



Gerald "Jerry" Anthony Poduska

September 25, 1952 - January 30, 2014

Gerald "Jerry" Anthony Poduska was born in Spencer, Iowa on September 25, 1952. On January 30, 2014 he joined his parents, Dennis & Dolores Poduska, his wife Colleen Poduska and many other relatives in heaven. As friends and family respond to our loss, there is one theme that is continuous. Jerry made them smile. Jerry made them laugh. How blessed we were to know and love him. Jerry leaves behind his best friend and partner, Angela Ramdass, daughter Jennifer Blanco, son-in-law Travis Blanco, his cherished granddaughters: Kayleen & Katelynn, all from Fort Collins, CO, sisters Denise Poduska Tedore and her husband Dave from Cedar Falls, Iowa and Lori Poduska Day and her husband Jon from Chanhassen, MN. His nieces and nephews will miss their uncle and friend. These family members held a very special place in his heart: Shelly & Josh Wessels, Brad & Jen Johnson, Joe and Brie Day and Jeff Day. Gerald also left behind his extended family in Trinidad and Tobago, who had loved and cherished him every day for the past 16 years. Jerry was Angela's soul mate and he will forever be in her heart. They loved to travel with their dogs and enjoyed going to the mountains, working and visiting with everyone at the Farmer's Markets, and going to the movies. They created a warm and loving home for their family in Colorado and for everyone in Angela's family who came to live and visit. Angela and Gerald fed off each other's joy, and that joy illuminated him from the day they met. Jerry loved his daughter Jenny more than life itself. They were inseparable and had a father and daughter bond that was very special. He loved her

husband Travis and often commented what a wonderful husband and father he was. Travis and Jenny blessed him with two beautiful granddaughters, Kayleen and Katelynn. Having them live so close that they could come "just up the street" to see Grandpa was a gift he cherished. Kayleen loved having chocolate ice cream with her grandpa and he loved singing to Katelynn over the phone. The family promises to keep the memories of their wonderful Grandpa alive for each of them as they grow up. Jerry earned his BS degree from Iowa State University and his Master's Degree from the University of Northern Colorado. He spent his life pursuing his passions. He wrote for and created sports publications throughout the Midwest, he worked in sales throughout his life and used that experience to work along with Angela in creating great food and sauces in their restaurants, with a Trinidadian flair from Angela's home. He will be remembered for his rambunctious nature and all the smiles he gave to people at the Caribbean Food Shack in Fort Collins. He loved to travel. His favorite place to visit was Las Vegas, he spent his last birthday there with Angela and their dogs. He also loved traveling with friends and family like Angela's brother Ricky, whenever he would visit for Thanksgiving. He had a tremendous passion for sports. This cannot be overstated. You could count on him to know every stat about the Iowa State Cyclones, New York Yankees, Denver Broncos, Notre Dame Fighting Irish and the Colorado Avalanche. It is also important to note that Gerald had the answers for most coaching and referring errors in almost every professional sport. He loved to read biographies, he loved music, and he loved the movies. He was a consumer of our culture and his knowledge was deep enough that it was nearly impossible to win an argument with him, even if you were right. Still while these things were his passions, family and friends were his priority. Jerry had a special way of adding joy to every moment. You could call him with a difficult issue and you would hang up laughing. He could change the outlook of your day in an instant. He was the "go to" person when you needed guidance and help. Most of all, he was the one in the family that made us smile and made us laugh. What a beautiful gift he gave to us each and every

day. How blessed we are to have loved him and to have him love us. Those who wish may view Jerry between 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday at Bohlander Funeral Chapel. A Rosary will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday at Bohlander Funeral Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday at Blessed John 23 University Center, 1220 University Ave.

Tribute Wall

SW

“ *RIP, Jerry.*

Scott Workman - February 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *I have so many happy memories of Gerald and the fun times we had together on the Poduska farm. It was really great having a special nephew who was only five years younger than me. Yes, he loved to tease me by calling me "Aunt Linda" somehow in high school I did not think that was so cool but somehow he got by with it. Our family is not going to be the same without him. I will always remember his great humor, laughter, and smile. He was an energetic, adventurous man who lived life to the fullest. His sweet and gentle spirit will be missed by all who knew and loved him.*

Linda Driscoll - February 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *I'm sorry for your loss. I hadn't seen Jerry since high school but when living in Arizona I met a man who worked in a paint store that knew him and Colleen.*

Deb Hetrick - February 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Sorry to hear the loss of Gerald. Remembering days several years ago. What a sense of humor he had, and that contagious smile. Your in our thoughts and prayers.*

Joe and Lanette Copeland - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

YR

“ Keeping you in our hearts and our prayers - from Pali and Melina

Yeurupa Melina Raghoo - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ To Jerry's family, I am so sorry for the loss of Jerry to your family. Angela would bring him to our company events and he was just so fun to talk to. He was very caring and acted like he knew you forever. It was so sweet to see the love between Jerry and Angela, they were a great team. I wish Angela comfort and peace. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Lisa - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ I too was deeply saddened when I first heard of Jerry's passing. But like many others, I was immediately remembering our times together and the fun we had. I have laughed out loud many times in the past week thinking of those times. My prayers are with you Angela, Jenny, Lori, Denise and your families and although I won't be there in person I will be in spirit. Love ya "Podu"...God's speed

Mike Carter - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time of sorrow. May God's grace and mercy pour over you. You all have many great, happy memories that will keep Jerry alive in your hearts. God bless you all. Larry, Nancy and Kris

Nancy Adler - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ I met Jerry at Iowa State University when I was on faculty there. I have never known anyone that could make me laugh as did Jerry. We kept in touch through the years by email and by phone. His email subject line to me would always be something like "where are you and why not?" I will miss him terribly.

Steven Ralston - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Bless you, Jennifer and Travis, Angela and family, in this time. I know what it means for our children to lose their grandfather far too soon. But we remember the memories and the blessing it is to have had parents to love and be loved by! Hadn't seen Jerry for sometime, but I will never forget him. Karen

Karen Klingenberg - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Jon & Lori and Children Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of sorrow. The Lord will be there for you and so are we. Love Sharon and Steve

Steve & Sharon Holz - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Just as everyone else has mentioned...Jerry was the life of the party. He just had a way to make everyone feel comfortable...even the shy little blonde girl hanging out with his daughter. He was welcoming, open, amazing, and hilarious. He could play tricks on people with the best of them...but be the trusted adult voice at the same time. I remember many sleepovers and fun times with Jen, Jerry, and Colleen...and I know how lucky I've been to know all three. The world has lost a great guy. Love you Jen. My thoughts are with you, Angela, and the rest of your family. Thank you for sharing him with us.

April Mountford Tucker - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I was sad to hear the "uncle" Jerry passed away, although I was sad to hear he had passed away I soon was overcome by a chuckle and a few smiles as I thought back to some memories from a trip to Vegas for which I met Jerry on. Jerry always contributed to, every moment with shameless fun and laughter, never a dull moment with him around. Condolences to those closest to Jerry

Bryan Sandvig - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Jerry-I think of you each and every time KU plays ISU and I always will. You taught me great perspective especially during difficult times. It's impossible to think of you without putting a smile on my face. Thank you for this. kg

KG - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ I was sorry to hear about Jerry's Death. I met him when John and Lori were dating and got married waaaaay back in the 1980's. Jerry was always the center of the fun and made everyone feel comfortable. We had a great time at the wedding and a few other parties we attended. Always Always enjoyed talking to him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your whole family. Kelly and Janet Broderick.

Kelly Broderick - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Thoughts are with you in this trying time and feeling your loss! Memories of the Class of '71 will always have Jerry and Coleen enjoying it all.

Terry Christensen - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Thoughts are with you in this trying time and feeling your loss! Memories of the Class of '71 will always have Jerry and Coleen enjoying it all.

Terry Christensen - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Angela, Jenny and all of Jerry's family. I was fortunate to work with Jerry broadcasting local High School basketball games in 2009-2010. I remember laughing so hard tears were flowing while we cracked each other up. I'll miss his quick wit, sports knowledge and big grin. Jerry, I love ya man!

Kris Harris - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ You will be greatly missed my friend. As we go through life we have friends that come and go, but rarely do we have friends that stick with us from the first day we meet. You are that friend. More than just good times, but conversations that impacted each other’s lives; making ourselves better people. You are that friend. From always making time for advice to teaching me to never pay face value for those hard to get tickets. You are that friend. 18 years of wonderful memories. I am thankful for the wisdom, our laughs, and the times just catching up over the phone. You made me a better father, friend, and man. For that I will forever be thankful. As we celebrate the many things that made you a very special person in all of our lives, it was so eloquently put...you made us smile, you made us laugh, and blessed that we are to have known and loved you. You will forever be remembered and loved my friend. Thoughts and prayers to all of those that have been touched by this great man.

Todd Gorman - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ When Jenny called me to share the news of Jerry's passing I was saddened. Then I reflected back on all the good times I had with my friend, Jerry. We played golf, traveled to sporting events, worked together selling cars and had a lot of special memories. He was truly one of a kind with his humor, his intellect, and his kind hearted nature. God Bless you forever my friend. My sympathy, thoughts and prayers to Jenny and the rest of the Poduska family.

Larry 'Lars' Norem - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ We miss you, Jerry! We could always count on you for the latest sports stats and a hearty laugh. A good man and you will be greatly missed.

Lindsay - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ It is hard to lose a classmate. It is sad that I didn't take the time when it was available to reconnect. Jerry was the "fun one". a title that is sought by my current regionally close circle of friends. But anyone that grew up with us in our small town knows - that he is the one that owns it. And he shared the fun with everyone he knew. I am very blessed to have known him. My deepest sympathy goes out to his close family and friends. May God watch over you and keep you safe. May you feel his love. Dottie

Dorothy Jeffers Drueck - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ We will miss you Geri! Love Barb and Bob

Barb Fleege - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ My heart is heavy for your loss. He is one of the good memories from Nelson Street. Thinking of all of you and wishing you the best of memories. Sincerely Julie

Julie Mackie Otto - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ It is always sad to loose any relation Warren Ferden

Warren E Ferden - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ The world has lost an incredibly fun-loving man. Most of my memories of Jerry relate to Iowa State Cyclone basketball and many trips to Kansas City for the Big 8 and then Big 12 basketball tournaments. I always wanted to know where Jerry would be on those weekends because I knew that is where people would be having the most fun. I can still picture his car driving thru The Plaza with ISU flags flying and the horn honking. I can see him masterfully working the scalpers for the best tickets at the best price. I was there when he roared with laughter as Jon Day sang the Colorado fight song in a full Golden Ox restaurant in order to settle a bet. He was a classic. Cheer on those Cyclones from heaven Jerry. I'm going to miss you.

Ed Arndorfer - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ My heartfelt prayers are with Angela, Jenny and all of Jerry's family. He was a great friend and we enjoyed a lot of laughs and sports in the time in which I knew him. He will be missed and my prayers will always be with him!!! God Bless " The Big Podu!"

Tim Bruch - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ gonna miss u big guy...even though our contact was minimal of late your spirit was always with me...u r the one person who could make LAUGH...i remember 2 specific occasions when i thought i was gonna die laughing...and when i get to the pearly gates, please just say "he's with me"...go Yanks!!

john drechsler - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ gonna miss u big guy...even though our contact was minimal of late your spirit was always with me...u r the one person who could make LAUGH...i remember 2 specific occasions when i thought i was gonna die laughing...and when i get to the pearly gates, please just say "he's with me"...go Yanks!!

john drechsler - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Jerry was my first "best" friend. I can remember hanging out in his basement, playing whiffle ball in the backyard and terrorizing the town on our motorcycles. He road something like a 60CC suzuki. Pretty funny. He could always make me and everyone around him laugh. Had some very good times with him at Iowa State, and will never forget him. My condolences to the family. He was a very special person!

Bill Fitzgerald - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ The stories and memories this man gave the world are priceless. Those seen first hand and those told by a third party that made me wish I had been there. Memories will keep the spirit alive and forever bring a smile when I think of Jerry. God Bless

Bruce Nelson - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Dear Family & Friends, My heart aches for your great loss. Jerry had a big heart - over-flowing with love for all of you. May his legacy of love sustain you through the difficult days ahead. Happy trails, Dear Classmate. You won't be forgotten.

Becki Siddall Winegarden - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FK

“ As a high school classmate of Jerry's, I would like to extend my condolences to all of the Poduska family. Knowing Jerry was a bright spot in my life. His smile, his debating techniques, and his half court hook shot are just a few of the good memories. CDC classes were never the same. "Happy Trails" old friend. May the Lord shine upon you.

Frank Koenig - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AN

I will always love you honey so sorry that you are not here with us the dogs and i can't wait to be with you forever and ever.

Angela - January 18, 2015 at 04:28 PM

MS

“ Gerald, It says you earned your BS degree from Iowa State. I disagree...you earned your BS degree from Nelson St. Your professors were your dad, Dennis, and neighbors: Carl, Lyle, Rog, and my dad, Bud! What trouble you couldn't figure out to get into they were more than willing to give you suggestions. You were my best friend until we were about 10 when it wasn't cool to have a best friend be a girl!!! Say hello to the old neighborhood for me...until we meet again I wish you peace.

Mary Holmes Steinkamp - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ He will be missed by all. To his family you will be blessed by him watching over you.

James Shaney - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ My thoughts and prayer are with all of you. Growing up with the Poduska family was wonderful. Jerry will be remembered by many. He is in Heaven giving everyone a bad time!

Jan Reining Bloes - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ What I remember is your smile, laugh and quick wit. You could do some funny things like at a very age locking your grandpa in the ice house on the farm and not telling anyone. Or spray painting a squirrel white and the whole town thought they found a rare albino squirrel. What a great guy, full of life, a very caring person.

Patrick Driscoll - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ I cannot remember my life without him. He helped me learn to walk, to ride a bike, cried with me when we lost our first dog Ginger, pushed me around in my stroller because as he said, “I was a chick magnet” and let me ride around in the backseat of his car he was 16, I was 6. We would sing the great Hollies song, “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother”. As I grew up, he stayed by my side. He took in my husband as his brother and helped shape our sons into wonderful men. Colorado vacations, Iowa State and NCAA Tournaments and family times spent with him are priceless memories. My heart broke early Thursday morning. Over the past few days, I have come to realize that I won the brother lottery. Out of 7 billion people, God gave me him. What a gift. Big brother, in the words we used to sing: It’s a long, long road, From which there is no return, While we’re on the way to there, Why not share? And the load, Doesn’t weigh me down at all. He ain’t heavy, He’s my brother. I love you.

Lori Day - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VD

“ To all of Jerry's family I am so sorry for your loss. HE always talked about Angela and his daughter. I knew Jerry From the farmers markets and he was a ray of sunshine! He was always happy and making everyone laugh with him. He was adored by all and will be missed so much! I am grateful I had the pleasure of knowing him!

vickie dennis - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Jerry has been like a brother to me, and my best friend ever since I met Lori 33 years ago. We had so much fun together and got in so much trouble together back in the day! We would laugh so hard our stomachs would hurt. We loved to debate things and were even known to go to the library to settle disputes over trivia. We created "song bets" where the loser had to sing a song of the winners choosing in public!! He laughed so hard at me singing Glory Glory Colorado at the Golden Ox in KC! We had so many experiences together; going to a Notre Dame football game with his Dad and uncle stands out, along with countless concerts, ISU games, and family vacations. Jerry was also my confidant and counselor; he helped me be a better husband and father. Our family would not be the same without his guidance. He was the best brother to Lori and mentor to my boys. My heart aches at the thought of not being able to pick up the phone and say; "Hey Jerr-bo, what's up".

Jon Day - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ I am missing you so much honey, you meant everything to me, I will forever love and keep you close to my heart..your best friend and partner...

Angela Ramdass - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ *Larger than life. You'll be missed but never forgotten. Love you always my friend*

Timothy - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *If a person has one or two true blue friends in life they are lucky enough. My great friend Jerry was one of those. He was honest, straight forward and very intelligent--you were very lucky to win a debate or anything that had to do with sports. I will never forget watching Jenny grow up and become a wonderful woman, when we lived next door in Ames. Jerry and I got press passes to the us open golf tournament in Chicago in 1991 and were lucky enough to interview many great players including Jack Nicklaus. And let me tell you, Jerry was the consummate gentleman and journalist. These are things I will always cherish and never forget. He made me learn, listen and understand things that I always cherish. No question he has made me a better person. I will miss my buddy Padu, but I will never forget him and what he did for me.*Jim Grant

Jim Grant - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Thanks Jerry for your friendly smile! You were a Joy to know! From one sports fan to another, "what a game!"*

Bob Dallenbch - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *R.I.P. Gerald!! I can still remember the times when we would come to Laurens to visit, you were always smiling, and ALWAYS went out or your way to say HI!!*

Jeff Bates - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM