



## Mr. Richard (Rick) J. Gerke

December 6, 1954 - January 14, 2017

Rick Gerke, 62, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 14, 2017 of an asymptomatic heart problem. The son of the late Robert (Bob) Gerke and Carol (Verhagen) Gerke was born on December 6, 1954. Rick grew up in a wonderful neighborhood with his brother and two sisters near Dickinson School in East De Pere. Rick was a 1973 graduate of De Pere High School.

Rick attended UWGB for Fine Arts to cultivate his artistic skills. He worked as a Commercial Artist and Production Manager throughout his career at Pranges, Shopko corporate, the Green Bay Press Gazette, the De Pere Journal, and finally the Ashwaubenon/Howard Suamico Press. He had excelled in both the old newspaper production methods and the new digital method, with one foot in both worlds of commercial art. Rick was known for his offbeat humor, and his stability and resourcefulness under pressure. He rarely missed work.

He finally met the right girl when he was 32 years old. He said that his heart leapt when 23 year old Jeanette Holschuh called him from college and said she wanted to come home and build a life together. His life goal was to be a

good father. Rick and Jeanette married on July 9, 1988 in Green Bay, Wisc. They moved into their home in Ledgeview where they have lived happily for nearly 29 years. The couple has two sons, Jonathan Richard and Timothy Sheldon. His family was his highest priority.

In 1993, Rick accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. His life philosophy was based on Matt. 22: 36-40, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind; and to love your neighbor as yourself. He tenderly loved people from all walks of life, encouraging them and making them smile. His goal in life was to make at least one person laugh per day.

Rick was loved by his family and will be deeply missed. He loved working in his yard where he called himself Tree Feller and Jeanette was Garden Hoe. With his quick wit and charm, Rick won every argument with Jeanette because he could always make her laugh no matter how mad she was.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Jeanette (Holschuh) Gerke; sons: Jonathan (Hannah) and their new daughter Shannon Marie; and Timothy (special friend Marissa). His siblings, Sally (Steve) Kuss; Thomas Gerke (Mike Cross); Gloria (Mark) Watzka; Rick is also survived by Jeanette's siblings, Jim Jr. (Lisa) Holschuh, Margaret Lee (fiance Keith Deprey), Peter Holschuh, and Michelle (Robert) Simmons. He is further survived by nieces and nephews whom he loved to play with, his aunts Nancy Gerke, Lila Verhagen, Virginia Verhagen; uncle Kenneth (Sandy) Verhagen. He was preceded in death by mother and father-in-law, RoseMary and James Holschuh Sr. and aunts and uncles.

Jeanette often said she raised three boys, and only two grew up.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be donated to Operation Cold Snap [www.hooahinc.org/coldsnap](http://www.hooahinc.org/coldsnap) in care of Jason Braun or William Kocken at [wkocken@hooahinc.org](mailto:wkocken@hooahinc.org); or St. Jude Children's Hospital in care of Jason Braun at (920) 494-8800

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at Aurora Hospital for their exceptional care. Rick almost beat the odds.

Gathering of family and friends will be held from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Friday, January 20, 2017 at Spring Lake Church, 2240 Klondike Rd., Green Bay. There will be an open sharing of "Rick Stories" at 6:00 P.M. to close the visitation. If you are not comfortable reading it aloud, Jeanette's sister will. Visitation will continue at 9:00 A.M. until 10:45 A.M. on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the church. A Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 A.M. with Pastor Graham Hunt Officiating.

Online condolences may be expressed at [www.HansenFuneralService.com](http://www.HansenFuneralService.com). Hansen Family Funeral and Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 20. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Spring Lake Church  
2040 Klondike Road  
Green Bay, WI 54311

## Sharing of Memories

JAN 20. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Spring Lake Church  
2040 Klondike Road  
Green Bay, WI 54311

## Visitation

JAN 21. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Spring Lake Church  
2040 Klondike Road  
Green Bay, WI 54311

## Celebration Of Life

JAN 21. 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM (CT)

Spring Lake Church  
2040 Klondike Road  
Green Bay, WI 54311

# Tribute Wall

BL

“ Dear Jeanette,  
Following this beautiful time of the year, I was saddened to hear of Rick's passing. Enjoyed working with you both at the Press. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Barb LaFrombois*

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**Barbara LaFrombois** - January 21, 2017 at 12:12 PM

JB

“ Jeanette and family,  
  
Always, always had a laugh when speaking with Rick. Loved the note about Jeanette raising 3 boys. Amen to that. Great memories of working with Jeanette all those years ago and getting to know Rick. You all will be in my prayers.

*Jim Ball*

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**Jim Ball** - January 19, 2017 at 01:33 PM

SB

“ We will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers, Gloria, during this difficult time.

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**Sandi and Bob Barrette** - January 19, 2017 at 11:09 AM

SJ

“ The smile that welcomed every soul on Sundays now welcomes them Home. I wish I could take away your grief. My prayers are with your family and dear friends, Jeanette. In Him, Sami Johanski

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**Sami Johanski** - January 18, 2017 at 09:27 PM

SS

*Jeanette, I'm so sorry for the loss you and your family has suffered. Rick was one of the good ones! - Sean Schultz*

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**Sean Schultz** - January 19, 2017 at 11:25 AM

JL

*Jeanette. . As Sean and others have said . . He was a Sweetie . . I know I enjoyed working with him also . . His faith has moved him into glory with Christ . . Keeping you all in prayer - Joy Lemerande*

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**Joy Lemerande** - January 19, 2017 at 07:35 PM

LH

*I'm so sorry for your loss. Rick was an amazing guy to get to know and work with at the Press. Always a smile and a chuckle, plus such talent. Prayers to you and your family - Laurie Hendzel*

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**Laurie Hendzel** - January 19, 2017 at 09:01 PM

TT

*Jeanette and family, I was very saddened to hear of Rick's passing and can only imagine your grief. He was a one of a kind individual and a joy to work with at the Green Bay Press-Gazette.*

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**Tina Tweedale** - January 20, 2017 at 05:24 PM

JC

*Jeanette..soooo sorry to hear about Rick. Hugs and prayers coming your way. Jill Conklin*

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**Jill Conklin** - January 21, 2017 at 04:06 PM

AB

*Jeanette, I was so saddened this evening to hear about Rick's passing. Although it was many years ago since I last saw the two of you (probably your wedding), I remember him as a warm-hearted person, and knew the two of you would be very happy together. My thoughts are with you and your family.*

*Anne (Robbins) Bromfield*

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**Anne Bromfield** - January 21, 2017 at 07:23 PM