CO; and a sister, Susan and husband Randy Barlow of Grand Island.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ralph and Virginia Palu; and a brother-in-law, Ricky Palu.

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Memorial Park

Grand Island, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 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>

Vigil / Prayer Service

NOV 5. 7:00 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>

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
2407 W. 56th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Graveside Service

NOV 6. 2:30 PM (CT)

Westlawn Memorial Park
Grand Island, NE

Tribute Wall



“ *Jerry L. Arent*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. I used to fill up at Jerry's 66 back in the 80's and 90's till I moved away! Always loved talking to Jerry and his positive attitude! He was a great businessman and owner! He will be missed! Best wishes to Gaylene and family! Sincerely,
Fred Koeppe*



Fred Koeppe - January 28, 2016 at 02:44 PM



“ *Gaylene & Family
So sorry to hear about Jerry's passing. He will be greatly missed.
Our thoughts and prayers go out to you!*

Jim & Marie Hoppenstedt

Marie Hoppensteddt - November 24, 2015 at 11:48 PM

JF

“ Oh, Gaylene,
So sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. Was so
happy to chat with you both at the CCHS
reunion. Felt blessed to enjoy sharing
memories with folks you were friends with for
more than 50 years. Jerry was a very special
guy. My prayers are with you and your family. Hope he gets together
with our other friends who have passed and send sunshine into your
life. All the best, Jay Filip



Jay Filip - November 07, 2015 at 06:39 AM

TT

Gaylene, Maureen and I are very sorry for your loss. My name is Terry
G Thompson & I serviced in 5he Army with Jerry. He was a very good
guy & I thought a lot about him.

Terry g Thompson - August 04, 2021 at 09:40 PM

DH

“ Gaylene, we are sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. When you adopted
MAX/Morgan we knew it was match. We know that Max will always
support you. You are in our prayers

Dave and Sharon Hayes
Great Pyrenees Rescue of NE
(402) 488-8983 feel free to call

David Hayes - November 06, 2015 at 01:04 PM

 Dick
Bales

“ We are very sorry for the loss of Jerry. You all are in our thoughts
and prayers.

Dick and Conni (Stolle) Bales
Omaha, NE

Dick Bales - November 06, 2015 at 11:42 AM

EM

“ Oh, Gaylene, I was so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. I'm sure the wonderful family that you two created will give you the support you need at this time and the memories of Jerry will give you comfort in the years to come.

Eileen McDermott - November 06, 2015 at 09:52 AM

CH

“ Reading all of your thoughts, prayers and sympathies. I wish I could reach out to you each individually and thank you for taking the time to post. It has meant a lot to our family during this time to hear how he has impacted your lives. Thank you so very much for your kindness and condolences.



Christy - November 05, 2015 at 09:07 PM

RB

“ I met Jerry and Gaylene a couple years ago when they came up to my acreage to adopt a big fluffy dog from Great Pyrenees Rescue. I was so struck by the fun and love between these two, and the way they related to Max/Morgan. Max had found the perfect home. As we loaded him up, I warned them that he was a bit of an escape artist.. Gaylene turned to asked Jerry something, and Max shot out of the van - with Jerry in hot pursuit. I took off in the opposite direction, passing Gaylene. The look on her face said, "Don't you care? Aren't you going to help him?" I responded with, "Going to cut them off at the pass..." I took a shortcut to the middle of the perimeter and soon had 100# of dog in my arms. Jerry and I came panting back, dog in tow. To the best of my knowledge, Max never had another chance to escape - nor did he want to. Saw them again a year later at the Pyr Picnic - same delightful loving couple, with very happy dog. What a wonderful family! So sad to hear we've lost Jerry - hope that Max/Morgan is a great comfort to you, Gaylene. You're in my prayers tonight. - Love, Rhoda, GPR, Pierce, NE

Rhoda Bjelland - November 05, 2015 at 08:05 PM

JK

“ I was so saddened to hear of Jerry's passing. I have been a customer of the 56th Street Gas Station since coming to Kearney 13 years ago. I wouldn't go anywhere else because you didn't get customer service anywhere like Jerry provided. My thoughts and prayers are with all the family and friends during this difficult time. Jerry's smile and positive attitude was beautiful. Sincerest Sympathies

Jaci Kruse - November 05, 2015 at 04:52 PM

DW

“ *Dear Gaylene & Family*
I am deeply saddened to here of Jerry's passing as he was my Boss and better than that my Friend for many years at Jerry's 66, Please accept my deepest sympathy to you , Christy and the whole Family.
Dan Whittaker
Arlington Texas

Dan Whittaker - November 05, 2015 at 03:21 PM

GE

“ *Gaylene and Family,*
May the arms of our Lord wrap around you as grieve for the loss of the love of your lives. May you find peace knowing that his love will always be with you. Many thoughts and prayers are coming your way. *Gayalyn English*

Gayalyn English - November 05, 2015 at 01:50 PM

JL

“ *Gaylene, Christy and Families,*
We are sorry for your loss of Jerry!
Always a smiling face,so friendly and a good friend
He will be forever missed!
John and Lee Ward



John & Lee - November 05, 2015 at 01:18 PM

DR

“ Gaylene and Christy, and family members, I am so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing on. I had gotten to know Jerry 10 years ago, and done business with him over the years. He was a awesome individual and enjoyed the many chat's we had in his office there at the Plaza. Denny Reicks ,, DBA Denny Boom Delivery



Denny Reicks - November 05, 2015 at 12:51 PM

DR

“ Gaylene and Family...
What sad news! My deepest condolences to you. When I lived in Kearney in the 80's I always took my cars to the Phillips 66 on 25th Street for all my gas, service and repairs. Dealing with Jerry was a pleasure as he was always so helpful and caring and he always went above what was expected. We used to talk about life in GI when we were in HS. What a hoot!! I'm sure you, Gaylene, remember some of those times, too!! He went way too soon but it seems that God always takes the good ones early. May you have fond and loving memories of his life.
Dave Rader



Dave Rader - November 05, 2015 at 09:34 AM

UN

“ U-Haul Company of Nebraska purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jerry L. Arent.



U-Haul Company of Nebraska - November 04, 2015 at 01:08 PM

AE

“ I first off would like to say I am deeply sorry for your loss. Jerry was my boss at Sinclair in Kearney from 2007-2008. He was a great person to work for. He was always making me laugh with his smart aleck remarks. He was firm but fair and he truly will be missed by many. God Bless

- Amanda Erickson

Amanda Erickson - November 04, 2015 at 10:02 AM



“ Jerry always had a smile and a friendly comment. When you did business with Jerry you felt he really appreciated your business and he worked hard to let you know he appreciated it. Kearney has lost a good man.

Steve McCormick
Omaha,Ne

Steve Mccormick - November 04, 2015 at 09:34 AM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christy - November 04, 2015 at 08:48 AM

TW

“ I'm deeply saddened to learn of Jerry's death. He was not only my boss for a couple of years when I was younger, but like a second father to me. My deepest condolences to Gaylene and family.
Tannis Watson

Tannis Watson - November 04, 2015 at 06:05 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jerry L. Arent.



November 03, 2015 at 11:45 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. I always knew him to be a fine and caring man. My father (Charles Lucas) and I did many jobs for Jerry through the years when we were in the plumbing business. We always enjoyed our visits with him. My thoughts go out to Jerry's family.
Kent Lucas

Kent Lucas - November 03, 2015 at 10:21 PM

JH

“ I will always remember Jerry's uplifting smile and big heart. I am so sorry for your loss. Too soon. Too young. Jeannie Shell Harms, classmate at GI

jeannie Harms - November 03, 2015 at 06:27 PM

DW

“ *Dana Mehring Eckhart White lit a candle in memory of Jerry L. Arent*



Dana Mehring Eckhart White - November 03, 2015 at 06:20 PM

KM

“ *All our prayers are with the family. So sorry for your loss. Edward and Karen Marshall*

Karen Marshall - November 03, 2015 at 05:15 PM



“ *Gaylene & family:*

So very sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. He was a very special classmate

Kathy Grasmick Patton

Kathy Grasmick Patton - November 03, 2015 at 12:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jerry L. Arent.*



November 03, 2015 at 10:30 AM

KK

“ *Gaylene & Family,*

I am so sad to hear of Jerry's passing. I fondly remember the fun times we had when we were neighbors & friends on Sheridan St. in Grand Island. My deepest sympathy to you.

Hugs,

Kathy (Saddler) Keffer

Kathy (Saddler) Keffer - November 03, 2015 at 09:11 AM

KS

“ *Kent & Dorene Sandstrom lit a candle in memory of Jerry L. Arent*



Kent & Dorene Sandstrom - November 03, 2015 at 08:21 AM

CH

“ *I love you Dad*



Christy - November 03, 2015 at 08:13 AM

HN

Christy- You and your Mom have been in my thoughts. I'm so sorry for your loss. -Holly Nikels

Holly Nikels - November 03, 2015 at 02:12 PM

KM

“ Gaylene,

*So very sorry to learn of Jerry's death. It has been many years since we left Kearney, John worked at Bob's Super Store. I was a stay at home mother to our two daughters, Karie and Kimi. Know that you and Christie and her family are in our prayers.
John and Karen Morrison*

Karen Morrison - November 03, 2015 at 12:06 AM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christy - November 02, 2015 at 10:24 PM

CH

“ I love you Dad



Christy - November 02, 2015 at 10:17 PM

BJ

“ *Brenda Judd sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry L. Arent*



Brenda Judd - November 02, 2015 at 10:12 PM

BJ

May Gods blessings be upon your family and help them find some. Peace.

Brenda Judd - November 02, 2015 at 10:16 PM

DG

“ *Dear Gaylene and family,
Rick and I were sad to hear the news about Jerry. We always appreciated his friendly smile and I know he and Rick liked to share their enthusiasm for certain cars or trucks. Please know that we are praying for you and the family.
Sincerely, Rick and Diane Giese, Amarillo, Texas*

Diane Giese - November 02, 2015 at 08:45 PM