



Gerard J. Leyden

AUG 16, 1943 - FEB 9, 2021



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Hamlin & Hilbish
Funeral Directors

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Gerard J. Leyden

AUG 16, 1943 - FEB 9, 2021

Gerard J. Leyden, 77, died peacefully at home on February 9, 2021. He was born in New York and raised his family in Southbury, Connecticut before settling in Leesburg, Florida. Jerry was a banking executive for many years, eventually retiring from Bank Of America. Two of his grandsons followed in his footsteps attending Chaminade High School in New York and University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He loved RV travel, golf and bocce and was a big fan of the NASCAR races.

Jerry was preceded in death by his wife Maureen after 44 years of marriage. He is survived by his daughter Shannon Cline and her husband Dave and their daughter Alex; his son Sean and his wife Janine and their sons Sean, Jason and Joseph; and his son Mark and his wife Michele and their daughters Sydney and Megan. He is also survived by his partner Marge Gould.

A funeral service will be held via livestream on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 10:30 AM and may be viewed by clicking the link:

<https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/47823>

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to AAFP Foundation, Attn: Development, 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 440, Leawood, KS 66211 or online at www.aafpfoundation.org/donate

Condolences, memories, and photos may be shared on the tribute wall.

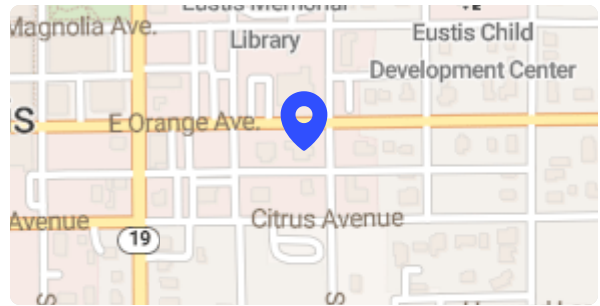


Events

Gerard J. Leyden
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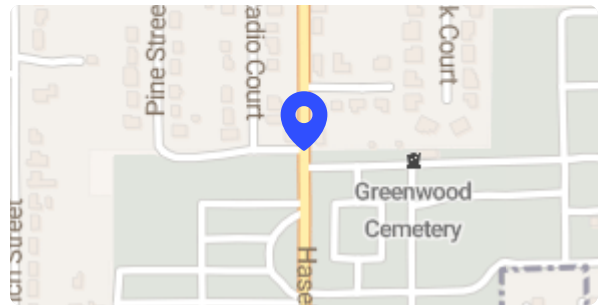
Livestream Funeral Ceremony

- Wednesday**, February 17, 2021
- 10:30 AM ET
- Hamlin and Hilbish Funeral Directors**
326 East Orange Avenue, Eustis FL 32726



Cemetery Details

- Greenwood Cemetery**
220 Haselton Street, Eustis FL 32726





Tribute Wall

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Margaret F Gould posted:

Nine years ago this month, I met a wonderful man. We had gone to a Valentine's dinner dance at the clubhouse with some friends. He asked me to dance and that was the start of a wonderful relationship. He had a three wheel motorcycle called a trike. He took me for rides on the country roads of Southbury and we listened to music and sang along on the open road. He also had an RV and we went on camping trips. Indiana to visit family, Hilton Head, Disney World, Maine. Every trip was a new adventure. He enjoyed the beach in Maine and the warm weather. He was an avid NASCAR fan and for many years we attended the Daytona 500 race. From our seats we cheered on our favorite drivers. His was Joey Lagano. We flew in a World War II bomber and a seaplane over the general area. In 2019, we went on a trip to Saint Martin with his son Mark and his wife Michele. It was a wonderful trip and we enjoyed touring the islands and visiting the beaches. We had a wonderful time together and our time was way too short. I will miss the time we spent traveling, having conversations, adventures and loving. Rest well, my love. Marge

February 16 at 11:27 AM



Tribute Wall

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Shannon Cline posted:

"Let's go, Pink!" This is the refrain I heard a lot over the last five weeks of Dad's life. He was mostly confined to his recliner and he, the lover of travel, must have felt a deep seated need to get up and go somewhere. A few times, I helped to get him out to the porch and on two memorable occasions, I rode with him in the wheelchair van to the hospital and back. God bless Robert who listened to dad's request and drove him the scenic route so he could see everything (and point it all out to me). :) In thinking about this, I realize this is a great metaphor for the relationship I had with my dad. He was an educator at heart and always wanted to teach me where everything was located and the best way to get places. From a young age, I can remember him collecting pamphlets and maps at every vacation, tourist stop and drive that we took. He took great pride in knowing all about the places we visited, but he was old school with paper mapquest maps and "best of" books. Family trips always included lots of research and then stacks (and stacks!) of random brochures. My love of maps both old and new comes from dad. If dad wasn't literally taking me places, then he was doing it figuratively through middle of the night emails or texts of NYT articles or stock suggestions from The Motley Fool. He wanted all of his children to succeed and he offered advice, guidance and monetary support to help make that happen. He wanted us all to go places. Dad's unwavering support extended to my husband and daughter and even eventually to my daughter's girlfriend. It means a lot to me that he mentored and supported my family and helped them to go places too. He (along with my mom) made sure that Dave could see his beloved Red Sox every year with a gift of season's tickets and he contributed to Alex's college fund so she could graduate and get a job in a great field that will take her far. Even at the end, he wanted Alex and Rachel to have one of his cars so they could go places together and suggested that a trip up the east coast to bring the car to Massachusetts would be a fun way to go! In the last few days, I have heard and read many things about dad that have touched me. Dad was the gadget man and he cautioned me with "easy" even on one of his last days. He was generous with his time and his money and was a caretaker at heart. His devotion to mom especially during all her cancer struggles will always stay with me. His long time friendships with Allen and Gwen and Beth and Dave remind me that despite being a quiet guy, he was a loyal friend. His caring relationship with Marge shows me that he enjoyed love and companionship later in his life. My brothers and I have enjoyed sharing stories and jokes about dad and growing up with a man of few words. I realize that dad had a bigger impact on people because when he did speak, you knew it was valuable information he had to share. So, dad, now it is time to go to a place of peace where you can watch over all of us and when we get a little too rambunctious, you can shout to us "easy"! Love, Pink (Shannon)

February 12 at 9:03 AM



Tribute Wall

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DC

Dave Cline posted:

It made me smile to read Beth's thoughts above, especially about Jerry being a gadget guy. It was especially fun to watch him let the 'gadget geek' side of him out on many occasions. It led to instant bonding between him and his granddaughter Alex and I always enjoyed watching them fuss together over the next great toy to come down the pike! Jerry will be terribly missed. For a person of few verbal words, he was extremely expressive if one knew what to look for and on many occasions it wasn't so much what he said as what he didn't say. Jerry, you left many great memories, and I for one am a better person for having known you and having you in my life! Dave Cline

February 14 at 10:42 AM

SC

Shannon Cline shared an album called **Memories Album**.



February 14 at 9:57 AM

AC

Alex Cline posted:

Grandpa always had a way of sharing joy with others. I remember when we visited Connecticut one summer after he'd just bought a new motorcycle. He took mom for a spin first, and I was incandescent with the idea that just as soon as they came back it would be my turn to tool around the neighborhood. They were gone for ten or fifteen minutes and returned windswept and smiling and yes! Oh yes! It was my turn! He directed me how to sit and where to hold on. I got instructions in his quiet, cautionary way about how to lean with him. He saw me nearly bouncing in the seat with excitement and warned me "easy", a favorite saying of his. And then we were off! I expected the same tour around the local streets but after a few minutes - likely only after making sure I wasn't going to do anything stupid - we took to the highway and zoomed off. I'm pretty sure my smile split my face in two, and sang through the com when he checked in over the headset. I could hear the gruff happiness in his voice when he warned me we were going to go "a little faster". Don't tell mom but I think we broke a couple of road laws that day ;) I remember stopping later at some random roadside store to let us both stretch our legs. He hopped off and then helped me down, flipping up my visor to check in. I was beaming ear-to-ear and got a surprised laugh out of him. "Like that, do ya?" he asked. I could only nod enthusiastically. We stayed out for over an hour. I still remember the warmth and the wind and his dry wit over the headset to this day. He was happy to be able to share this experience he enjoyed with someone that loved it too. I have a lot of memories like that; quiet moments of joy or excitement over a new piece of technology or a new vehicle, Grandpa happy to show off to an audience. I expect I'll think of him every time I get a new gadget, or whatsit, or thingamabob that I know he would have liked to hear about. And I'll always hear him going "easy" when I get too excited and almost trip over my own feet. His joy was infectious. Love you, Grandpa

February 12 at 9:03 AM



Tribute Wall

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ML

Michele Leyden shared 5 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



I met Jerry, my father in-law, 28 years ago when I was a mere 19 years old. Jerry was a part of shaping who I am today. As I got to know the Leyden's at such a young age, it was easy to see that they were a family surrounded by love, respect, intelligence and most importantly, they knew how to enjoy life. Jerry was the first to introduce me to the Caribbean islands. At 20, we vacationed on St. Martin with Maureen and Jerry. I have such an appreciation for the islands because of them. I remember long walks on the beach with Jerry telling me all about the history of the island. He was a wealth of information and truly enjoyed educating others. On that trip, and over the years, I learned something very important from Jerry. I learned how to slow down, take a deep breath and enjoy my surroundings. I also learned how to become more observant of my surroundings. Jerry was the most observant person I knew. If you had the tinniest of scratches on your car, he would find it! If a building was slightly off symmetrically, Jerry would comment!! had the utmost respect for Jerry's calm manner. He did not rattle easily. In fact, one of his favorite words was "easy". You would often find Jerry saying "easy" if you were moving something, fixing something or building something. He would simply supervise the activity, and say "easy" to remind us to take our time. Jerry was known as the 'gadget man'. I have fond memories of walking into their Southbury home to listen to him tell me about his latest gadget and how it worked. And, he sure did know exactly how everything worked! He is the only man I have ever known who reads the owner's manuals cover to cover. I often chuckle when I make a new purchase and I think of Jerry. I do not read the owner's manuals but I do find myself at least flipping through them knowing that he would want me to be well informed on my new purchase. Really, there are too many memories with Jerry and lessons learned to put into words. However, I feel it is so important to celebrate the most important take-away that I will be forever grateful for. My in-laws, Maureen and Jerry, had what most would describe as the fairytale marriage. They loved deeply and were devoted to one another. The words "in sickness and in health" took on a whole new meaning when my mother in-law was so sick for so many years. I could feel the pain weigh heavily on Jerry but he did not once waiver with his devotion. Those years were hard. Watching the love of your life pass away had to be so incredibly difficult. I am thankful that Jerry was able to find happiness with Marge when Maureen passed. That devotion and love that I witnessed out of Jerry was what my husband grew up with and I feel so incredibly lucky to have a husband who had such strong role models in his life. I will greatly miss Jerry. I find small comfort in knowing that he is reunited with Maureen. People may leave this world but their memories never go away. My in-laws are forever a part of me and I cherish the time I had to get to know them and feel so lucky to be married to a Leyden.

February 12 at 9:03 AM



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Chris Linnevers posted:

I was a semi-permanent fixture at the Leyden's house in Southbury during my middle school and high school years. There were countless days of adventure around the farm on Old Field Rd, and I recall on many occasions staying past my welcome to partake in a hearty dinner while relaxing on lawn chairs in the back yard. Sometimes we'd feed the cows, or even shoot the .22 rifle at a tin can perched upon the back fence. Mark (one of my closest friends to this day), Shannon, Sean, and their unforgettable parents - Maureen and "Jerry" were like a second family to me. Of course, I always addressed Jerry as "Mr. Leyden". He was warm, but also a little scary to me as a kid. Warm because he smiled a lot. In fact, Mr. Leyden's wry and knowing smile was one of his most memorable traits. However, his sharp intellect and unshakable logic was intimidating to young lads trying to maneuver past parental boundaries. I'm sure he knew what you were thinking and then what you were gonna say well before it tumbled aimlessly out your mouth. Then he'd smile at your tall tale or your little scheme, and not fall for it. Mr. Leyden would almost always call Mark "Scoobs". "Scoobs" he'd say, "You and Chris have goofed around enough this weekend, it's a school night, you've got homework to do." The Leyden's knew I'd be back soon enough to raid their stash of chocolate ice cream. To me, Mr. Leyden was always ahead of the game. He knew where technology was going, and he seemed to have a careful plan for just about everything. I believe he went to bed each night thinking about how he could make life more interesting, and often woke up determined to bring new insights, new toys, and new adventures to his family and friends. Call it "trickle down" if you will, but I learned a great many skills from my time with Mark and his dad. How to stack hay, how to shoot a rifle, how to properly swing a hammer, how NOT to ride a motorcycle, what "Compaq" means, how to use a coal stove, The joys of HBO, how to kick a soccer ball, the value of very new and very old gadgets...Yup, I could go on and on. And then you have Mr. Leyden's unwavering dedication to Mrs. Leyden and the kids. You'd feel it in your bones the moment you walked thru the back door. Mark's parents could be found hanging out together in the kitchen wearing big smiles, fanny packs, and tighter-than-heck spandex shorts. I'd grab a banana (without asking) and check in with them. They'd give me and Mark crap about something, and I'd be OK with it. Actually, I really miss it. That was 35 years ago, and though I am no longer a young man, I do feel spiritually renewed in remembering these moments with the Leyden family, as well as eternally grateful for their love and acceptance over the years. Peace and love be with you, as you walk to the light, Mr. Leyden. Say Hi to Mrs. Leyden for me.

February 12 at 9:03 AM



Tribute Wall

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GB

Gwendolyn Brinley shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



From AllenJerry AKA "Squire" which stemmed from his CB handle "country squire". He and Maureen came from Detroit in 1972 and rented a house from my mother. Upon interviewing Jerry & Maureen my mother invited them in for a cocktail. Noticing that my mother was smoking they also asked if they could smoke. They rented the house from 1972-1987 at which time they bought the house. Both being city folk they didn't know much about country living. Maureen decided she wanted a garden which she shared with Kathy Croke. Since I had cows already on the property, they inquired about raising one for beef. Maureen took it upon herself to learn to feed the baby calves. At this point Jerry was working for Uniroyal and doing considerable travel. As Maureen did not have a license, I took her on her errands. Jerry tried to adapt to country living but he had difficulty cutting and splitting wood and putting hay in. Both took physical strength Jerry did not possess. He was very willing to go for a run for a mile or so after putting in hay and I could never figure out how he had the energy. They maintained the house even though they were living in Rhode Island coming home on weekend we would get together for a drink or dinner. Upon retiring he spent winters in Florida which we normally visited him in Eustis. We would play golf, bocce, dinners, and dances. Jerry was an accomplished dancer and he enjoyed the 50's and 60's. We last saw Jerry and Marge last year for lunch. We could see Jerry was having difficulty getting around. We were all concerned about his declining health. I consider Jerry a good friend and will miss his thoughts on financial and sporting events. A few thoughts from Gwen. My husband Allen knew Jerry much longer than me. What I remember about Jerry was his amazing humor he could find fun in the smallest details of life. I remember his love of his family and friends. Jerry and I shared a bond in that we both took care of someone we loved with cancer. We had a few talks of both the sadness and gratitude to be there for someone we loved till the end. Both Jerry and I had another bond in that we were able to start a new chapter in our lives. Him with his partner Marge and me with my dear husband Allen who I love with all my heart. Jerry and Maureen were comforting in any trials or joys either his family or ours were going through at the moment. Jerry & Maureen enjoyed visits from our grandson to see them and their little dog Beau. They opened their hearts to our children being godparents to Rob and offering loving words to Allison and her children. When Bob & Amy were added to the Brinley mix, they were caring and loving. I will miss Jerry because he was a good man in more ways than I can express here. I enjoyed every minute we were all together. Allen and I were privileged and honored to be a part of his life.

February 12 at 9:03 AM



Tribute Wall

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BJ

Beth Johnsen shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

"Jerry" I wish I could write this in "Leyden script". Jerry had a unique way of putting together his written words. It was some where between printing and script. It is hard to remember when we first met Jerry. It seems like he has always been in our lives. I think that Shannon and Peter were probably about six years old when we met. So that would mean that we have been friends for close to fifty years. Where did all that time go? I think our social life with the Leyden's began with hayrides down the main streets of Southbury. We camped on their hill. We spent hours in our hot tub where Jerry enjoyed the heat so much that he was always the last one out. We celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, children's weddings, grandchildren's births, Christmas and New Years together. We had dinner almost every Friday night with them to catch up on the week. Jerry was very proud of the accomplishments of his kids and grandkids and the stories were always part of the conversation. We joined them in Providence for activities like "First Night" and "WaterFire". We traveled to Boston to view the Tall ships and Jerry took us on a driving tour of NYC including the "Twin Towers". They came to Sedona to visit our townhome there. We shared our timeshare with them and traveled to Duck, NC and Jackson Hole, WY in the US of A. We moved on to vacation in the Caribbean visiting Jamaica, St Martin, Aruba and Turks & Caicos islands. Jerry was the first one to show us the internet. The internet was the biggest gadget. Jerry was a gadget man. He was the first to have them all. We were by his side during Maureen's bouts with cancer. That was a long struggle for him. He was not good with "sick", but he did a wonderful job of caring for Maureen. The spring after loosing Maureen, Jerry told us he had someone new in his life. Her name was Marge and we were the first people he was telling. He was afraid it was too soon and people would not approve. I told him I thought it was wonderful. He had been a good husband to Maureen, but he did not need to be alone because life is too short. We like Marge and think they have been good for each other. I really struggled with loosing Maureen, but I am struggling more with loosing Jerry. It is the end of a friendship that we truly treasured. Our lives would not have been the same without our friends to enjoy it with us. I thank Shannon for keeping us in the loop during his last days. It meant a lot since we could not be there.



February 12 at 9:03 AM



Shannon Cline shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

February 14 at 9:57 AM



Granddaughter Alex's graduation



Media

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Michele Leyden shared 5 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

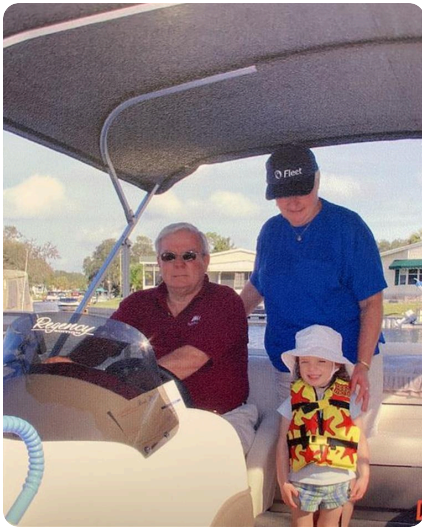
February 14 at 7:25 AM





Media

Gerard J. Leyden
AUG 16, 1943 - FEB 9, 2021





Media

Gerard J. Leyden
AUG 16, 1943 - FEB 9, 2021



Gwendolyn Brinley shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 13 at 1:16 PM





Media

Gerard J. Leyden
AUG 16, 1943 - FEB 9, 2021



Beth Johnsen shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 12 at 9:03 AM



Disney



Southbury, CT



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gerard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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