

JERRY HOVELL - OBITUARY

Jerry (Gerald Francis) Hovell, Born in Mason City, Iowa, Sept. 19, 1938; Passed Away Sept. 7, 2020

His Father, Maurice Hovell was born in Worth County, Iowa

His Mother, Eileen Garrigan was born St Paul, Minnesota

Jerry Graduated from Manly High School, in Manly, Iowa, in 1955

He attended Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa

He was a Marine Corps Reserve Aircrewman on Helicopters during the 1960s

Also, in the 1960s, he worked offshore, surveying for the Alaskan Pipeline

Jerry was licensed as a Land Surveyor in California in 1971, and later in Nevada

He was licensed as a Civil Engineer in California in 1981, and later in Arizona

He partnered in a private surveying and engineering practice from 1971 on.

Jerry's hobbies included riverbed street racing, hunting, camping, fishing, motorcycle riding, square dancing and leather tooling.

His favorite of all was working; he wanted to work until he was 90

His marriages: Phyllis Coursey, and Inez Prescott

Jerry was preceded in death by Parents, Stepmother Hazel Hovell, Sister Maureen Fischer (Clifford Bankes and John Fischer); Phyllis Coursey; Inez Hovell; brother in law Harold Dixon; Infant daughter Mary Kathrine Hovell; son Billy Harold Prescott; daughter Shirley Marie Prescott and Infant grandson Oliver Cervantes.

Jerry is survived by his Wife Gabriella Marie Hovell; his Children: Jeryl Eileen Hovell (Tim Roe); Teddi Lavey (Tom); Kenny Thorne; Daniel Ray Prescott (Ann); Randy Lee Prescott (Sue); Victoria Gonzalez (Daniel); Rachel Cervantes (Rigo); Richard Portilla (Danielle); Sister Judy Richardson (Dave), Several Grand Children and Great Grand Children; his sister Pat Dixon and several other Nieces and Nephews.

Jerry's Final Wish List included: Go on a trip to Northern California and take Gabby to see the Redwoods; Complete landscaping in backyard.

JERRY HOVELL - EULOGY

Jerry often said any story worth telling is a story worth enhancing, so I give you that caution as I relay some things from his childhood.

His family lived on a farm in Iowa, about 3 hours-drive north of Des Moines. He went to a one room school from age 4, Catholic School for the middle grades, and then Manly High School in the nearby town of Manly, Iowa. Each time he changed schools, they advanced him a grade. He graduated from Manly High School in a class of 36 at the age of 16.

As a boy on the farm, he worked in the fields with his dad, drove tractors, and even a combine during harvest. His daily chores included feeding and tending to the hogs and the chickens; he really didn't like the chickens.

When the chores were done, everyone had fun swinging on the hay mound, fishing, or (in winter) ice skating on the frozen river

You can take the boy out of the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the boy. And thus, was his love for the great outdoors and his strong work ethic.

Land surveying became Jerry's passion. He was in the surveying and engineering business in Simi Valley for 49 years. Although licensed and practiced as both surveyor and engineer, and proud of both, his passion remained with land surveying. He loved maps and following in the footsteps of previous surveyors. And he believed in leaving footsteps for others to follow.

Upon reaching out to colleagues after his passing, I received some of the following comments:

"Jerry was an outstanding surveyor, and passionate!"

"His wisdom and guidance will be missed."

"He was a great man, and good friend for many years, for many of us. I enjoyed his energy and willingness to speak out about what was important to him and others."

And this one which we can all understand: "I have great memories of him serving on the Legislative Committee for many years, his infectious smile and laugh, and of course how he was always sent to secondary inspection at the airport because he couldn't remove his suspenders going through the metal detector, as he would say to security, "I can't remove them, my pants will fall down!""

And this: "His experience was vast, and his knowledge more so."

Jerry taught me so many things! He was my dear friend and mentor for 36 years and he will live in my heart forever!