



# Gerald V. Retzlaff

NOV 22, 1937 - DEC 24, 2021



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## **Gerald V. Retzlaff**

NOV 22, 1937 - DEC 24, 2021

**G**erald V. Retzlaff, age 84, peacefully passed away while under the care of family on December 24th, 2021. Gerald (Jerry) was born November 22, 1937 to K.C. and Virginia (Coles) Retzlaff. He graduated from Grand Haven High School, then attended Michigan Tech University pursuing an electrical engineering degree. He was CEO of Grand Transformers in Grand Haven, which was a family run business for over 60 years.

Jerry was a loved and long time member of The Journey Church, and was very involved in the community including serving as the president of Tri-Cities Area United Fund, the committee of economic development, and the advisory board for International Aid, as well as many other nonprofit organizations.

Jerry was a loving husband, father and grandfather who spent his retired life with close family and friends. He is survived by his children, Jeff Retzlaff, Elizabeth Retzlaff, Eric Kasper, and Jennifer Aleccia; grandchildren, Casey Ranen and Kendall Aleccia; and his brother Greg (Lois) Retzlaff. He was preceded in death by his wife, Starr Retzlaff and his brother Kenneth Retzlaff.

A visitation with the family will be held January 13th from 5-7 PM at The VanZantwick Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, 620 Washington Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417. A memorial service will be held January 14th at 11:00 AM at The Journey Church (5660 Quarterline Rd., Muskegon.) Memorials can be directed to Love in Action Grand Haven and the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

Share memories with the family at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com). There will also be a live stream from The Journey Church at: <https://boxcast.tv/view/retzlaff-funeral-659227>

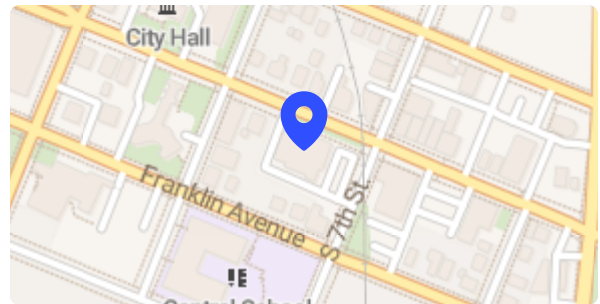


# Events

**Gerald V. Retzlaff**  
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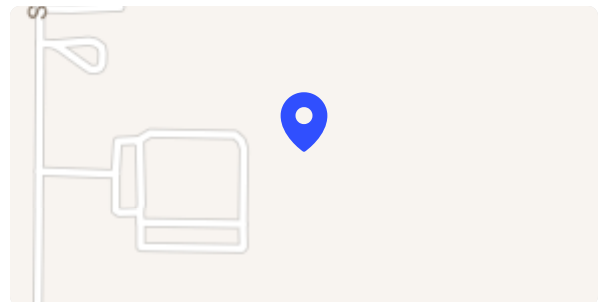
## Visitation

- Thursday**, January 13, 2022
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET
- Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel**  
620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



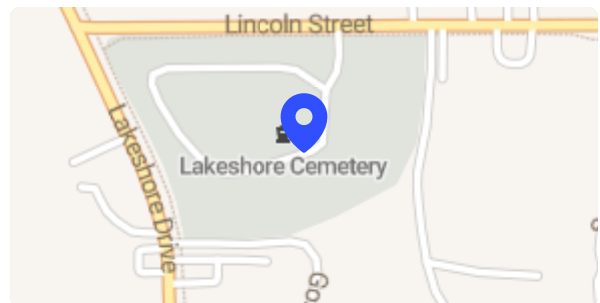
## Memorial Service

- Friday**, January 14, 2022
- 11:00 AM ET
- Journey Church**  
5660 S. Quarterline Rd., Muskegon MI 49444



## Cemetery Details

- Lakeshore Cemetery - Grand Haven Township**  
17200 Lincoln St., Grand Haven MI 49417





## Tribute Wall

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LB

**Lynne Bosgraaf** posted:

Jeff and Beth, The Bennett Family has you in our prayers. Sorry we cannot be with you during this time in person, but know we are with you in our thoughts and prayers. We were all reminiscing the days in Harbor Point when our dads, Jerry and Bill, would holler to each other from their front lawns. So many fond memories during those neighborhood days: BBQs, the hot air popcorn, the guitar jam sessions, even the time of going through the drive window at McDonalds asking them to reheat our Clover Bar leftovers. Every memory is a fond one. May peace and joy fill your hearts with those memories and also with knowing your dad will always continue to bring smiles. Hugs to you both. Bill, Julie, Deb, Diane, Lynne and Kim

January 13 at 6:55 PM

SK

**Sherry Korthase** posted:

Although I had not seen Jerry for many years, my fondest memories of him are of his quirky sense of humor and his enjoyment of family fun. As I was MaryAnne's sister-in-law, Jerry referred to himself as my brother-"outlaw", which he often tried to display. Our families spent many special times together, especially on holidays, such as Halloween. Jerry and Bob would take Jeff, Liz, Samantha and Eric "tricker drinking" while MaryAnne and I handed out treats. One morning, after a night of imbibing, perhaps a bit much, to our puzzlement, MaryAnne and I found a strange bottle of aspirin on the kitchen counter. Jerry later informed us that the dratted child-proof cap was too difficult to remove, so he used a knife and cut off the top to get to his relief! He was always inventive! Some of my favorite reflections include: Jerry's love of his Bricklin, even though he and many others (once including MaryAnne and myself at the grocery store) often became trapped inside because the gull-wing doors wouldn't open; his enjoyment of taking our kids skiing or sledding in winter on the golf course or Sugar Loaf; sitting or "wandering" around the pool in summer; and as "bird man" observing the birds in all seasons. Jerry was a great man who will be missed on earth, but he is now making his new home in Heaven much brighter. To my dearly loved Liz and Jeff, and to Eric and Jenn (whom I do not know), and to Gregg and your family, hold your fondest memories of Jerry close as a comfort in your times of sadness, knowing he is at peace with God. Many blessings to you all. Sherry Korthase (Edlund)

January 11 at 10:21 AM

JS

**John Siemion** posted:

Elizabeth, I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of your father. You, Casey and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

January 9 at 3:10 AM



## Tribute Wall

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JK

**Jim Kasper** posted:

Our deepest sympathies go out to Jeff, Liz, Eric, Jen and the entire Retzlaff family. May your memories of Jerry, a warm and welcoming man, sustain you through this difficult time. Jim Kasper & Julie Brown

January 8 at 11:48 AM

EA

**Eugene Anderson** posted:

Dear Retzlaff Family, Jerry was like my big brother. I worked with Jerry for almost 50 years. He was a GREAT boss, a GREAT friend and a GREAT Man. I will miss him deeply. Gene Anderson

January 7 at 1:07 PM

JH

**Julie Handlogten** posted:

Greg and family, As a former employee of Grand Transformer I always enjoyed Gerald's visits on the floor to talk to his employees. He had a standing order for one dozen ears of sweetcorn when my husband would bring produce to the shop. God bless you all

January 7 at 12:51 PM

SR

**Scott Reenders** posted:

Gerry has been a great friend to my Father Howard for many years and will be missed by the Reenders Family. He always faced difficulties with a smile, a joke, and his positive attitude!

January 7 at 9:23 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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