



Gerard "Sam" Frederick Harring

APR 20, 1925 - JUL 3, 2018



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Gerard "Sam" Frederick Harring

APR 20, 1925 - JUL 3, 2018

Gerard "Sam" Frederick Harring, age 93, of Spring Lake passed away July 3, 2018 after a brief illness.

He was born April 20, 1925, in Grand Rapids to Fred and Hazel (Mead) Harring, and educated at Grand Rapids Catholic Central and Davenport Business College.

He came of age during the Great Depression, romanticized that era, and the years of rationing and privation left a positive mark on him. He was a WWII veteran who served in the US Navy in the Pacific Theater, but never felt the need to tell war stories.

An eccentric in the best sense of that word, enthusiastic, curious, and positive in outlook. He had wide ranging interests, including music (a multi-instrumentalist and collector of sheet music), astronomy, reading (primarily science and engineering), sports and travelling. He was a natural athlete who swam a mile a day and exercised regularly at the Grand Haven YMCA until his last days.

A devout Catholic, he never missed a single Mass until very recently, but was never dogmatic and appreciated all religions and cultures. A St. Mary's parish volunteer for nearly 60 years and was also a longtime member of the Spring Lake Lions Club. Personally frugal, but generous with family, friends and strangers alike with his money and time.

A teller of stories, oftentimes the same story, but he did it with such enthusiasm that the listener usually didn't have the heart to say they'd heard it at least once already.

Sam leaves behind his long-time companion and best friend, Doris Ducey, along with his children: Dan, Laura, Linda Fuller (James), Fred (Rachel Pinsky), Alice Rose (Randy), Lisa Thurman (Barry) and John (Leah Panken). He is also survived by grandchildren Tres, Max, Alex, Simon and Kate.

He was especially proud of his children's independence and the fact that they all lived and travelled the world during their lives.



Obituary

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His family and Doris wish to thank all of his medical providers over the years, particularly Dr. Greg Stempky and Dr. Paul Haight, whose abilities and bedside manners were remarkable.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 10, 2018, at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Rev. David Gross as celebrant. Military honors will be provided by the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post # 28 Honor Guard.

Friends may meet the family from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, July 9, at Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services – The Spring Lake Chapel with the Rosary at 7:30 p.m.

Interment will be in Spring Lake Cemetery. Share memories with the family at their online guest book at www.sytsemaf.com.



Events

Gerard "Sam" Frederick Harring

APR 20, 1925 - JUL 3, 2018

Visitation

Monday, July 9, 2018

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Spring Lake Chapel

213 East Savidge, Spring Lake MI 49456



Rosary Service

Monday, July 9, 2018

7:30 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Spring Lake Chapel

213 East Savidge, Spring Lake MI 49456



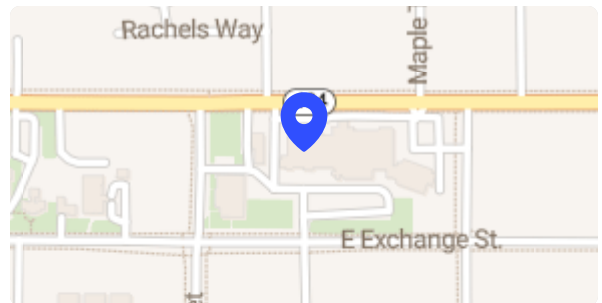
Mass of Christian Burial

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

11:00 AM ET

St. Mary's Catholic Church

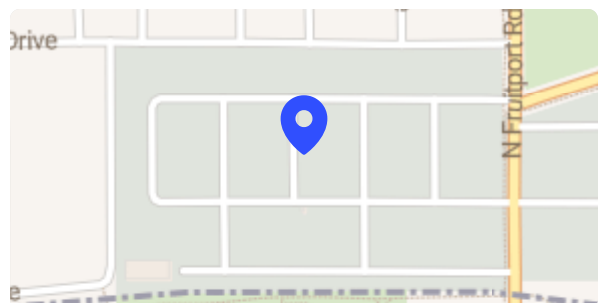
406 E. Savidge St., Spring Lake MI 49456



Cemetery Details

Spring Lake Cemetery

17181 North Fruitport Road, Spring Lake MI 49456





Tribute Wall

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Jimmye Gaston lit a candle in honor of Gerard.



July 13 at 12:54 PM



Brett Dwyer posted:

I remember the stories Jerry told when he & Doris brought scrapbooks & photos to Tampa after going on a Road Scholar trip to the Everglades. I was so impressed that I had a small wine and cheese party for them on the patio the next evening. Afterwards , I was cleaning up and trying to figure out how to bring all the chairs up to the 2nd floor.I turned around and Jerry had taken at least 5 chairs up the stairs & had a 6th on his back making his way up the steps ! He was about age 89 then . I cried when Laura told me about his passing.

July 11 at 5:10 PM



Andy posted:

Sam was a cool guy. I met him when I was going to college in Tampa & lived in the same building as his daughter Laura. I grew up in Traverse City, so it was nice to hear about the Mitten. I looked forward to his visits to Tampa those 4 years. He always had something interesting to say, and I still think about him singing along to the songs played on the Mighty Wurlitzer organ at Tampa Theatre, before the movie started . His enthusiasm was contagious.

July 9 at 5:26 PM



Anonymous sent a Small Garden Dish to the Harring family.



July 9 at 9:41 AM



Anonymous sent a Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant to the Harring family.



July 9 at 9:26 AM



Tribute Wall

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Tom Groenevelt posted:

Lisa and family My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time. Although I never met your father, from what I'm reading I'm sure he was a very interesting story teller who I'm sure I would have like to have talked with Take care my dearTom Groenevelt

July 9 at 6:53 AM



Richard Ducey posted:

My Name is Richard Ducey, son of Jerry's long time companion Doris Ducey.I want to express my deepest sympathies to Jerry's family and I greatly appreciate all the support you have given my mother during this troubling time.I was so glad when Jerry came into my mothers life, after meeting Jerry my mother'sattitude regarding her life greatly improved. I noticed the huge positive influence Jerry had on my mother, and I made a point to tell Jerry this.I look forward to meeting everyone on Tuesday.Thank you

July 9 at 6:14 AM



Judy (Harring) Hill And Family sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Harring family.

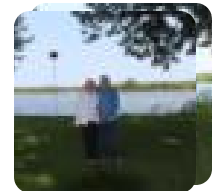
July 8 at 4:40 PM



Kyle & Deb Holt Mawst shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Jerry was a very special and beloved member of our family. We were so happy when he and Aunt Doris decided to share their lives together - - what a blessing from God! Jerry was such a joy to be around and we loved and admired him so very much. He entertained us with his wonderful stories, inspired us with his faith, strength, stamina, and exuberance for living life to its fullest and very best. We will all miss Jerry but rest in the assurance that through our faith in Christ Jesus that we will see him again someday. Until then, he will forever be in our hearts. and we know that he is celebrating with our Heavenly Father, who no doubt is telling Jerry "Well done my good and faithful servant"!With our love, thoughts, and prayers,Kyle & Deb Holt Mawst

July 5 at 9:25 AM





Tribute Wall

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The Pankens sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Harring family.



July 7 at 11:26 AM



Laura H shared an album called **New Album Name**.



July 7 at 8:37 AM



Laura H July 7 at 8:41 AM

Good times at the Kennedy Space Center with Dad, Doris, and Pat.



Laura H shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.



July 7 at 8:32 AM



Laura H July 7 at 8:39 AM

Good times with Dad, Doris, and Pat at the Kennedy Space Center



Ronald Mass posted:

Gerry was a faithful weekly adorer at the St. Patrick/St. Anthony Adoration Chapel for many years from 11am-12 noon on Thursday mornings. I was his Adoration Captain and so appreciated his faithfulness and devotion which helped our Adoration Chapel stay open 24-7. I extend my deepest sympathy to the entire family. Mary Jane Mass

July 7 at 8:15 AM



Aunt Reta sent a Pretty Please to the Harring family.



July 7 at 7:28 AM



Tribute Wall

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Matt Harring shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Uncle Sam was a pretty awesome guy. You could really tell how much he cared about his family and friends. I'll miss listening to his many stories. Please accept our sincere condolences, Matt, Helen, and Jane



July 6 at 5:44 PM



Dan H July 7 at 10:45 AM

Priceless! (So glad the bottom of the pic didn't get cropped out.) That day he was up for the challenge all right.



Dan H shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.



July 6 at 12:00 PM



Luke Mawst posted:

We always enjoyed spending time and chatting around a campfire with Gerry when visiting Spring Lake. He will be greatly missed! We are praying for peace and comfort for Gerry's family and friends. Luke and Sue Mawst and family

July 6 at 5:38 AM



Sincere Thoughts And Prayers: Patricia Mawst sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Harring family.



July 5 at 3:56 PM



Anonymous sent a Pink Potpourri Bouquet to the Harring family.



July 5 at 3:47 PM



Tribute Wall

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Roy, Pearl, Kyle Deb, Luke, And Sue Mawst sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Harring family.



July 5 at 3:36 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Harring family.



July 5 at 2:52 PM



Roy & Pearl Mawst sent a virtual gift in honor of Gerard.

Gerry, as our family called him, was gentle, sweet, energetic and a great storyteller. It amazed us on how strong and fit he was, he could put us younguns to shame. He was a wonderful part of our family and he will be greatly missed. Our hearts and prayers go out to all the members of his family and friends. Rest in peace dear friend. With Loving Memories, Roy, Pearl, Erik & Jennifer Mawst



July 5 at 2:11 PM



Karen Johnson posted:

I would see Gerard at the YMCA daily. It never failed to amaze me how he would swim for 45 minutes, then effortlessly move on to a treadmill and rowing machine for another hour or so, I expected him to be at least 15 years younger than his actual age. He will be missed by many here.

July 5 at 10:40 AM



Leah Panken shared an album called **New Album Name**.



July 5 at 9:59 AM



Leah Panken July 5 at 10:14 AM

Photo credit goes to Dan Harring from the Steak Fry 2001. I am going to miss Sam so much.



Tribute Wall

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A.J. Harring posted:

I will be traveling for work and unfortunately unable to attend Uncle Sam's funeral. I hope all of Sam's family and his wide circle of friends are able to find some solace in this difficult time. Always good for a laugh or 2, he was missed at the fourth of July party, and will continue to be missed. Please accept my sincere condolences. -A.J. Harring...or JJ as he always called me :-)

July 5 at 9:25 AM



Media

Gerard "Sam" Frederick Harring

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Kyle & Deb Holt Mawst shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 8 at 5:43 AM



Kyle, Deb, Pat, Doris and Jerry. Petty's Bayou,
Spring Lake Summer 2014



Doris and Jerry Petty's Bayou, Spring Lake
Summer 2014



Media

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Laura H shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

July 7 at 8:37 AM



Dad, Doris, Pat, and I



Media

Gerard "Sam" Frederick Harring

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Laura H shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

July 7 at 8:32 AM



Dad



Media

Gerard "Sam" Frederick Harring

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Matt Harring shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 6 at 5:44 PM




Uncle Sam never stopped moving!





Dan H shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.


July 6 at 12:00 PM

<https://www.wwiimemorial.com/Registry/plaque.aspx?honoreeID=1392736>



World War II Honoree


World War II Veteran





Gerard Harring

BRANCH OF SERVICE
U.S. Navy

HOMETOWN
Grand Rapids, MI

HONORED BY
Gerard F. Harring



ACTIVITY DURING WWII

DUTY AS HEAVY CRUISER SEAMAN; DUTY WITH THE SEABEES IN THE PACIFIC THEATER. AWARDED THE ASIATIC-PACIFIC MEDAL WITH 2 STARS, 4 BARS AND THE VICTORY MEDAL.



Media

Gerard "Sam" Frederick Harring

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Leah Panken shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

July 5 at 9:59 AM



Steak Fry 2001



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gerard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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