



Gerhard Karl Berger

January 17, 1934 - January 4, 2021

Gerhard Karl Berger passed away peacefully at his home on January 4, 2021 after a brave battle with lung cancer at age 86. He lived a full life as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Gerhard was born to Karl and Maria (Kubessa) Berger on January 17, 1934 in Germany. He was the oldest of four children. After World War II, at the age of 18, he left Germany to come to the United States. Trained in Germany as a machinist, he started working in St. Louis, Missouri with his uncle. He learned English, became an American citizen, and joined the Air Force.

His 26-year military career followed along with aviation history. He worked as a mechanic on the C-47 and C-124, as a flight engineer on the C-133 and finally on the C-5A Galaxy, the world's biggest aircraft at the time. Flying was his greatest hobby. He earned his commercial pilot's license and flew as often as he could.

When he retired from the Air Force, he earned his Associates Degree and worked as the Chief Technician on an offshore oil rig with Exxon.

He is survived by his wife, Huberta; his sister, Gertraude Berger; his daughter, Paula Hall, her husband, Kevin, and her three children, Nicholas, Christopher, and Kate; his son, Thomas Berger, his wife, Katherine, and his three children, Charles, Sophia, and Simon; and Noel Karlene and Gabriel Moseley, the children of his predeceased daughter, Julia Berger. He is preceded in death by his parents, his two brothers, Hubert and Karl Johannes, and his daughter, Julia.

Gerhard was beloved by his family and friends and will deeply missed. He always had a kind word or a joke for a friend or even a stranger. He loved to make people laugh and brighten their day. He was an active member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, and served as a Knight of Columbus, helping with the senior community.

Funeral mass and interment with military honors will be private due to the pandemic.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Fairfield, California or to the American Cancer Society.

Cemetery Details

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery

5810 Midway Road
Dixon, CA 95620

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Hello Berti and family. You probably won't remember me but my parents used to bring me and my siblings to visit you both when we were children. My name is Carlene Young McIntyre. My parents were Carl and Rita Young. I always wondered about you both and your family. My condolences to you all. My parents have been gone for some time now and they are probably reminiscing with Gerry as I write this.

Carlene McIntyre - January 14, 2021 at 05:58 PM

LH

“ January 11, 2021

I'm penning this with a very heavy heart. As flight engineers, Gerhard and I flew many hours together, in C-133s and C-5s aircraft, while stationed at Travis AFB. He was such a pleasure to fly with. Our most difficult missions were made less stressful, due to his positive attitude and sense of humor.

May God bless and comfort his family, and provide Gerhard with eternal peace.

*Larry Hall
Vacaville, CA*

LAWRENCE HALL - January 11, 2021 at 02:12 PM

BH

“Karl loved playing jokes on Ernie Bins. Ernie loved playing the California lottery. He always hung the ticket in his locker. Karl somehow obtained a blank lottery ticket roll from a store. Typed the winning numbers for the drawing and swapped Ernie's ticket with the fake one. Ernie got excited when he read his ticket until, when he called the lottery and discovered the ticket didn't exist. He was mad at Karl for weeks. Karl loved Ernie and Ernie loved Karl. Karl bought him a few lottery tickets to say sorry. Karl always made us laugh at SYU. He was a true friend and will truly be missed.
Condolences to the family.
B. Humphries

Bill Humphries - January 10, 2021 at 12:36 AM