



Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole

July 19, 1954 - November 19, 2021

Gerald (Jerry) E. Dole, 67, of Manteno, IL passed away on Friday, November 19, 2021 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago with his children and wife by his side. Jerry was diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) in 2006. He battled the disease until April 8, 2016 when he courageously accepted a stem cell transplant to further combat the plaguing diagnosis. In his final years, Jerry was faced with yet another health challenge of throat cancer. He was a warrior battling the illness until his final moments on the morning of his passing.

Jerry was born on July 19, 1954 at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee, IL to John and Leonie Dole. Jerry was the older of 2 sons, with James "Jim" (Therese) Dole surviving.

Raised and educated in Manteno schools, Jerry graduated from Manteno High School in 1972. He married his hometown sweetheart Diane (Rathje) Dole on April 1, 1978, and they have three children that they raised in Manteno.

Jerry worked at Waste Management for 25 years. However, his lifetime passion was spent serving as a Firefighter at the Manteno Community Fire Protection District for over 45 years. Jerry was a third generation firefighter that rose through the ranks to Assistant Fire Chief. Chief Dole served as Chairman of the Kankakee Fire Expo for many years. His leadership was instrumental in keeping the school functioning and providing quality training. Chief Dole served on the Kankakee County MABAS 7 Training Advisory

Committee and the Kankakee County Fire Investigation Team as a fire investigator and a juvenile fire interventionist. He also served as Vice President for the Kankakee County Fire Chief's Association and as a member of the Village of Manteno Planning Commission. Jerry was named the Citizen of the Year by the Manteno Historical Society in 2011. Additionally, Jerry was the recipient of a Special Award of Recognition by the International Association of Arson Investigators Illinois Chapter in 2021.

When Jerry wasn't at the fire station, you could find him supporting his grandchildren or spending time with friends and family. Jerry was a man of faith and member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Famously, Jerry was an avid collector of firefighter memorabilia; traveling near and far with his buddies to find the next "treasure".

Jerry is survived by his loving wife Diane of over 43 years, their children: Jason (Rebecca) Dole, Manteno; Jonathan (Jennifer) Dole, Manteno; and Janelle Dole, Chicago; 7 grandchildren: Michael, Vivian, Joslynn, Jayden, Evelin, Jordyn, & Kaylin all of Manteno. Jerry is also survived by his brother along with numerous in-laws, nephews, nieces, and lifelong friends. He is preceded in death by his father, mother, and in-laws (Maynard and Jeanette Rathje).

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be donated to the Manteno Community Fire Protection District.

Visitation for Jerry will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 from 2:00pm to 8:00pm at the Brown-Jensen Funeral Home, 21 N. Main Street, Manteno, IL. A Fire Department walk through will be held at 7:00pm with a Bell Service to follow. A Celebration of Jerry's Life will take place on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 11:00am at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Manteno, IL with Father Tony Nugent presiding. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery in Manteno.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

Manteno, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **23**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Brown-Jensen Funeral Home
21 N Main St
Manteno, IL 60950

Service

NOV **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
207south Main St
Manteno, IL 60950

Tribute Wall

KD

“ love you

KAYLIN DOLE - February 10 at 03:18 PM



“ Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole

October 06, 2023 at 01:14 PM

TL

“ Prayers for your family, RIP my friend you will never be forgotten.



Terry Lewis - November 25, 2021 at 12:01 PM

JG

“ I was a former Bourbonnais firefighter for 30 years and dealt with Jerry on many occasions, trainings, special events, dances and of course emergency calls. Jerry was a great guy and a great officer. He had such a passion for firefighting and showed that to other firefighters. I will miss Jerry very much and am sorry that I was unable to attend his wake. My thoughts and condolences to the Dole family as well as the Manteno Fire dept.family.RIP brother.

Jim Goodrich - November 23, 2021 at 08:14 PM

RB

Tom and I send our prayers and Love!! Remember the good memories The Barretts send LOVE AND PRAYERS!!!!

Rita Barrett - November 27, 2021 at 01:34 PM

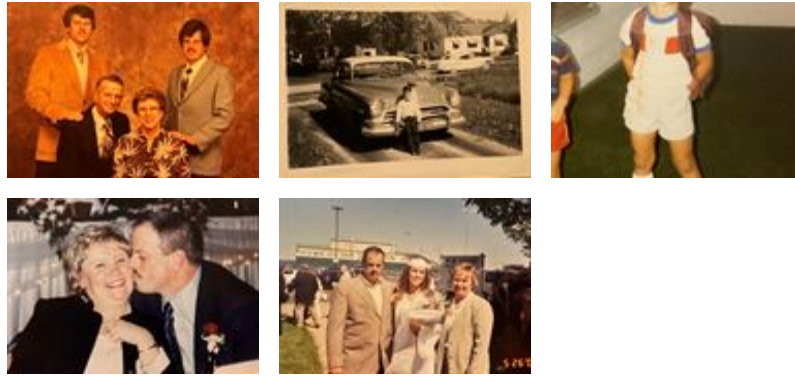
MM

“ Always Sad when someone I've known my entire life passes growing up here in town ! Remembering Jerry as a Neighbor, his folks always at my Grandparents Restaurant & Driving Trucks with my Dad ! My Mother always thought the World of You !!! God Bless You Jerry & Family 🚚...

Mike Marshall - November 23, 2021 at 04:56 PM



“ 124 files added to the album LifeTributes



Brown Funeral Home - November 23, 2021 at 01:36 PM

LL

“ Jerry and I worked together for quite a while I was his dispatcher at evergreen sod farm we had good times together and remaind friends even after I will surely miss him love you Jerry
Linda Lesage

linda lesage - November 23, 2021 at 01:24 PM

CD

“ Thoughts and prayers to the Dole family.A great man and person who served Mantenoans with pride.Rest in Peace J.D.

Chuck Diedrich - November 23, 2021 at 01:22 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.



November 23, 2021 at 07:35 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to the Dole family. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers!

Dawn Knapper - November 22, 2021 at 11:41 PM



“ Such a kick in the gut to learn of Jerry's passing. I am among many who benefited being a fellow firefighter, but most importantly a friend. Jerry lived and breathed the fire service. The community of Manteno lost a gem for sure. Condolences to Diane, his kids and grandkids. Rest in Peace my friend!

Jerry Conner - November 22, 2021 at 07:43 PM



“ Over the years in the fire service, I've heard people talk about someone and say "He was a prince". It was a very high compliment because it means as you rose thru the ranks, you never became arrogant, vindictive or mean as a boss. Jerry was indeed a prince. He was always cordial, kind and one of the men. He'd be right there on the frontlines with you and he was someone you could look up to. Another saying of the fire service- "Always leave things a little better than you found them" comes to mind. This is truly a man who will be missed by many. Godspeed Jerry

A. B. - November 22, 2021 at 05:32 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



November 22, 2021 at 02:15 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



November 22, 2021 at 11:29 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



November 22, 2021 at 11:14 AM



“ *Comfort & Light 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



November 22, 2021 at 11:09 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



November 22, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



November 22, 2021 at 11:01 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



November 22, 2021 at 10:57 AM



“ *We were so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. Our condolences to the entire Dole family. Pete and Lori (Barr) Slattery*

Lori Slattery - November 22, 2021 at 09:49 AM

BH

“ *Bryan & Joelene Hays lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole*



Bryan & Joelene Hays - November 22, 2021 at 09:23 AM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



November 22, 2021 at 12:11 AM

SS

“ *Steve, Carol, Jess and Tom Schmidt purchased the Heart's Companion Bouquet for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



Steve, Carol, Jess and Tom Schmidt - November 21, 2021 at 09:35 PM

MM

“ *If he considered you a friend he had your back always and forever. A beautiful soul always willing to help other's with their journey. Certainly helped me on mine. He will be remembered in the best of ways*



mean marvin - November 21, 2021 at 09:18 PM

CC

“ Jerry Dole.... One of the best of the best. A fireman's fireman, a true leader, excellent mentor, instructor, and someone that so many in the fire service in this area looked forward to spending time with. Diane and family, thank you so much for sharing Jerry with us for all of the years.

Jerry, thank you for everything you did for the fire service you truly made a difference in so many ways. Your passion, dedication, and commitment to always making things better will be missed by so many, and absolutely will never be forgotten.

Rest easy my friend.

Chris and Tonya Cavanaugh

Chris Cavanaugh - November 21, 2021 at 08:55 PM

CD

“ Chuck & Nancy Dixon lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole



Chuck & Nancy Dixon - November 21, 2021 at 07:01 PM

GH

Jerry was always a very happy guy to hang around. He accomplished so much and truly gave back to the community. My best to Diane and the family...God give you peace. Gary Hall

Gary Hall - November 21, 2021 at 09:35 PM

GH

One of the best people we have ever met. Our thoughts and prayers for the family.

Gary and Cheryl Hammond - November 23, 2021 at 11:00 AM

JM

“ Diane, I was shocked to hear of Jerry's passing. I'm so very sorry. The memories of Jerry and I together as best friends in our high-school years is forever etched in stone. I can't think of a single thing I did in those years that did not involve Jerry. This is such sad news for me. There is a brotherhood,, a bond,, between men that time and miles can not erase I have no doubt he was a warrior to the end. Tonight I shale make a toast to one of the greatest guys I ever had privilege of calling my best friend. I send my love and sympathy to you and the family. May God bless you and help you cope with your loss." Here's to my friend Jerry Dole" may his journey will continue. Until we meet again!



Jim Mann - November 21, 2021 at 04:59 PM

CI

“ Jerry a gentleman, a good leader and friend. Always willing to train, to share and allow others to succeed. Your your of duty was a good one and now you are with the Lords Fire Company. God Bless Brother. Chief Jim Grady Frankfort FD retired, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Jim Grady III - November 21, 2021 at 04:54 PM

MH

“ *Several years ago I invited Jerry to attend our son in laws graduation from the Chicago fire academy at navy pier. He was so excited to be there and really had a great day! I'm so happy that I was able to do that for him.*

*Rest in peace Chief Dole
My friend*

Mike Hellmuth

Mike hellmuth - November 21, 2021 at 04:28 PM

AV

“ *Austin And Sue Vining lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole*

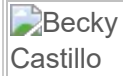


Austin and Sue Vining - November 21, 2021 at 02:43 PM

NP

“ *Jerry was a great man and good friend. We worked together servicing mantenos fire department ambulances. It was always a pleasure working with Jerry for years, I will truly miss him, my deepest condolences to him and his family, may God bless him and his family*

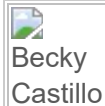
Nicholaus Persson - November 21, 2021 at 12:11 PM

Becky Castillo

“ *Becky Castillo lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole*



Becky Castillo - November 21, 2021 at 10:44 AM

Becky Castillo

*To the entire Dole family, Steve & I are so deeply sadden about Jerry's passing. Our hearts are hurting for the loss of a wonderful neighbor & friend. Jerry will be dearly missed around our cul-de-sac & throughout the Manteno community.
Steve & Becky Castillo*

Becky Castillo - November 21, 2021 at 10:53 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.*



November 21, 2021 at 10:08 AM

BC

“ *Jerry and Diane were my parents' neighbors for many years. He was always looking out for them and so thoughtful. Rest In Peace.
Beth Long Collier*

Beth Collier - November 21, 2021 at 09:42 AM

TM

“ *Tonia O’Keefe Motez lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole*



Tonia O’Keefe Motez - November 21, 2021 at 09:37 AM

CS

“ *Jerry and I became best of friends starting in kindergarten. We went to Our Lady Academy, Manteno High School and then 40 plus years in the fire service. When Arta and I got married Jerry was my best man. When Diane and Jerry got married I was his best man. We used to pal around together for a good part of our lives. Jerry’s passion was to be a firefighter. But not just a firefighter, he wanted to be the best. If there was a conference going on Jerry was there. If there was a certificate to obtain Jerry got it. Chief Dole wanted to be as skilled as possible so that he could pass that knowledge on to others. Well done my friend, we’ll done! Our sympathy and prayers go out to Jerry, Diane and the entire Dole Family! Ride the back step to heaven my friend! RIP.*

Chuck and Arta Snyder

Charles Snyder - November 21, 2021 at 08:03 AM

JM

Chuck, I wasn't there after HS but I sure have great memories of All of us. Last time I saw Jerry was in2003 when my step dad Glenn McGrath passed. Jerry met me at Browns.. how ironic.

Jim Mann - November 21, 2021 at 05:46 PM

CS

Hi Jim. The funeral went very well today. Jerry had a true firefighter funeral! As it should be! Stay safe Jim!

Charles Snyder - November 24, 2021 at 09:18 PM

SJ

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Jerry. I remember him as a fun loving happy guy. Always had a smile on his face. Sending thoughts and prayers for his family during this difficult time.
Shelly Jankuski



Shelly Jankuski - November 21, 2021 at 07:33 AM

BF

“ To my dear friend Jerry from the first time you pulled the trucks out for us many moons ago until the last time we said good bye at Peotone swap meet thank you for your friendship. May Jerry's toy museum live on in memory

bill Friedrich - November 21, 2021 at 06:39 AM

SS

“ Diane. Sorry to hear about Jerry. Steve and I send our 🙏 condolences to your family



Stephen and lunmetta smith - November 20, 2021 at 10:23 PM

MS

“ Jerry,
We will see you again one day.
RIP my friend.
KK and Bump

Mark Stampfl - November 20, 2021 at 09:01 PM

VH

“ Vickie Hammond lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole



Vickie Hammond - November 20, 2021 at 08:32 PM

JM

Vicky. I'm shocked to the core. Jerry has passed. I don't have to tell you a single thing you dont already know. He was one of kind a my best friend for life. Time and distance has changed nothing. All of us were friends . Memories that will never pass.

Jim Mann - November 21, 2021 at 05:06 PM

PS

“ Pam Schwerin lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole



Pam Schwerin - November 20, 2021 at 08:05 PM

LH

“ Lori Hinrichsen lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole



Lori Hinrichsen - November 20, 2021 at 07:40 PM

RH

“ Renee Hoots lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole



Renee Hoots - November 20, 2021 at 07:07 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.



November 20, 2021 at 06:54 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" E. Dole.



November 20, 2021 at 06:27 PM

BJ

“ Diane, Jerry and I are so very, very sorry for your loss. Great guy.
Barb and Jerry Jackson



Barb Jackson - November 20, 2021 at 05:31 PM

PJ

“ Diane I’m so sorry for your loss. Jerry was quite a character.....I remember he and Fred joking every time they saw he other and Jerry had such an infectious laugh. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this most difficult time.

Sincerely, Pam Johnson

Pam Johnson - November 20, 2021 at 05:23 PM