



## Jerry A. Cherry

February 5, 1942 - December 4, 2021

Jerry A. Cherry of Dayton, Texas and Christiansburg, Virginia passed away on December 4, 2021.

Jerry was born in February 1942 in Dayton, Texas and was predeceased by his parents, Arthur T. “Buddy” Cherry and Lillie Mae Holt Cherry. He is survived by his wife, Linda A. Dudley; the mother of his children, Rebecca J. McAlister Cherry; his sister, Carol Ann Cherry Manning (Richard); his children and stepchildren: Sara Cherry Nuckolls (Will) of Walkersville, Maryland, P. Ray Cherry (Mary) of Boydton, Virginia, Benjamin T. Cherry (Rachel) of Bristol, Tennessee, Stephanie A. Wirt, Amanda Wirt Gland (Steve), Emily J. Wirt of Christiansburg, Virginia; grandchildren: Nikki Gland-Turpin (Matt), Jinx Thrasher, Leah Cherry, Drew Cherry, Maliyah Payton, David Nuckolls, Kai Payton, and great-grandchildren: Sutton Turpin and Finn Turpin; nephew and niece, Russell Ginsel (Sharon) and Julie Mifflin (Tommy); grand-nephews Ray Ginsel and Ryan Ginsel, grand-niece, Lilly Ginsel; best friend, Curtis Seaberg, and numerous beloved cousins, nieces and nephews, and many friends and colleagues.

Jerry was educated at Sam Houston State University and The University of Missouri. He was a professor at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia (1972-1986); and Professor and Department Head of the Poultry Science Department and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture at The

University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia (1986-2008).

Jerry and Linda have divided their time between Christiansburg, Virginia, Athens, Georgia, and Dayton, Texas since their retirement.

A Texas cowboy, Jerry's hobbies included watching Virginia Tech and University of Georgia football, cheering on the World Series Champion Atlanta Braves, reading, playing poker, savoring scotch, writing about The East Piney Woods of Texas, and watching his "kids" enjoy themselves.

A memorial service will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, Blacksburg, Virginia on Saturday, December 11, 2021. Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home.

Honorary pallbearers are: Robert White, Coley "Red" Wright, Curtis Seaberg, Robert Seaberg, Paul Siegel, Delbert Jones, David Hutcheson, and David Schankenburg.

Dress is casual, please. Another memorial service will be held in Dayton, Texas on a 2022 date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, you may donate in Jerry's memory to St. Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home  
150 Country Club Dr. S.W.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
(540) 552-3211  
mccoyfuneralhome@verizon.net  
<https://mccoyfuneralhome.com>

## Memorial Service

DEC 11. 4:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

WH

“ I worked under Jerry while he was Associate Dean at the University of Georgia. I found him to be a great listener, encourager, and supporter. Additionally, he was a wonderful friend. I attribute a large portion of the success of our research group to his administrative leadership. My heart was saddened.

Wayne Hanna

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Wayne Hanna - December 11, 2021 at 06:25 PM

LD

“ As I grew to know him personally, as well as professionally, particularly when he was with his peers or subordinates, Jerry became much more vocal, but never to the point where he would dominate a conversation, even though he cheerfully agreed. Probably Linda was the only one who would know the extent Jerry disagreed with any topic, if so, as Jerry politely maintained his peace.

This quality was part of what enabled Jerry to “corral” a collection of highly educated, successful scholars, and yet motivate them further, as the Poultry Science Department head at the University of Georgia. His agreeable nature and organizational skills allowed him to successfully allocate limited facilities amongst individuals who would have gladly dominated whatever might have been, to validate their efforts.

Jerry never left personal success elevate him beyond any of us, and he would gladly assist anyone, in word or deed, particularly as time would become more available.

Steve Combs

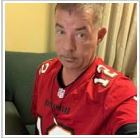
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Linda Dudley - December 10, 2021 at 12:29 PM

AE

“ Jerry (aka Pops) was a kind man, and a true gentleman who always put others before himself. He was the definition of the perfect stepfather, and was exactly what three crazy teenage girls needed. He loved us, took care of us and always encouraged us to be the best we could be. Most importantly, he loved & adored our Mother, and made her very happy. We love him dearly and will miss him with all our hearts, but he will never be forgotten. Legends don't die. Rest in peace sweet Pops. ❤️

Amanda, Stephanie and Emily - December 09, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ He was the best father-in-law you could ever ask for. He loved me. He demonstrated how to be a man. He was simply amazing. I will miss you Pops. Forever

Michael Thrasher - December 08, 2021 at 08:15 PM



He loved you Michael.

Ray Mary Cherry - December 08, 2021 at 11:21 PM

DA

“ I have so many fond memories of the time I have known Dr. Cherry I could spend days recalling them, but I will share a story that probably few know of that weren't present at the time.

*This story begins at about 5 AM on our way to the 1981 Peach Bowl, I was driving. In the back seat was Dr. Cherry (from hence forward, Jerry), Delbert Jones and Chris Jones, and in the front seat Dr. Siegel (Paul) Carl Parson and myself. As I recall we were making good time, but every time I turned around to talk to someone in the back seat Jerry would get on me saying, "Just watch the road."*

*Well, the trip was uneventful until we hit the loop around Atlanta. At some point, because of Peach Bowl traffic the loop came to a halt, I may have been talking to someone in the back seat at the time or smoke from one of Paul's cigars may have made visibility so poor, I ended up slamming in the breaks, causing some cussing.*

*I apparently tapped the Cadillac in front of me. When I asked, if I hit it? Jerry immediately says, "you only knocked the SH\*\* out of them." At that point the passenger of that car got out to check the damages, and if any they were minor, but Jerry never liked riding in a car or truck I was driving after that.*

*I often quip that I was the reason he got gray hair within the first couple of years he knew me.*

*Anyway, I thought I would share a story that many wouldn't know about, and one I hadn't thought about in years.*

*I love, respect and will always have fond memories of Jerry and his family.*

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**Dan** - December 08, 2021 at 10:37 AM



*Thanks for sharing Dan. I love it*

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**Ray Mary Cherry** - December 08, 2021 at 11:20 PM

RW

“ Jerry was a really nice guy. Visiting my cousin Linda and Jerry was always such fun.  
He was such a interesting man. We talked of westerns we likes and cowboy songs.  
I will miss Jerry, without a doubt. All my sympathy to Llna and all the family.  
GOD grant you peace in your trying time...

Risee Wingate - December 08, 2021 at 10:20 AM



Thank you Risee. We continue to keep you lifted up as well.

Ray Mary Cherry - December 08, 2021 at 11:22 PM

RG

“ Too many memories to list just one. He was a benchmark in a lot of ways to strive to be like. I will miss his "no kidding", "aw hell", "you're full a bull", and his unique wide open mouth laugh as his body shook.....and his leg crossed, head slightly down looking at you under his brow grin....Love and miss you Uncle Jerry. Till we meet again hoss.

Russell Ginsel - December 08, 2021 at 08:43 AM



Hilarious! We will have lots if memories to share together soon. Love you cuz

Ray Mary Cherry - December 08, 2021 at 11:23 PM

CC

“ So sorry for your loss.

Carolyn Catlett - December 08, 2021 at 07:01 AM

JT

“ Jerry Cherry was my Pops, and just about the best Pops anyone could ask for. Any of my cousins can attest to that. He was someone to be admired.

*Incredibly intelligent and tougher than anyone, but more importantly he was a caring, great man all around. The people he loved, he loved unconditionally and would do whatever he possibly could for them. He always knew just how to make you laugh, even if you were feeling down.*

*Love you Pops. You will be missed dearly, and never forgotten.*

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**Jinx Thrasher** - December 07, 2021 at 08:26 PM



*Beautifully written Jinx. We love you.*

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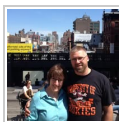
**Ray Mary Cherry** - December 07, 2021 at 09:37 PM

LM

*You can take the man out of the country but can't take the country out of the man. Jerry was my cousin. Honor, integrity and Family was his hallmark. I loved & admired very few men in my life, Jerry was one of them....til we see each other on the other side, Rest In Peace💔*

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**Lillie McNearney** - December 07, 2021 at 10:56 PM



*Thank you cousin Lillie.*

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**Ray Mary Cherry** - December 07, 2021 at 11:07 PM

PG

*Love ya Jerry. I know they all were glad to see you but you will be sorely missed down here. Give them all a hug for me til I can get there too.*

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**Patti Gael** - December 08, 2021 at 02:34 AM

NG

*What a beautiful tribute, Jinx. You're right, he was the best Pops ever. We will miss him greatly. He's left a hole in our hearts, but he will never be forgotten. Sending love and hugs.*

**Nikki Gland-Turpin** - December 08, 2021 at 10:57 AM

CA

*My childhood would not have been complete without my cousin Jerry....oh the love, laughter and memories we've shared! I love you, see ya.*

**connie adams** - December 08, 2021 at 12:00 PM

CA

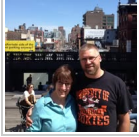
*My childhood would not have been complete without my cousin Jerry...oh the love, laughter and memories we've shared!! You will be sorely missed by all of us who knew and loved you, until we meet again....See ya!!*

**connie adams** - December 08, 2021 at 12:10 PM

CM

*My brother Jerry, of course, was very special to me. We were so proud of him and he worked so hard for his degree but as I always told him, he abused me with his horses...lol...just because he ran over me a few times with Bottom, his horse, he would use his favorite saying when I would scream and cry was "awe that's a bunch of bull"!! He certainly was a special person and was very much loved by our mother and daddy and myself. I miss you already. Till we meet again...love you bunches!!*

**Carol Ann Cherry Manning** - December 10, 2021 at 12:27 AM



“ Going to Texas and spending time with Granny,, Papa,, Carol Anne Richard Russ Julie, Tommy. Riding horses, going to rodeos,, gokarts, shooting guns, eating sausage, Working in the chicken farms , force feeding chickens. Slaughtering the chickens for the huge BBQ at Tech. Got a rope for Christmas as a kid and dad taught me how to rope, and roped me as I ran around the yard. Lots of great people like ( please forgive my spelling) Roger teakle, VanKray, Dr.Seigel, Dr. Bean, Whistman, Dave calibota, Guy, Bill, Israel, Delbert and so many more.....going to tech games. So many great memories. Love you Dad, and thank you for everything. You were the best Dad.



Ray Mary Cherry - December 07, 2021 at 06:18 PM

LD



Linda Dudley - December 07, 2021 at 06:40 PM

CG

Wish we had known him better, Ray. We're here for you all. Love you.



Curtis & Georgene Glasscock - December 07, 2021 at 06:50 PM



Thank you. Yall would have loved him. He and Curt could have bonded over the cowboy life.

Ray Mary Cherry - December 07, 2021 at 10:01 PM

SD

*Sorry to hear about Jerry he was a very nice man I know he will be missed by all. Steve & Barbara Duncan*

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**Steve and Barbara Duncan** - December 15, 2021 at 02:44 AM