



## Gerald Wilbert Hentges

June 4, 1936 - April 19, 2025

Gerald Wilbert Hentges, lovingly known as Jerry, passed away peacefully on April 19, 2025, surrounded by his devoted family. He was 88 years old.

Born in St. Cloud, Minnesota, on June 4, 1936, to Leo and Helen (Becker) Hentges, Jerry's life was one defined by deep love, steadfast service, and quiet joy. From an early age, he embraced a spirit of curiosity and care—qualities that shaped the teacher, husband, father, and friend he would become.

Jerry proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1954 to 1956, completing a tour of duty in Okinawa. His sense of duty and quiet strength carried into his next great chapter: a 30-year career as a beloved high school history teacher at Hibbing High School. From 1965 until his retirement in 1995, he inspired generations of students with his knowledge, humor, and unwavering belief in the importance of learning from the past. Jerry also held a Coast Guard license and took great pride in using it to serve as a guide at Neururer's Boat Landing on Leech Lake during the summer months for many years.

On August 5, 1967, Jerry married the love of his life, Mary Neururer, in Federal Dam, Minnesota. Their bond was the true center of his life—a partnership filled with laughter, adventure, and unwavering devotion. Whether

hunting, fishing, or traveling to warm and sunny escapes during retirement, Jerry and Mary found joy in simply being together.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife Mary, his son Michael, and cherished nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Helen, and his brother, Ronald Hentges.

To know Jerry was to know kindness, quiet wit, and the comfort of steady love. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all whose lives he touched.

A Mass will be held on May 3, 2025, at St. Boniface Church in Cold Spring, MN. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Rosary at 10:30 a.m. and the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow at St. Anthony Cemetery in Watkins, MN.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Anthony's Parish Cemetery

Watkins, MN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 3. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church  
501 Main Street  
Cold Spring, MN 56320

## Rosary

MAY 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church  
501 Main Street  
Cold Spring, MN 56320

## Mass

MAY 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church  
501 Main Street  
Cold Spring, MN 56320

# Tribute Wall

PC

“ Jerry was part of the wonderfully positive HHS faculty when I taught there in the 1970's. Although his classroom was at the opposite (west) end of the 2nd floor, I still had occasion to see him when I could. As noted repeatedly in these comments, he was indeed enthusiastically upbeat, always well complemented by his colorful, vintage '70's professional wardrobe --- flared pants, white belt, plaid sportcoat(s). He really did emanate the vibe of appreciating and enjoying his experiences with high school students. Thank you, Jerry, for not only teaching students your social studies subject matter but more importantly how much genuine joy adds to all our lives. RIP, friend.

*Pat Campbell  
HHS, 1970-80*

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**Pat Campbell** - May 05, 2025 at 06:27 PM

PJ

“ Pete Neururer jr purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Gerald Wilbert Hentges.



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**Pete Neururer jr** - May 01, 2025 at 06:56 PM

CP

“ When I heard about Jerry's passing, it brought back many happy memories and hours of Ken and I, Jerry, Mary, and brother Ron. We were neighbors to their cabin in Federal Dam. The guys loved fishing. Many, many hours were spent planning and getting ready to fish. I can truly say, many more hours were spent talking about it rather than actual fishing. We also played bocci ball in the back yard, a beer in one hand and the ball in the other. There was also a memorable concert trip to Hibbing that we recalled a few times. We are now neighbors again in ColdSpring. He will be missed. Mary and I will get together this summer to remember. Love from Carol and family to yours

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**carol peterson** - April 29, 2025 at 04:55 PM

HB

“ Mr. Hentges was my favorite teacher at Hibbing High School. To this day, my interest in keeping up with the daily world news was thanks to him and it all started in his "current events" class. I loved it! His passion for teaching was apparent and he truly enjoyed what he did. He brought knowledge, kindness, humor and wit each day. I remember him with the wonderful memories at Hibbing High School. Thank you, Mr. Hentges, for all you taught me. May you rest in peace.  
Heather Bovitz

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**Heather Bovitz** - April 28, 2025 at 10:13 AM

SG

“ I had him as a teacher in high school and enjoyed his class very much. He had a way of making history very interesting. It was a pleasure to have known him. My deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

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**Susan Graber** - April 27, 2025 at 11:21 AM

DB

“ I taught across the hall from Jerry for a dozen years. Such a gentleman, great sense of humor, immaculate as a pin. A wonderful educator. We shared years of laughter. My thoughts go out to Mary and family. Jerry will always be fondly remembered by all who knew him. Dan Bergan

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**Dan Bergan** - April 24, 2025 at 08:11 PM

LR

“ Oh man. How I loved this guy! One in 7 billion for sure. These Hentges brothers Jerry and Ron were amazing men. Praying for you Mary and Michael!

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**Londa Lundstrom Ramsey** - April 24, 2025 at 02:38 PM

DL

“ Thank you Mr. Hentges for all you did for HHS - Mrs. Debra Langanki, HHS Science Department

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**Debra Langanki** - April 24, 2025 at 02:31 PM

DW

“ Jerry was my teacher at Hibbing High back in late 60's. I have very fond memories of him, allowing me to present a lecture on WW2 models. Last time I saw Jerry was at the Ball Club pow-wow, and we conversed warmly like old friends. Sincerest condolences to his family. David Walkki

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**David Walkki** - April 23, 2025 at 12:36 PM

PJ

He was an awesome person and always had a cool story to tell. He always listened to everything I said. I'm going to miss him

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**Peter Neururer jr** - April 24, 2025 at 09:09 PM

JJ

*A great teacher for sure! Condolences to his family*

**Jean Turk Johnson** - April 26, 2025 at 11:14 AM

GU

“Gina Uhrbom purchased the Peaceful Wishes for the family of Gerald Wilbert Hentges.



**Gina Uhrbom** - April 22, 2025 at 08:21 PM



“Classic Fireside Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald Wilbert Hentges.



April 22, 2025 at 07:51 PM

GN

“Geralyn N. purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Gerald Wilbert Hentges.



**Geralyn N.** - April 22, 2025 at 04:24 PM