



## Herman Arthur Gerber Jr

September 23, 1939 - July 29, 2022

Herman Arthur Gerber Jr, 82 years old and a lifelong resident of Kansas City, passed away peacefully on June 29 after only one month in memory care.

Herman graduated from Turner High School in 1957 and went to work at Hinde & Dauch, a paper making company. He married his wife of 64 years, Mary Ann Fiene Gerber, in June of 1958, and started a family soon after with the birth of their daughters, Cathy Gerber Phillips and Michelle Gerber.

Herman was a non-traditional student and while working full time attended Donnelly College and the University of Kansas where he earned a BA in Art Education and later a MA in Art Education. He taught elementary art in North Kansas City and moved to Kansas City Kansas as one of the original art teachers at Harmon High School. When he retired in 1998, he was the director of art for the KCK school district.

Many people know of Herman's interest and talent when it comes to drawing and watercolor, but Herman also enjoyed planting flowers and trees long before there was an HGTV. In fact for several years, he worked part time at Holsinger Nursery. One of just several part time jobs he held. He also loved to travel and had visited several states with the mountains of Colorado being a regular destination. He enjoyed 2 or 3 week tours of Europe. Herman was a dancer which became apparent when in high school he was chosen to

represent Turner in the Press Ball. He and Mary Ann even square danced with Moonshiner Square Dance Club for several years, but most recently they enjoyed weekly trips to Tonganoxie and Harrisonville for live music and dancing. What Herman absolutely loved the most was his family.

He is survived by his wife Mary Ann Gerber, daughters Cathy Phillips (Jim), Michelle Gerber (Terry), grandchildren Caitlin Heck (Tom), Eric Phillips (Alyssa), Libby Phillips, Grace Flynn Gerber and Matthew Flynn Gerber. Great Grandchildren Henry Heck, Sam Heck and Poppy Phillips. He was the true definition of a grandfather and was Papa Herman to Griffin, Nick and Kirby Knipp, Dylan and Jake Crandall, Trey, Carolyn and Margaret Schorgel, Caleb, Noah and Brookey Willis, Tanner and Kelsey Krstulic, Kendall Beery and Lucy Knipp. His sisters Francis Mollett and Linda Snavely also survive him.

Services to celebrate Herman's 82 years will be at Bristol Hill United Methodist Church on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers and because Herman taught drawing and painting at Lansing and sang with the East Hill Singers, the family request that donations be made to Arts in Prison.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bristol Hill United Methodist Church  
4826 County Line Road  
Kansas City, KS 66106

# Tribute Wall



“ *Herman Arthur Gerber Jr*

October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *Herman Arthur Gerber Jr*

September 17, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ *I taught with Herman in the NKC School District at Golden Oaks. He was a STAR teacher and the children loved it when he walked in the room. The students would "sponge up" every word he said and watched him intently when explaining what they were working on today. He made pictures "come to life" when he drew. A great teacher and educator. Fondly, Susan Dowden*

**Susan Dowden** - August 19, 2022 at 08:08 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Herman Arthur Gerber Jr.*



August 18, 2022 at 08:12 PM

RD

“ Mr. Gerber was absolutely my favorite high school teacher. The confidence I gained from his lessons and encouragement allowed me to truly enjoy creating art and photography projects. During my senior year, I had class with Mr. Gerber and also served as his teacher's aide. That meant I got to spend two hours a day in his room! I loved being around him. He modeled how to face frustrating situations with humor. He will always hold a special place in my heart and memories. Rhonda Milburn Dennis

Rhonda Dennis - August 16, 2022 at 09:17 PM

JW

Mary Ann ai just ran across the obituary for Herman. My condolences to you and the girls. He was gifted with his art. God put him in the right places. HD you guys been coming out to the Kane family Farm. Jean Hurst Walker.

Jean Hurst Walker - August 31, 2022 at 08:19 PM

EH

“ I meet Herman & Mary Ann when they attended Trinity UMC. wonderful people. I was welcomed to their and shared a meal. I enjoyed their conversations and flowers. He will be missed.

Ellen Hill - August 15, 2022 at 10:06 AM

PG

“ Herman was such a great guy and made such a positive impact on all the lives and future careers of the students he taught. Prayers for all of his family snd a special hug for my old friend, Linda Snavelly. Pat Gaunce

Pat Gaunce - August 15, 2022 at 09:11 AM

MR

“ I would like to share a memory about Mr Gerber. I was a student of Mr. Gerber at J.C.Harmon in the late 1970's. Mr Gerber was a great teacher and person, he was kind, gentle and very understanding. To this day a mural he and a student painted in the entryway of J.C. Harmon in 1974-1975 is still there. I can still see Mr. Gerber and the student painting the mural like it was yesterday. Sorry for your loss, may God Bless the entire family during this time of sorrow. Mr. Gerber will be missed. 💕💕

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**Maria Perez (Sally Rizo)** - August 14, 2022 at 09:37 AM

CB

“ I had the privilege of taking painting classes from this kind wonderful man. I soon learned that his family meant everything to him. He loved Maryann so much. During the classes he would share stories of his youth and advise about living a good life. Oh how I wish I had known him longer. I miss you laughter, you singing songs, and your gentle teaching. Herman was a blessing in my life. Carol Brooks

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**carol brooks** - August 09, 2022 at 10:34 PM

BD

“ For years Herman would come to visit with Bob Young at the District Office. The two of them were always laughing. I never saw Herman without a beautiful smile on his face. He was a lovely and kind man. My heartfelt condolences to his family. Bridgette DeSmet

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**Bridgette DeSmet** - August 05, 2022 at 04:12 PM

JW

*I worked with Herman at the central office and as the art teacher at Harmon high school. He was such a special person but what I remember the most about him was his practical jokes and his hearty laugh that was absolutely contagious! I am sure he will be missed. Such a pleasure to have known him. Judy Ward, Tonganoxie, Ks*

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**judy ward** - August 05, 2022 at 07:29 PM

CC

“*The Gerbers moved a few doors down when I was in 5th grade. To my delight Cathy was my age. We have been life long friends. Herman was always a fun extra Dad with his sense of humor, quiet wisdom and all the creativity constantly in their home. After my father left, Herman was a wonderful male role model for me. He and Mary Ann welcomed me from childhood to an adult in their home. Most recently Herman was a mentor for me in my new drawing and painting endeavors. I feel like a piece of my childhood was cut from me like that first piece of pie. Messy, awkward, and broken in the middle, when my heart heals it will be just like that piece of pie, full of delicious childhood memories and adult conversations with the one and only Herman Gerber. Peace and blessings to all the extended Gerbers, especially my dear Cath. Christen Alley Carr*

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**Christen Alley Carr** - August 04, 2022 at 05:34 PM