



## Gerald Kirkland

May 1, 1940 - May 23, 2014

Gerald Lee Kirkland, 74 years old, of Huntsville, Texas, passed away suddenly on May 19, 2014, from complications of heart disease. Gerald was born May 1, 1940, a life long resident of Huntsville, Texas, was the only lovingly spoiled child of parents Lee and Ada Kirkland. Gerald was a graduate of Huntsville High School class of 1958. He joined the Army in 1961 where he developed several life long friendships. He was discharged in 1968 as a Staff sergeant. Gerald Kirkland married Betty Ruth McCollum on November 10, 1987. She was the love of his life. Gerald loved cars, trucks, motorcycles, motorhomes, tractors, cranes, and big equipment. There was not much that he could not drive, fix, or operate. He earned the nickname of "hot rod" as a young adult. He started his own wrecker service with one wrecker and moved on to cranes in 1978 where he was owner/operator of Kirkland Crane and Rigging until his passing. He built the business into a family business with the help of his loving wife Betty, his son, Gerald Kirkland, II, his daughter, Shanna Lammers, and his son, John Lammers. Gerald was very charitable to the community, willing to donate his services and the services of his cranes. He was a contributor to many organizations, but the H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum of Texas held a special place in his heart. He used his cranes to move and set up their large displays. Kirkland Crane was instrumental in the placing and upkeep of the Sam Houston Statue. Gerald had a quick smile and a spirit for adventure. He loved RVing, especially with friends and family. Some of his favorite destinations included Santa Fe, New Mexico and the

Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Gerald was a fun, loving, and generous man, who never met a stranger. He was quick to tell a joke or laugh at one. He was loved by many and will be missed by all. Gerald is survived by his wife of 26 years, Betty Ruth McCollum Kirkland, his six children, son, Jeff Baker and wife, Lisa, son Gerald Kirkland, II, son John Lammers and wife, Shawn, daughter Kim Young and husband, Ronnie, son, J.C. Kirkland and wife, Kathy, and his daughter Shanna Lammers, his 14 grandchildren, Aaron, Joshua, Tyler, Justin, Megan, Colton, Jackson, and Grayson Kirkland, R.J. Young, David Jacobs, Alex and Andrew Lammers, Josh and Justin Baker, and three great grandchildren. Olivia Kirkland, Bentley Baker, and Kylar Kirkland, and three dogs, Lacy, Puppy, and Candy, and many other family and friends. Gerald was predeceased in death by his parents Lee and Ada Kirkland. Visitation is Thursday, May 22, 2014, 6-8pm, and services on Friday, May 23, 2014 at 11am, both will be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park, Huntsville, Texas 77340. The officiant is Dr. Ken Huggins of Elkins Lake Baptist Church. Pallbearers are Aaron, Joshua, Justin and Tyler Kirkland, and Alex and Andrew Lammers. Interment will be at Oakwood Cemetery Mayes Addition. The family requests donations to H.E.A.R.T.S. Veteran's Museum of Texas, 463 State Hwy 75N, Huntsville, Texas 77320, be made in Gerald's name in lieu of flowers. Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gerald Kirkland*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Gerald,*

*It has been years since I've seen or talked to you. But I often think of you and everyone in the family. I loved going to your house and visiting. I loved "working" with you at both shops when I could. You were an awesome papaw. I remember you being so fun and happy. But I mostly remember you having a big heart. Thank you everything you did for me in the short period you were in my life. I now regret never visiting you in my 4 years at A&M, I wasn't too far from you, but I guess I was too scared. I should have known you would have welcomed me with open arms. I will never forget you. I love you.*

*Betty, Kim, and family,  
I'm sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts. I hope you are doing well. There is no replacing Gerald, but he shines in all of you.*

*Jenn "Rothe" Arthur*

*PS. Dad sends his regards as well. He cared very much for Gerald.  
:)*

jenn arthur - January 22, 2015 at 12:15 AM

RD

“ Belated condolences from the Dezelle family you (Gerald) will be truly missed. Also anytime myself or anyone else needed work you seemed to find us something to do (unfortunately you expected work). "BOSS" you were a good man. Sincerely Ronald F. Dezelle @ Family

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ronald dezelle - May 26, 2014 at 07:56 PM



“ I just heard of Gerald's passing. My prayers to the family for comfort and strength. Gerald was a great friend to so many. He supported his community in so many ways. Gerald did not look for recognition. He just was one of those great persons in our community that serve from the heart. He will be missed. But he is with his Heavenly Father and still watching over us.

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M - May 24, 2014 at 06:48 PM

PH

“ Gerald was a good man. He will be missed by everyone. Our deepest sympathy and prayers for all of the family. May God bless each and everyone of you.

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Pascal and Clarene Hartzo - May 23, 2014 at 11:27 AM

CM

“ Betty and the entire Kirkland family our deepest condolences and sympathy. We will remember all of you in our prayers in the days to follow.

*I will miss my email buddy and his quick wit and political comments.*

*We always enjoyed visits when he stopped to see his son, JC, and family.*

*May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*

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Carol & Marvin Miller - May 22, 2014 at 03:44 PM

JP

“ To Aaron/Joshua Kirkland and all the Kirkland Family. Thought very highly of your grandfather Gerald. Always had positive things to say and enjoyed being with him and family when we were in Texas visiting. He will be missed and prayers goes out to the whole family.  
Jannette Phipps

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**Jannette Phipps** - May 22, 2014 at 10:28 AM

FB

“ Betty, Al, Kim and J.C.,

*My heart was so heavy today, thinking of youall and how much you will miss Gerald. He was bigger than life. I really could not think of a time when I saw him angry. He was always in a good mood, or acted that way. He was one of the best bosses I ever had. As so many have said he was a most generous man, willing to do whatever to help anyone in need or whatever needed to be done. I will always remember how nice he was to me. Kiddos, you can be mighty proud of your Dad.*

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**Frances Bennett** - May 21, 2014 at 09:09 PM

D'

“ Our sincere sympathies to all the Kirkland family. RIP GERALD.

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**Dorothy Autery Duty Class of '58** - May 21, 2014 at 06:01 PM

JB

“ Kirkland Family, We are so very sorry for the loss of Mr. Kirkland. I knew he & my dad (Curtis Ellisor) were friends for many years. Anytime we came around asking for donations for some fundraiser at the school, he was always glad to help us any way he could! His generosity & kind spirit will never be forgotten! God Bless...  
Jamie & Don Brinegar

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**Jamie Ellisor Brinegar** - May 21, 2014 at 04:42 PM

SL

“ My heart is broken. I just talked to him a couple of days ago when he contacted me to check on Benny and ask once again if there was anything he could do to help. He offered to take us to MD Anderson or "Come get my car, it's comfortable and it practically knows the way by itself." And he meant every word. Gerald has been part of my life since I was a teen-ager and has always been kind, generous, funny, and he just "got it." There was nothing with wheels on it that Gerald could not drive or operate from a tractor to an airplane and he was the best at it. He expected you to work hard because he was working harder. He always had a smile or a joke and a better wisecrack than yours. A man who loved his family and never forgot a friend, I admired him and will never forget him. Peace and Love.

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**Sandra Lillard** - May 21, 2014 at 04:32 PM

DW

“ A BIG SMILE AND SOMETHING TO SAY THAT WAS GERALD HE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM.GOD BLESS

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**DEERAY WALKER** - May 21, 2014 at 03:32 PM

BW

“ We were shocked and saddened when we learned of Gerald's death. Our prayer is that God will comfort all of the family.

*We've only known Gerald for a few years, but have always enjoyed our times together when he and Betty would come to Idabel. He was always jovial and generous and a joy to be around. He would always have a comeback for any comment or jab that I would make. He would joke about Betty, but I could tell that he really loved you, Betty.*

*We've been in the storm cellar a couple of times, used many of Gerald's tools, and one of his trailers several times. He was always willing to help me repair something and could fix anything mechanical. He was happy that he had tools and stuff that I could use and encouraged me to use them anytime that I needed them. I really appreciated him for that generous attitude.*

*We don't know the whole family, but Betty and Jeff, we're thinking about you and are sorry for your loss. We're also going to miss him along with you. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sorrowful time.*

*Boyd and Davene*

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**Boyd & Davene Warren** - May 21, 2014 at 02:50 PM

TS

“ Dear Betty it has been an undescrivable Shock to us to read about this sad news We are so sorry for your loss Betty! We are among the many whose lives were blessed by knowing him!!! He is going to be missed!! We want you to know we care and we love you and if there is any thing we can do to help you at this time please don't hesitate to call on us We will keep you and the family in our prayers Love Tom and Carol Saroch Lubbock

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**Tom and Carol Saroch** - May 21, 2014 at 02:33 PM

NJ

“ How saddened I am to read about Gerald. He was a great friend! Gerald will be missed by all who knew him! Norma Dell and Jerry D. Jones of Lovelady (formerly of Huntsville).

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**Norma Dell Jones** - May 21, 2014 at 09:54 AM

JJ

“ Art and I are so very sorry for your loss. Gerald was a generous and kind man. Our prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

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**Jeannine Jacoby** - May 21, 2014 at 08:11 AM

AL

“ My condolences to the family. Revelation 21:3,4 can be very comforting to thoes who mourn. With Sympathy.

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**Alexander's** - May 20, 2014 at 09:49 PM

PA

“ *That big smile, always with a big laugh or joke will be greatly missed. We all loved Gerald as well as you too Betty. My prayers are with you and your family.*

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**Patricia Alexander** - May 20, 2014 at 07:49 PM

SO

“ *Oh how I will miss my old friend. Never would you see that man with a sad look on his face. He always had a smile on his face. He was always a joy to be around even when I was a kid he would make me laugh. It was always a joy to run into him at the grocery store. I know him and my PaPaw (Eli Currie) are telling tells up there now. Praying for the whole family and Ms. Betty.*

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**Shannon Ford Oliver** - May 20, 2014 at 06:28 PM

KB

“ *to Gerald's family, I send my deepest sympathy and loving prayers. Gerald was so special...did so much for us all and loved the Class of '58 with a special fervor. I am asking God to hold Betty especially close right now. Gerald was absolutely one of the "goodest" of the good guys. He will be missed, but he will always be loved. Our lives are, once again, emptier because we have lost a dear friend and classmate. May God comfort all of us!*

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**Kay McAdams Barrett** - May 20, 2014 at 05:14 PM