



Gerald "Grizz" Wayne Arlt

May 12, 1940 - July 20, 2016

Gerald W. Arlt, "Grizz", of Kingsley kicked the bucket on the 20th of July, 2016, when his tired and worn out body finally gave out at age 76. He lasted a lot longer than the doctors thought he would after his 5 way heart bypass back in 1995. Vicky, his wife of 41 years, reminded him regularly how lucky he was to have all those extra years with his 4 children and then later with his 14 grandchildren. Unfortunately, he got bit by the dementia bug shortly after his retirement and ended up with a slew of health problems in his twilight years. Though he beat the odds several more times over the past few years, this last time finally did him in. He passed on quite peacefully between one breath and the next with Vicky and his youngest daughter at his side. He often complained to Vicky and his daughters Ginger, Miranda, Jessica and Shana that they "should just take him out back, shoot him, and dump him in a hole." Though once in a while tempted, they never actually considered it. Instead they each worked hard in their own way to keep him safe and healthy and living at home for as long as they possibly could. They did their best to make his last years good ones - without a lot of help from him. You might think after all that, that they would be glad to be done with him, but in fact while they are glad he isn't suffering, in pain or confused any longer, they already miss having him around and wish he could have had just a little more good time left in him. In addition to Vicky, Ginger, Miranda, Jessica, Shana and his sons in laws Jim, James, John and Tino, Papa will be missed by his grandchildren Desirae, Dayzee, Jayde, Sunny, Samantha, Ciarra, Shamus, Izarra, Dominic,

Treyvor, Logan, Violet, Zebastian and Xander.

Since he never much liked a crowd, there won't be any special services, but later this summer he will get his final wish when the family gets together to put his ashes in a hole out back while we remember the good ole days together such as how he loved to travel and go on camping trips. The way he made sure his kids knew their way around basic auto maintenance. How he served his country in the U.S. Army and came home to build his own home on the farmstead where he was born and raised. We will talk about how he enjoyed holding the babies and laugh about how many times he filled the freezer with venison by hitting a deer with his car. We might even enjoy his favorite meal of hot beef with potatoes and gravy - hold the vegetables! All in all, he had a pretty good run and we sure will miss him.

In lieu of any memorials, Gerald's family ask that you make a contribution to those around you by supporting, encouraging and sharing of your self, time and love with them every day. Make the most of every moment you have.

Arrangements entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

Tribute Wall

LD

“ Liz Dykgraaf lit a candle in memory of Gerald
"Grizz" Wayne Arlt



Liz Dykgraaf - August 02, 2016 at 01:40 PM

MH

“ Mary Heady lit a candle in memory of Gerald
"Grizz" Wayne Arlt



Mary Heady - July 26, 2016 at 09:26 AM

MH

Thinking of you and your family.

Mary Heady - July 26, 2016 at 09:27 AM



“ *What a beautiful and well written story, friend. I was very saddened to hear about your loss. Although I have not been in your shoes, I do understand the struggles that pull us this way and that, and the roller coaster of emotions that ensues. Understanding that you are happy that he is at peace but still recognizing that his space is now unoccupied is very difficult and sad. Based on your story I know that although it will take time, you and your family will support each other through this and be stronger for it. Thank you for sharing this beautiful sentiment and using it as a teachable moment for those around you. I love your parting words asking for support encouragement of those around you in lieu of other contributions. Kind thoughts and prayers for you and your family.*

Karin Cooney - July 25, 2016 at 11:18 AM

KB

“ *Vicky and Family-*

You are a special family that works very hard to take good care of each other. My deepest sympathies are with you during this time. I am glad you have each other and so many others that care for you.

Sincerely, Kerry

Kerry Baughman - July 25, 2016 at 07:26 AM



“ *Prayers for everyone, share the happy memories and do your best to create new ones.*

Chester Arlt - July 22, 2016 at 11:34 PM

AM

“ *Alivia Morden lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Grizz" Wayne Art*



Alivia Morden - July 22, 2016 at 03:10 PM

LB

“ *Vicky, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. I'm very sorry for the pain that comes with loss, and missing this important man in your lives.*

*My sympathy,
Laura Bachman*

Laura Bachman - July 22, 2016 at 10:54 AM

GI

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Ginger - July 22, 2016 at 10:17 AM

DS

“ Dear Vicky, Ginger, Miranda, Jessica, Shana, and family,
I send caring thoughts to everyone. I still tell people about Gerald
petting the cat while he was milking the cow, to look up and see the
cat walk into the barn. He then wondered what he was petting,
looked down and a skunk was drinking the milk in the bowl while he
was petting it. Only a gentle spirit (under the gruff exterior) could do
that!

With heartfelt sympathy,
Diane Kent Sims

Diane Sims - July 21, 2016 at 07:48 PM



“ I feel for your loss, the absence of a loved
one is a big hole in the road of life we travel.
may all of the memories that you share with
friends and family fill the hole that has been
created.

I have pictures of Uncle Gerald when he married Vicky the love of
his life. Having lived beside Uncle Gerald and Aunt Vicky i was
saddened to have to move away and start my own life. I still love
both of you very much! Aunt Vicky, Ginger, Miranda, Jessie and
Shauna you will be in my thoughts, love you all. Annette Gregersen



Rita Gallivan-Gregersen - July 21, 2016 at 05:45 PM

MK

“ Michelle Karns lit a candle in memory of
Gerald "Grizz" Wayne Arlt



Michelle Karns - July 21, 2016 at 03:07 PM

MK

Thinking of you all, big hugs.

Michelle Karns - July 21, 2016 at 03:08 PM

CP

Thoughts and prayers for you and your family.

Carol Persons - July 22, 2016 at 08:54 AM

DB

Vicki, So so sorry to hear you lost your husband. Many prayers to your family. Hugs to you my friend and I wish you peace.

Deb Blair

Deb Blair - July 22, 2016 at 11:37 AM

SC

*Vicki,
You and your family are in my thoughts. Sending lots of love and hugs your way.*

Shelly Charron - July 22, 2016 at 01:07 PM

RB

*Vicki,
My heart was so saddened for you & your family yet delighted in the wonderful creative way you all were able to share a glimpse of him in the memorial. What a blessing, loss, and sorrow all mixed together....
Thinking of you dear friend and keeping your beautiful family in prayer.*

Rene Beyette - July 22, 2016 at 02:56 PM

MB

Was saddened to hear about your loss. Losing a loved one is never easy. Prayers to you and your family.

Mike & Marylou Bartkowiak

marylou bartkowiak - July 24, 2016 at 09:42 PM

TC

*Vicki,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May you find
comfort and support through family and friends as you cope with your
loss.*

Terri Colasacco - July 26, 2016 at 06:18 AM