



## Gerald "Jerry" Cooper

July 21, 1943 - July 6, 2025

Gerald "Jerry" Cooper, 81, of East Peoria, passed away on Sunday, July 6, 2025, at his home. He was born in Peoria on July 21, 1943, to Everett and Alice (Johnston) Cooper. He married Jacqueline "Jackie" Bill in Missouri on June 16, 1962. They just celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary; she survives.

He is also survived by their 3 children, Carol (Steve) Payne and Courtney Cooper, both of East Peoria and Chris Cooper of Sequin, TX; 3 grandchildren, Sausha (Kristy) Stunkel of Haubstadt, IN, and Kirsten Payne and Isaiah Cooper, both of East Peoria; great granddaughter, Zoey Payne of East Peoria, who kept him moving these past few years; and daughter-in-law, Heather Cooper of Peoria.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Gloria Stuart.

Jerry attended Manual High School and was always a big Manual Rams sports fan. He worked as a journeyman pressman at Fleming-Potter for 42 years.

Jerry enjoyed splitting wood, building rocking chairs and toyboxes, as well as riding and caring for horses. Above all, he cherished being a grandpa and watching his grandchildren's sports events. Jerry was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria is assisting the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to TAPS in Pekin. Online condolences

may be left at [www.GaryDeitersFH.com](http://www.GaryDeitersFH.com).

# Tribute Wall



SJ

“ Sandy, Pat (in honor of), Tim, Brenda and Kim Hurley donated the 5 trees below in loving memory of Jerry.

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**Sandy (Hurley) Johnson** - July 13, 2025 at 06:28 PM



“ A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Cooper.

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July 13, 2025 at 06:19 PM



JM

“ Depending on the shifts we were on, I worked with Jerry for 35 years. “Cooper” was one of those guys everybody likes. Nothing upset him. When things weren’t going as they should, he would just grin and give you that Cooper chuckle. Only ran into him once after we were retired. It was good to see him. Even though it just at work, I’m grateful for the time I got to spend with him. Cooper was a great guy. Always fun to be around. Sad to hear of his passing.

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**Jerry Morgan** - July 08, 2025 at 07:46 AM