



Gerald "Jerry" Southland

December 5, 1926 - April 13, 2016

Gerald "Jerry" F. Southland, 89, of St. Joseph died early Wednesday morning, April 13, 2016 at his home with family.

Visitation will be held Sunday, April 17 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Services in Benton Harbor. Services will be held Monday, April 18, at 3:00 pm at New Apostolic Church in St. Joseph. Memorials may be made to Lakeland Healthcare's Hospice at Home or the Marie Yeager Cancer Center. Please share memories, messages or photos at www.florin.net.

Jerry was born on Dec. 5, 1926 in Muskegon, Michigan to Harm and Ellen (Gornell) Southland. He graduated from Benton Harbor High School in 1944, and was immediately drafted into the U.S. Navy. After serving, he graduated from Purdue University in 1950 as an Aeronautical Engineer and joined Whirlpool Corporation in 1951 as a Regional Service Manager.

Jerry married Barbara J. Stillman in 1954, Doris Arent Brown in 1975 and Joyce Osborn Jones in 2004.

During his 37 years at Whirlpool, Jerry held many roles, traveled to 76 countries and raised his children in Lebanon and Switzerland for several years. He retired in 1988 as Vice President of the International Sales Division.

Upon his retirement, a dear friend and coworker wrote, “What do you say about a guy who has 2 houses, 3 boats, 5 cars, 5 motorcycles, an illegal 3-wheeler, 50 model airplane engines and a camera in every drawer in the house?”

Jerry lived and loved with gusto. He was an avid radio control modeler, boater and WWII historian. He was preceded in death by his sister Carol in the 30s, his father Harm in 1987, his aunt Trena in 1999 and his wife Doris and mother Ellen in 2000.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Joyce; his children, Jeffery (Cindy) Southland of Indian Harbour, FL; Cynthia Southland of Stevensville; Stephen Southland of Bangkok, Thailand; Mark Southland of Plano, TX; his stepson, Skip (Kathleen) Brown of Lagrange, IL; his 5 grandchildren, Claire, Anna, Julie, Eric, and Steven; and one great grandchild.

Cemetery Details

Cremation will follow Service

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Service Celebrating His Life

APR 18. 3:00 PM (ET)

New Apostolic Church
3392 Maple Lane
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Gathering

APR 18. 4:00 PM (ET)

Lake House Restaurant
3029 Lakeshore Drive
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ *The Just family is deeply saddened that we were not able to bid good bye to Jerry nor express our sympathy personally to Joyce, Cindy, Jeff, Steve, Mark, and to Skip and Kathleen. Our friendship was real and deep, we loved Gerry and will always miss him. We will remember his wit, his optimism and joy of life, his wisdom, and his warmth.*

Jorge Just - April 21, 2016 at 10:22 AM

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“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Ron Alonzo - April 19, 2016 at 09:26 AM

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“ *Kim Selent purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Southland.*



Kim Selent - April 18, 2016 at 12:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Southland.*



April 17, 2016 at 12:46 PM