



## Gerard Lawrence Flad

May 22, 1968 - May 24, 2025

Gerard Lawrence Flad left us, suddenly, on Saturday, May twenty-fourth, while sitting in the shade of the trees at his home on Shadow Lake Road. Jerry is survived by his five siblings, two amazing daughters, his grandson Antonie, and his devoted wife, Gretchen Distler. Jerry spent his final days doing what he loved best: walking the dogs, enjoying the sunshine, listening to baseball games, and making sure that those that he loved were taken care of in the best possible way.

Jerry came from a humble place, by any circumstances, born and raised in the Irish Channel in New Orleans. While he grew up in times that were tough, he had drive and the enthusiasm of a strong character that allowed him to push through difficult times. And to retell them with grace and humor.

Jerry and Gretchen moved to Blacksburg, VA in 1994 in search of a good life and a great place to raise a family. In Blacksburg they were surrounded by family and friends, old and new. The two of them created a place to nurture a family and they provided every opportunity, within their means, for Alanah and Iris. In his later years, Jerry was happy to see the success of his family and, beyond a doubt, delighted by the arrival of his grandson Antonie in the summer of 2023.

That cheerful little boy was his pride and joy.

Throughout his lifetime, Jerry was known as a passionate person; a man who could be fierce and stubborn, or tender and compassionate, as the occasion called. He had a natural instinct for knowing how to address problems and, however unorthodox, his instincts inevitably proved themselves true. Most of all, Jerry was a man who put the needs of other people above his own .

Jerry had a great curiosity and an eclectic store of knowledge; he knew music, history, sports statistics; he most surely knew more quirky facts than just about anyone else on the planet. Jerry coached his beloved daughters in every sport they considered or played. He paced their fields of play as though every game were a World Series. Unconditional love was all and everything that Jerry knew about fatherhood. Where there was chaos, Jerry's voice rose above steady and reasonable. He had a deep faith in good outcomes and a fierce loyalty to his family, his roots, and the Chicago Cubs. Jerry was a man whose greatest ambition was fulfilled by a simple Sunday afternoon surrounded by his wife, his daughters, their men, his perfect grandson, and an ever-changing collection of rescue dogs. We lost him way too soon, but when he left us, Jerry Flad was a contented man. Gretchen, Alanah, and Iris cannot fathom a life without this man, this rock, who was the steady, adoring, eccentric center of their lives.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 30, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY **30**. 2:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home Chapel  
150 Country Club Dr S.W.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

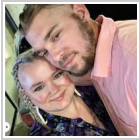
# Tribute Wall

SW

“ God bless you Jerry. You were a major part of my childhood growing up and I will never forget the fun times we had. May God bless you and your family. Until we meet again my friend!! Rest in Peace!!

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**Steven Williams** - October 07, 2025 at 05:06 PM



“ I was glad to have known Jerry for the past couple of years in my line of work. He was a great guy and very funny! I enjoyed his knowledge of beer and sports, and the fact that he is of Irish roots. He will be surely missed as he was one of a kind! Prayers are going up for the family!

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**Jim Horton III** - July 29, 2025 at 09:05 PM

TP

“ My prayers are with your family and friends Cousin Gerard. RIP. Remembering the parades at your mom and dad's house. Famous Bar around the corner from your home. My Mom married Mike McGuire on St. Patrick Day. Memories of your sisters and brother Mike. Hoping we be closer to your family. Hugs. Cousin Terrance G. Pitre

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**terrance pitre** - June 17, 2025 at 08:15 AM

FR

“ I am beyond devastated to lose Mr. Fraend!!! A truly wonderful and unique man that made me laugh often and taught me many things. He was so full of knowledge, so kind, an incredible father and husband, and a beloved friend. I will miss his smile, choppy laugh, and calming presence and feel blessed to have so many cherished memories over your decades together. My heart is so deeply, deeply broken for you all!!!!!!

*What a beautiful man, beautiful marriage, and beautiful family. I know that he will always be present with you on Shadow Lake.*

*I love you all to the end of the earth and share your deep sorrow and loss from Florida. It is hard to believe it is real. I would give anything to be there with you and am thinking of you all every minute of every day.*

*Though it is in storage at the moment while I am living in a temporary place I have a beautiful photo of the two of you at your wedding that I have in a frame and will forever.*

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**Fraend** - May 31, 2025 at 12:56 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

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May 30, 2025 at 11:18 AM

LB

“ My heart breaks for your loss. May the arms of our wonderful community wrap around you in the days ahead with memories and stories of Jerry. Sending hugs and love to each of you!

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**Lynn Brammer** - May 30, 2025 at 06:32 AM

TF

“ The Lynn Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



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The Lynn Family - May 30, 2025 at 12:38 AM

TF

“ The Lynn Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

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The Lynn Family - May 30, 2025 at 12:38 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



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May 29, 2025 at 09:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

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May 29, 2025 at 09:44 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



May 29, 2025 at 06:53 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



May 29, 2025 at 06:09 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



May 29, 2025 at 06:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

May 29, 2025 at 06:02 PM

MA

“ Michele A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

Michele A. - May 29, 2025 at 02:10 PM

JA

“ Jon and Angie purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



Jon and Angie - May 29, 2025 at 09:31 AM

RE

“ Rett purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



Rett - May 28, 2025 at 09:23 PM

RE

“ Rett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

Rett - May 28, 2025 at 09:23 PM

RS

“ Gretchen and family,

*Jerry was an awesome man and mentor. He will be dearly missed. I was so happy to have seen him after a few years and catch up this April. He truly was a man that loved his family and friends. Seeing him show off pictures of the grandbaby with such pride brought such a smile to my face. I appreciate the lessons and wisdom he shared with me during my time with him and will do my best to pass down the same sentiments.*

*One love, Rett.*

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**Rett Sykes** - May 28, 2025 at 09:18 PM

LF

“ Lexi Flad purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



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**Lexi Flad** - May 28, 2025 at 06:25 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



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May 28, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

May 28, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ Kevin and The Cellar crew purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



Kevin and The Cellar crew - May 28, 2025 at 09:30 AM



“ Kevin and The Cellar crew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

Kevin and The Cellar crew - May 28, 2025 at 09:30 AM



“ McNamara Cousins: Betty, Tiny & Linda purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.



McNamara Cousins: Betty, Tiny & Linda - May 28, 2025 at 09:18 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.*



May 27, 2025 at 11:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

May 27, 2025 at 11:38 PM



“ *Barry Brown & Toni Brown Nadler purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.*



**Barry Brown & Toni Brown Nadler** - May 27, 2025 at 06:39 PM



“ *Suzanne, Richard, Sean&Shannon purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.*



**Suzanne, Richard, Sean&Shannon** - May 27, 2025 at 04:30 PM



“ *Heavenly Sentiments Spray was purchased for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.*



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May 27, 2025 at 01:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

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May 27, 2025 at 01:57 PM



“ *Susan Jones lit a candle in memory of Gerard Lawrence Flad*



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**Susan Jones** - May 27, 2025 at 12:19 PM



“ *From Cam Longmire purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.*



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**From Cam Longmire** - May 27, 2025 at 11:56 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.*



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May 27, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

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May 27, 2025 at 10:54 AM



Kathryn Reynolds

“ *Dear Gretchen, Alanah and Iris, I am so sad to hear that Jerry has passed. When I think of him, I remember a smiling face and friendly greeting, and someone I looked for at gatherings. I admire the closeness you all had as a family, a connection and joy to last forever. love, Kathy Reynolds*

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**Kathryn Reynolds** - May 26, 2025 at 07:21 PM



“ *Gretchen, Alanah & Iris- Michael and I are so saddened to hear of the loss of your husband/father. His impact was profound and his direction steady. We were lucky enough to meet him and witness the love that your family holds for each other. We are so very sorry for this great loss to all. Our hearts and thoughts are with you all in this difficult time.*

*With deepest sympathy, The Deeses*

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**Kristen Deese** - May 26, 2025 at 05:26 PM

SH

“ Dearest Gretchen and family,  
We are shocked and saddened to have heard this news. We hope that your wonderful memories will help you navigate these very difficult times. Please accept our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences.

With great affection,  
Merle Wertheimer and Sam Hornstein

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**Sam Hornstein** - May 26, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ Gretchen and family,

I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. His light will continue to shine through you all. You all have so much love and comfort surrounding you and always will.

With love,

Kelsey Marletta

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**Kelsey Marletta** - May 26, 2025 at 05:10 PM

MB

“ I was stunned and saddened to hear of Jerry's passing.  
Condolences to you and your family during this difficult time.

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**Margaret Breslau** - May 26, 2025 at 05:00 PM

PW

“ *Pam Bourgeois Wallace lit a candle in memory of Gerard Lawrence Flad*



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**Pam Bourgeois Wallace** - May 26, 2025 at 03:16 PM

KG

“ *Dear Gretchen and Family, I was shocked to read this and am so very sorry for this stunning news. My heart is with you as you navigate these rough waters. I didn't get to know Jerry well, but he was so supportive of MCDC's work. My love to you. Karolyn Givens*

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**Karolyn W. Givens** - May 26, 2025 at 03:11 PM

GH

“ *Dear Gretchen and family,  
Please accept my deepest sympathy on Jerry's passing.  
Many years ago I enjoyed several years of frequent lunches under Jerry's supervision. He was always warm and friendly, sharing great conversations about sports and many other topics. I regret that we lost touch, but I'll always remember him dearly.  
Sincerely,  
Golde Holtzman*

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**Golde Holtzman** - May 26, 2025 at 02:47 PM

CT

“ Our deepest condolences to Gerry's dear and loving family. What a special man and gift . May the many fond memories and God's love and comfort get all of you through this difficult time.

*Love and prayers from, Jay, Pam, Brenda and Cynthia Bourgeois*



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**Cynthia Tarkington** - May 26, 2025 at 02:41 PM

DP

“ I remember pain Pass the Trash in General Pershing Street the 1st time I met Jerry and his family. We had so much fun and Jerry exuded so much GOOD ENERGY. He was a pleasure to be around. I wish I had known then about his love of baseball. I'm sure we would have talked at length on the subject. I know he will be greatly missed.

*My heart goes out to his whole family. Wishing you all peace and comfort in your time of grief.*

*Dara Poche*

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**Dara Poche** - May 26, 2025 at 02:27 PM

JB

“ Jay, Pam, Brenda, & Cynthia Bourgeois planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerard Lawrence Flad.

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**Jay, Pam, Brenda, & Cynthia Bourgeois** - May 26, 2025 at 02:27 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.*



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May 26, 2025 at 02:19 PM



“ *The Perfater & Nichols Families purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gerard Lawrence Flad.*



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**The Perfater & Nichols Families** - May 26, 2025 at 02:10 PM