



Gerald "Jerry" Joseph Curcio

June 3, 1944 - June 4, 2020

Gerald Curcio of Thornton, Colorado, died of lung cancer one day after his 76th birthday on June 4th, 2020. Jerry was born in Windber, PA the second child of Paul and Mary Koach. The parish priest did not approve of the Ellis Island name change and instead of Koach, wrote the family name of Curcio on his baptismal certificate. Years later when Jerry applied for a passport he was informed that a "Gerald Koach" didn't exist, but a Gerald Curcio did, and he officially changed his name to Curcio as did his sons, Anthony and Noel Curcio.

Jerry was an enthusiastic, and sometimes eclectic, hobbyist. While working in the desert, a helicopter landed in the small rural schoolyard. Jerry immediately purchased a small DIY Bell helicopter kit in Las Vegas, Nevada, and spent several years assembling it. However, his love for trains surpassed his love of flying. Over his lifetime, he slowly but steadily collected Lionel trains until nine sheets of plywood, holding trains, tracks, and accessories filled his basement in Thornton. In 1980 his trains were put in storage when he and Kathy bought a 320-acre ranch in Broadus, Montana where he raised cattle, harvested winter wheat, and raised a family in a depression-era 1,000 square foot home. Jerry also loved church music, specifically the beautiful sounds he heard from cathedral pipe organs. He quickly became a self taught master organist and pipe organ enthusiast, and played churches in his community, as well as around the country. He began building his own pipe organ that he disassembled in a small church in Iowa, and reassembled in his home in Gillette, WY. In later years Jerry passed down his love and knowledge by rebuilding three pipe organs at Annunciation Church and Christ the King Chapel at St. Elizabeth in Denver, Colorado, and completely restoring the steeple bells at St. Elizabeth in Denver.

Jerry graduated from high school and met his wife in Brea, California. He worked his way through college while raising four children and working full time at Kimberly Clark. He eventually graduated with a teaching degree from Cal State Fullerton. His first teaching job was in Baker, California. His wife joined him and took a teaching job in the small desert mining town of Mountain Pass, California. After a few years they moved their family to Campbell County, Wyoming to teach in a small rural school 40 miles north of Gillette,

Wyoming. Jerry taught many grade levels during his career at both Little Powder, and Rawhide Elementary Schools, while he earned his MS and Ed.S. degrees. In 2000, Jerry took a principalship and later a superintendent on the Wind River reservation outside of Riverton, Wyoming. His final job took him to the Alaskan Panhandle, where he retired as a school superintendent.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Katherine Curcio, and their four children, Anthony Curcio, Teresa O'Neal, Noel Curcio, and Heather Underwood, as well as nine

Events

JUN **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM - 01:00PM

26

St. Elizabeth's of Hungary Catholic Church

1060 St. Francis Way, Denver, CO, US, 80204

Comments



“ Jerry was such a kind person to all you entered his home and as a friend to Kathy, I saw his love and devotion to her and Jacob. His range of interests from rebuilding organs to long arm quilting were amazing and the hardships they endured in teaching in rural areas amazed me. How devoted they were to each other and their family. So many memories & blessings he passed on to those who knew him. Betty Franklin Harrelson

Betty Franklin Harrelson - June 25 at 02:17 PM