

Jerry J Idt

September 6, 1938 - February 13, 2026

Jerry J. Idt, 87 of Lincoln, formerly of Kearney passed away Friday, February 13, 2026 at his home surrounded by family.

Jerry Idt passed away on February 13, 2026, leaving a legacy of warmth, music, and unwavering love for his family and friends. To know Jerry was to know kindness. And his ever-present smile.

Born to William and Edith (Ehly) Idt on September 6, 1938 in Kearney, Nebraska, Jerry lived a life defined by simple joys and deep connections. Music was the soundtrack of his days.

Growing up in Kearney he loved playing marbles and singing, and won competitions in both. Later, he sold Redman shoes and delivered telegrams for Western Union. This led to his first career after college as manager of Western Union. He met the love of his life, Lois E. Pedersen, and they married on May 29, 1960 at Faith United Methodist Church in Kearney. And Jerry smiled.

Later that year Jerry was drafted into the Army and he served two years in Texas. During that time Jerry and Lois welcomed their first child, Nanette JoLynn, to their family. They moved back to Kearney after Jerry was honorably discharged, and soon thereafter Jay Anthony was born, completing

their young family. And Jerry smiled.

Then Jerry started his career as a salesman for Northwestern Public Service, a job he enjoyed and had for many years. And to nurture his love of music, Jerry joined two barbershop quartets – the Elkhorns, and the Shamrocks. Through barbershop Jerry shared his love of bringing the joy of music to others. Jerry's joy was unmistakable- he smiled.

The year 1986 brought the diagnosis of ataxia. A rare and potentially disabling disease called cerebellopontine atrophy. Jerry's gentle spirit surfaced as he dealt with the many things that were affected ... especially his ability to sing. In the face of all of this, Jerry smiled.

He leaves behind a family who will forever carry his songs in their hearts and his smile in their memories: his wife Lois; sister Susie Melton; daughter Nanette (Mark) Gokie; son Jay (Susan Fisher) Idt; grandchildren Zach (Nichole) Gokie, Kylie Gokie, Cooper (Olivia) Idt, and Quinn Idt. Jerry took tremendous pride in his children and grandchildren and celebrated their accomplishments as if they were his own.

In celebrating Jerry's 87 years, we remember a man who taught us to treasure family, to turn up the music, and to greet the world with a smile. Heaven's choir will welcome his baritone voice.

A celebration of life will be held 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 2026 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Memorials are suggested to Faith United Methodist Church in Kearney, the Ataxia Foundation at www.ataxia.org or through Lois.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 7. 1:00 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>

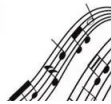
Tribute Wall



“ O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jerry J Idt

Jerry J. Idt

1938 ~ 2026



O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations - March 10 at 01:52 PM

J(

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Jerry's passing. I met Jerry's family 30 years ago when I was an international student in Kearney. Jerry and Lois were my host family, and they truly felt like my real dad and mom. I still remember so many warm moments — they helped me settle into life here and introduced me to American culture with so much love and patience. I'll always be grateful for them.

From Jin's family

Jin Li (Jinny) - March 04 at 11:10 AM

SM

“ I loved hearing Jerry sing, starting with his very high tenor voice as a boy. Later on, his beautiful baritone voice was joined with church choir, the Kearney Barbershop Chorus, and two quartets to entertain and bring joy to many. The Ataxia took away that special voice - but his sweet smile endured.

Condolences to his dear wife and family. (Sister) Susie Idt Melton

Susanne Melton - February 28 at 05:47 PM

JT

“ My dad (Jack Stengel) worked with Jerry at Northwestern Public Service. My dad always spoke highly of Jerry. May the Lord comfort his family during this time.

Joann Tumbleson - February 23 at 02:14 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jerry J Idt.



February 18 at 01:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jerry J Idt.

February 18 at 01:56 PM

KJ

“ So sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. I remember lone and I in charge of the gifts at your wedding. Loved hearing Jerry sing. Prayers for all of you at this sad time.

Kathy Whitney Jensen - February 17 at 08:48 PM

J(

So sorry for your loss I new Jerry through Lois she was my teacher at district 75 in Gibbon she even stayed with us during a snow storm was even invited to her wedding I am Jerrylynn Fisher my maiden name is Cure. I remember it was her first year teaching. Just wanted to express my sympathy to you all

Jerrylynn Fisher (Cure) - February 18 at 07:13 PM

LL

Lois and family, I was so sorry to learn of Jerry's passing. I am thinking of you during this very sad time. My deepest sympathy! Linda Liebig

Linda Liebig - February 24 at 01:12 PM

AD

“ *So sorry about Jerry ! Will always remember our fun trips together !*

Alda Drew - February 17 at 10:49 AM

YS

“ *Nanette, So sorry to hear about your dad! Our prayers are with you and your family.*

From Dean and Yvonne (Perleberg) Smith

Yvonne Smith - February 16 at 12:40 PM

NG

Thank you!!!!❤️. So miss you! We are having an open house after the funeral there for a little bit. Would love to see you!!!! Hope all is well with you!!!!❤️

Nanette Gokie - February 17 at 06:53 PM

MC

Lois, Nanette and Jay and all of the members of you family you have my deepest condolences...

Michael Caha - February 18 at 02:01 PM

TI

My thoughts with you, best. Tim Hopkins

Tim - April 02 at 02:23 PM