



## Gerald Mellinger

June 1, 1947 - May 5, 2024

Gerald Mellinger, 76, of Mentor, passed away May 5, 2024 at home. He was born June 1, 1947 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jerry led a great life. After graduating with the Class of 1965 from Mentor High School, he spent a year at Kent State University and then joined the U.S. Army where he was sent to helicopter training school. Lucky as always, he was not sent to Vietnam as a door gunner but was assigned to Germany as a crew chief for the airfield. Once discharged, he returned to Mentor where he attended Lakeland Community College and met the love of his life, Cathy. They had a 31-year marriage and lived in California, Maui and Las Vegas. They traveled extensively and spent happy times in Italy, France, Holland, Germany and Tahiti. Later, Jerry met Cindy Locasio and they had a great friendship for years in Las Vegas. Eventually, for the last chapter of his life, Jerry moved back to Mentor and was living near his earliest friends and family.

Survivors include his sister, Linda Shanower; nephews, John Shanower and Brian Shanower; ex-wife: Cathy "Mellinger" Dixon and friend-for-life, Bob Jones. He also leaves many other friends including Cindy Locasio and Ron Wightman. He remains loved by all who knew him and will be missed forever.

Preceding Gerald in death are his parents, Glenn and Ruth Mellinger and foster brother, Lee Gilbert.

Private family services were held, with burial taking place in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Seville, Ohio.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, Ohio 44060.

Offer Condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com)

# Tribute Wall

RD

“ Gerald and I go back to the late 50's when we in the Thundering Hoofs club...and I believe his horse was named Lady. In the early 60s we along with our neighboring close friends played our own baseball games. We played the games in the back yard of Bill Chepla's house...but today that area's nothing but trees and weeds. Sad...but thanks for the memories, Gerald. Rob Durkee Rockster2746@GMail.com

Rob Durkee - May 12, 2024 at 11:30 AM

JS

*Me too, except for the horses. ohn Schwentner*

John Schwentner - June 02, 2024 at 05:17 PM

CD

“ My first love. I will miss you forever, Jerry and treasure the 31 years of our marriage and the last 20 years of our continuing friendship. You will live in my heart for my lifetime. I love you - always have and always will.

Cathy Dixon - May 11, 2024 at 09:26 AM

BJ

*Goodbye and travel well my dear lifelong friend. I will hope that everyone experiences a friendship like ours.*

Bob Jones - May 11, 2024 at 12:48 PM

JS

*We had good times tramping the streets of Mentor. You are surely one of my lifes first memories*

John Schwentner - June 02, 2024 at 05:20 PM