



## Gerald Howard McMurphy

March 29, 1935 - February 5, 2024

### GERALD HOWARD MCMURPHY

1935 – 2024

Gerald “Jerry” Howard McMurphy age 88 peacefully passed away on Monday, February 5, 2024 at The Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth, NE.

Jerry was born on March 29, 1935 in Beatrice, NE to his parents Frederick “Fred” James and Velma (Sisson) McMurphy. He married his childhood sweetheart and love of his life, Maxine Kirby, on September 2, 1956. While they were dating, he would take the train to Fremont on the weekends to see her and come back to Omaha where he lived with his mother and attended school. Jerry graduated from Tech High School in Omaha in 1954. He joined the United States Army National Guard in September 1953 to September 1956 and the United States Army Reserves in September 1956 to February 1963. Jerry worked at Millard Heating and Air in Millard NE for years, before starting Jerry’s Heating & Air.

When the kids were young and he returned home from work, he would always leave sweets from lunch in his lunchbox and the kids would always ‘check it out’ and grab the treats from his lunchbox. He and Maxine enjoyed camping with the ‘Kirby Clan’ at Memphis State Lakes and went fishing with his brother and brothers in law. Later in life he joined the Aksarben Chapter 277 of the Eastern Star. He also joined the Arbor Shrine Club in Nebraska City involved in the T-Patrol group, the Hillbillies in Springfield, Masonic Lodge (becoming Worshipful Master in 2000), Tangier Shrine, Keystone Kops, and the Omaha

Scottish Rite's. Jerry loved Halloween and Christmas. He would make some of the Halloween costumes for the kids when they were in grade school out of boxes or whatever he could find that would work. He would walk Jim, Cathy and Bob on Halloween around the neighborhood when they were young while Maxine would stay home and pass out candy.

He and Maxine participated in the Eastern Star haunted house for many years. They would decorate their house and enjoy sharing this with their grandchildren who loved to come see all the decorations. He loved to go to the parades and drive down the streets in his T-patrol cars or ride on the patty wagon, squirting water at the crowd and the company of his fellow members. He enjoyed working the Shrine circus being in on the skits and making people laugh. He liked classical music and would listen to it in the car when Maxine was not there listening to country music. He passed this enjoyment onto some of his grandkids who didn't mind listening to it with him. He was a loving husband who would give into his wife on almost anything, great dad and wonderful grandpa. Grandkids sleepovers included grandpa making breakfast in the morning and grandma drinking coffee at the table. One thing the grandkids remembered is that he always had a Stanley thermos that he carried around with him full of coffee. He and Maxine loved playing cards whether it being at Grandma and Grandpa Kirby's house in Fremont with the whole family until the wee hours of the morning, at their house with family or friends, or just the 2 of them. Jerry and Maxine opened a ceramic shop in the basement of their home on Hartman Street and let the grandkids pick out something to paint and bring home. Jerry would pour the molds and Maxine would help the grandkids paint. He also enjoyed living in Bennington where they would garden and have fruit trees. They would sit on the front porch in the evenings and sometimes just fall asleep while enjoying the night air and the stars. Jerry was a very patient man that you never saw angry. He was very kind and had a warm heart and was loved by everyone.

Jerry is survived by his children: Jim McMurphy (Sherry) of Omaha, NE, Cathy Knabe (John Henderson) of Nehawka, NE, and Bob McMurphy (Mike

Meehan) of Aurora, CO; his grandchildren: Matt Knabe (Jerica) of Plattsmouth, NE, Krystl Knabe (Cody Knopp) of Nehawka, NE, Dan Knabe (Kayla) of Plattsmouth, NE, Dustin Knabe (Tasha) of Meridian, ID, Amanda Thornton (Brian) of Omaha, NE, Nick Beacom of Omaha, NE, Christine Wiseman of CO, Connie James of CA, Terry Perfect of WI, Robert McMurphy (Heidi) of WI, and Amanda Schroeder of Omaha, NE. He is also survived by thirty-three great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and friends. Jerry is preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Maxine McMurphy, father Fred McMurphy, mother Velma McMurphy, brothers: Fred McMurphy and Robert McMurphy, his sister Dorothy O'Gorman, and great granddaughter Bennett Knabe.

Visitations will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M., on Friday, February 16, 2024 at Roby Funeral Home in Plattsmouth.

A Funeral and Masonic Lodge Service will be held at 7:00 P.M., on Friday, February 16, 2024 at Roby Funeral Home with Pastor Michael McGregor officiating and Masonic Rites by Mizpah Masonic Lodge #302 in Omaha.

A Graveside Service will be held at 10:00 A.M., on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at Westlawn Hillcrest Cemetery in Omaha with Pastor Michael McGregor officiating.

The Pallbearers will be Matthew Knabe, Daniel Knabe, Dustin Knabe, Cody Knopp, Robert McMurphy Sr, and Dallas McMurphy.

The Honorary Pallbearers will be Robert McMurphy Jr, Joseph Beacom, and Isaac Beacom.

Military Rites will be conducted by the Nebraska Army National Guard, Military Funeral Honor Guard.

His Final Resting Place will be at Westlawn Hillcrest Cemetery in Omaha.

The family suggests Memorials to the Shriners Children's Twin Cities Hospital. Services are entrusted to Roby Funeral Home, 346 Avenue A, Plattsmouth, NE 68048 (402) 296-3123 [robbyfuneralhome@charter.net](mailto:robbyfuneralhome@charter.net) [www.robbyfuneralhome.com](http://www.robbyfuneralhome.com)



# Cemetery Details

## Westlawn Hillcrest Cemetery

5701 Center Street  
Omaha, NE 68106

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Roby Funeral Home  
346 Ave. A  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048  
(402) 296-3123  
robyfuneralhome@charter.net  
<https://www.robyfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

FEB 16. 7:00 PM (CT)

Roby Funeral Home  
346 Ave. A  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048  
(402) 296-3123  
robyfuneralhome@charter.net  
<https://www.robyfuneralhome.com>

*Including a Masonic Lodge Service*

## Graveside Service

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FEB 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

Westlawn Hillcrest Cemetery  
5701 Center Street  
Omaha, NE 68106