



Dale J. Finnell

October 1, 1934 - October 6, 2020

Dale Jerome Finnell, 86, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. His wife, Mary Finnell (Funfsinn), sat lovingly by his side. Dale was born on October 1, 1934 at his family's farm in Pontiac, Illinois. He was the sixth of eight children of Leo and Irene Finnell (Swaggert). A multi-sport athlete in high school, Dale Finnell was inducted into the Pontiac High School Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the 1949 Men's Track and Field Team. He would go on to study history and run cross country at Illinois State University. After his sophomore year, he transferred to St. Paul's Seminary in Minneapolis where he would be ordained as a Franciscan priest. Thereafter, Dale was known as Fr. Finnell to congregations at St. Monica's in East Peoria, St. Peter and St. Pauls' in Peterstown, Immaculate Conception in Spring Valley, and Holy Cross in Mendota. Later in life, Dale transitioned from Fr. to dad, leaving the priesthood to start a family with his wife Mary. He would spend the rest of his working days at both Neal's Auto Parts and Caterpillar while raising three children and welcoming six grandchildren. He was a beloved father, grandfather, and husband. We will miss him every day.

Dale will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 44 years, Mary; children, Jamie Lauer, Angie Finnell-French, Joshua Finnell; son and daughter-in-laws, Tom Lauer, Dan French, Anne Valente; grandchildren, Ryan, Kaitlin, Violet, Ruby, Bradley, Lumen; siblings, Punky Juarez and Toby Finnell; and numerous other family members and friends. Dale was preceded in death by

his parents, Leo and Irene; siblings, Marilyn, Chuck, Gene, Carol, and Jack.

A visitation will be held at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria, IL on Friday, October 9, 2020 from 5:00-7:00 PM. A funeral mass will be celebrated on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM at St. Mary of Lourdes Catholic Church, with visitation from 9:15-9:45 AM. Burial will be in St. Mary of Lourdes Cemetery.

Memorial donations in Dale's name may be made to the Peoria Area Food Bank.

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements, and condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's of Lourdes Cemetery

424 Lourdes Church Road
Germantown Hills, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **9**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services
444 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL 61611
(309) 694-9831
gary@garydeitersfh.com

Visitation

OCT **10**. 9:15 AM - 9:45 AM (CT)

St. Mary's of Lourdes Catholic Church
424 Lourdes Church Road
Germantown Hills, IL

Funeral Mass

OCT **10**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's of Lourdes Catholic Church
424 Lourdes Church Road
Germantown Hills, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Dale J. Finnell

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM

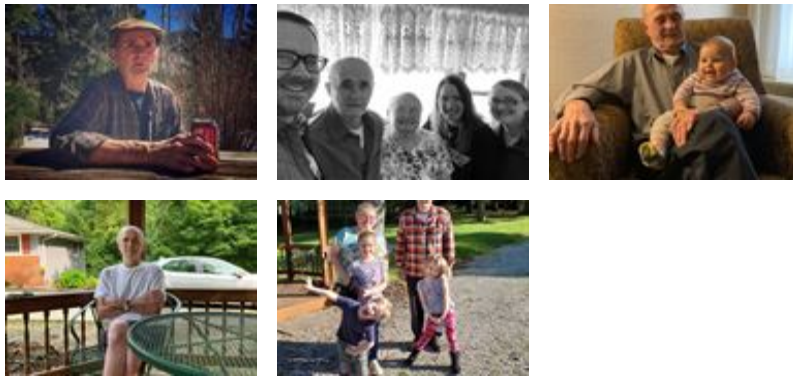


“ My condolences to the family

Randy Keeneth - October 13, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ 30 files added to the album LifeTributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - October 09, 2020 at 01:19 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dale J. Finnell.



October 09, 2020 at 01:13 PM

JS

“ *Mary,*

Rich and I were so saddened to hear of Dale's passing. Our heartfelt love and prayers go out to you, Jamie, Angie, Josh and all their families at this difficult time. I wish that we could be with you tomorrow, and could do better than virtual hugs. There is some solace to find out we can participate in the service via St. Mary of Lourdes YouTube and Facebook channel, and please know that we will be lifting Dale and all of you up in prayer through his final journey. Hopefully, others who are remote and cannot be there find this useful resource as well.

There are two memories that stand out the sharpest in my mind when I think of Dale. The first brings a smile to my face every time, and that is of Dale dancing to "I'm too sexy for my shirt" at our wedding reception. It was a treasure to behold him dominate the dance floor with those moves. He was on fire, on point, and so much fun!

The second memory is one I treasure of both you and Dale helping me at Mom's 70th birthday celebration at Logansport. You both just showed up, rolled up your sleeves and did all the heavy lifting that day cleaning, decorating, serving food and keeping things moving which gave me the privilege of focusing on Mom and helping her to receive her guests. I will always be grateful for Dale and you, and for your servant hearts that allowed Mom to have one beautiful day full of love.

Dale will be missed. Sending love and healing thoughts to all of you.

Jen Smith - October 09, 2020 at 01:01 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jen Smith - October 09, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dale J. Finnell.



October 08, 2020 at 04:00 PM

WF

“ Josh and family, so sorry to hear about your Dad's passing. He was a great help to me when coaching our team many years ago. William and Wendy Frederick and Brian.

William Frederick - October 08, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Dale J. Finnell.



October 08, 2020 at 08:53 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dale J. Finnell.*



October 08, 2020 at 06:34 AM



“ *Oh, Uncle Dale. I am so sorry to hear of your passing. This is the perfect photo for the Irish! When I saw this photo, I instantly thought of my Pop, your Brother. Lord I wish I could have know you both better. Pretty sure you are having beers in heaven.*

Mike Finnell - October 07, 2020 at 11:14 PM

MV

The Valente Family was so sad to hear about the passing of Dale. Dale was such a kind, warm and generous man. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. He officiated the wedding of our daughter Anne and Josh and we will forever treasure that memory. The world would be a much better place if its space were occupied by people such as Dale. I will miss seeing his smiling and welcome face. Rest In Peace.

michael valente - October 08, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dale J. Finnell.*



October 07, 2020 at 09:33 PM

TF

“ Teri (Welle) Hellrung and family purchased the G hirardelli Gift Basket for the family of Dale J. Finnell.



Teri (Welle) Hellrung and family - October 07, 2020 at 09:20 PM

T(

“ My deepest sympathy to Mary, Jamie, Angie and Josh! Your dad was a pivotal much loved, unforgettable person in the lives of myself and my siblings growing up! So many treasured memories of him on the farm! There is quite a Finnell Family reunion taking place in heaven. He will be sorely missed. May God grant you Peace!
Teri (Welle) Hellrung and Family

Teri Hellrung (Welle) - October 07, 2020 at 08:59 PM

JM

“ John and Donna Hughes and Allan Miklavcic purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dale J. Finnell.



John and Donna Hughes and Allan Miklavcic - October 07, 2020 at 08:08 PM

KD

“ *My sympathies to you Aunt Mary and my cousins. I am sorry Mom and I can't be with you during Uncle Dale's services. Many memories of lots of fun and laughs at the farm and when he would come for hunting trips in Michigan! I will miss his wit! God Bless you and keep you all.*
Aunt Jo Finnell and cousin Karen Downs

Karen Downs - October 07, 2020 at 07:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dale J. Finnell.*



October 07, 2020 at 06:12 PM