



## Mr Gerald Totoritis

April 25, 2017

Gerald Anthony Totoritis passed away of a heart attack in his home on April 25, 2017. He had just finished one of his favorite activities, a round of golf with friends at Craft Farms in Gulf Shores, AL. Gerry was a beloved father, grandfather, husband, son and friend. The influence that he had on all of our lives will carry on forever. We remember how generous and thoughtful Gerry was towards his family and friends and we feel his loss deeply in our hearts. Gerry was born in Elmira, NY to Otilie Granzer and George Totoritis. His mother remembers how well he did in school and how many friends he always had. Gerry has a younger sister, June Knight who lives in Elmira, NY and a brother Rick Totoritis, who passed away as a young man.

Gerry married Anna Ottenschot in February of 1975. Anna and Gerry have two children, Jennifer who is 38 and lives in Mound, MN and is married to Brad Searl. Gerry's son Jeffrey is 36, married to Andrea Schiefelbein. Jeffrey and Andrea live in Helsinki Finland. Gerry also has 2 grandchildren, Otilie, 2 and Warren, who is four months old. Gerry was also the primary caregiver to his mother Otilie, who is 89 years old and lives with the family in Gulf Shores. Gerry loved hunting, fishing, golf and following sports. Gerry really paid attention to the little things about the people he loved. Most recently he was learning the names of all of the cartoon characters on Peppa Pig, his granddaughter's favorite cartoon. He was constantly thinking of how he could better the lives of his loved ones.

Gerry was extremely successful in his career in the grocery industry which

spanned more than 40 years. When Gerry's children were young, he owned an IGA grocery store in Deruyter, NY. Later, he was the branch President for grocery wholesalers in Laurens, IA, York, PA, Appleton, WI, and Omaha, NE. He retired in 2012 after serving as the President of the Associated Grocers of the South for 12 years. He was awarded many awards throughout his career. Most notably he was awarded the Spirit of America Award from the National Grocers Association. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Grocers Association, Alabama Retail Association, National Grocers Association and Retailer Owned Food Distributors Association. He touched and enriched the lives of so many men and women in the grocery industry and he was an inspiration to them all.

Anna says, "As a wife of forty two years, Gerry was my best friend. He was an extremely loving and generous man. His sense of humor and light heartedness made life very stress free and happy."

Ottillie says, "As his mother, he was my first born, my great joy. He never gave us any trouble. He looked out for his siblings because he was four years older than his next kin. He had many friends and did very well in school. I was always very proud of him. I will miss him very much."

Jennifer says, "As his daughter, I know that my father was one of the most influential people in my life. He taught me values and lessons such as hard work ethic, generosity and how to be a good listener. I will pass these values on to my own children."

Jeffrey says, "I could never ask for anything more in a father. My dad was a great friend, a great teacher, a great man, and a great father. I learned so much from him in terms of how to treat people and I hope to always be respected the way he was. His first priority was caring for those that were close to him."

Memorial Services will be held in honor of Gerald  
Saturday May 6th at 10:00 am  
Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church  
308 East 22nd Avenue

Gulf Shores, AL 36542

In lieu of flowers there will be a memorial fund in Gerry's honor that will be used for grandchildren's and future grandchildren's college education.

We love you so much Dad,

Anna, Otilie, Jennifer, Jeffrey, Brad and Andrea

Please go to [www.casonfuneralservice.com](http://www.casonfuneralservice.com) to sign Memorial Book

Arrangements are by Cason Funeral Service Foley AL

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church  
317 East 23rd Avenue  
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

# Tribute Wall

WS

“ *Ann, Jennifer, and Jeffrey - So very sad to find out about the loss of your wonderful Gerry. I have so many beautiful memories of all of you as neighbors and friends of both myself and Harold while you lived in Laurens, IA. Gerry remains in my heart forever, Ann, as do you. Wilma Sheets*

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**Wilma Sheets** - August 29, 2017 at 08:56 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr Gerald Totoritis.*



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May 05, 2017 at 06:55 AM

FC

“ *From Accenture Finland colleagues purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Mr Gerald Totoritis.*



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**From Accenture Finland colleagues** - May 05, 2017 at 06:55 AM

JM

“ *My life is much better because Gerry was my friend. I first heard of Gerry when he was managing the Scrivner operation in Laurens, IA, and I was with Nash Finch in Sioux Falls, SD. We were competitors in the wholesale grocery business and worked to raid the accounts of each other. (Gerry was so well liked, I was never successful.)*

*We met when Gerry came to Nash Finch Company as General Manager in Appleton, WI. Gerry's ability to manage difficult business situations was instantly recognized and he quickly became my go-to executive for advice and council.*

*Beyond his business abilities, Gerry was a good friend. Though we eventually became business competitors again, we remained close friends and looked forward to our annual golf vacation every October for 11 straight years.*

*It is very sad that Gerry and I will no longer be able to enjoy the banter that follows every not-so-good golf shot. Diane and I grieve with Ann and the family that Gerry has been taken from us.*

*John McCurry*

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**John McCurry** - May 03, 2017 at 11:41 AM

RJ

“ *Gerry was a respected leader in the retail/wholesale food industry. His leadership and experience impacted countless people who worked for him over the years, and those who partnered with him in a very competitive industry. A fair and honest man. I always valued my conversations and meetings with him. -- Ron Johnston, president & publisher, The Shelby Report*

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**Ron Johnston** - May 01, 2017 at 07:37 AM

FF

“ I came to know Gerry after he assumed his role at A. G. of the South. What a wonderful experience that was. We spoke often on business, foolishness and our mutual friends. Sadly, he sent me a text message 6 days before he passed. We corresponded with multiple replies. Today, I very much regret not calling him after he sent that text just to hear his voice. Gerry was a great executive and leader of the food industry, and an outstanding person. We will miss you my friend. Ann, we are praying for you and the remaining family members. Ferrell & Jean Franklin.

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**Ferrell Franklin** - May 01, 2017 at 05:29 AM

KS

“ Gerry was always so caring and thoughtful of all of his employees. When the family arrived in Appleton from Kansas and the furniture hadn't arrived he brought us food and sleeping bags. Later there were fun 4th of July's and Larry will always remember the hunting trip. Thanks Gerry, we will miss you. Kim & Larry Stumpf



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**Kim Stumpf** - April 30, 2017 at 08:43 PM

DL

“ He was my next door neighbor and big game hunter in Wyoming. We have such great memories of both. What a loss for all of us. One of the sharpests friends I ever had. A great guy. We will surely miss you bud. Daryl & Dorothy Long, Laurens, Ia.

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**Daryl H. Long** - April 30, 2017 at 07:58 PM

AT

“ *Sending our condolences. With our deepest sympathy,  
April, John, Katelyn and Ryan*



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**April Thomas** - April 30, 2017 at 06:49 PM

JH

“ *Jean And Dave Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mr Gerald Totoritis*



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**Jean and Dave Hughes** - April 30, 2017 at 06:08 PM

DP

“ *I have such fond memories of calling on Gerry at AG of Birmingham. My wife and I enjoyed the trips we were able to go on with AG. I will always remember the great times visiting with Gerry and Anna in Gulf Shores and playing golf with him.*

*David and Ann Peters*

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**David Peters** - April 30, 2017 at 11:40 AM

SW

*It is sad to see a great guy go so early in life when he deserved many more years godspeed God bless. From Sean Walter and family*

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**Sean Walter** - April 30, 2017 at 01:29 PM

TK

“ Tom And Pat Keller lit a candle in memory of Mr Gerald Totoritis



Tom and Pat Keller - April 29, 2017 at 10:02 AM

TK

Love and Prayers.... Tom and Pat

Tom and Pat Keller - April 29, 2017 at 10:04 AM

DP

Ann,  
We are so very sorry for your loss. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. David and Ann Peters in Conway AR

David Peters - April 30, 2017 at 11:42 AM

GA

Ann, Jeff, Jen,  
Kim and I have wonderful memories of Gerry and your family. Our sincere prayers and a mass will be said for my friend.

Gary and Kim Murray

Gary - April 30, 2017 at 08:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr Gerald Totoritis.



April 29, 2017 at 12:37 AM