



Senator Gerald Eugene Geis

August 31, 1933 - November 2, 2022

Gerald “Jerry” Geis left his walking sticks and leg braces behind as he walked into the arms of Jesus on November 2, 2022, in Loveland, Colorado. He was lovingly surrounded by his family.

Jerry was born to Nicholas Eugene and Hazel Irene (Harvard) Geis in a three-room log cabin near Ten Sleep, Wyoming, on August 31, 1933. Those early years were pretty adventurous for the Geis kids. With Homer and Neil already working, Harold often had to babysit Jerry, Jane and Lyle. Once Harold started working, the younger three were often referred to as the 3 Musketeers. Hunk (Jerry), Sis (Jane), and Bug (Lyle) got into their share of mischief over the years, but that only solidified a life-long bond that became even stronger over the years. His family moved to Worland, Wyoming, in 1944, where he attended Worland schools. Jerry was involved in the FFA, serving on the livestock judging team, as chapter treasurer, and playing on the FFA basketball team. His involvement with FFA was the highlight of his high school career; he loved reminiscing about Pappy Lowe and all of his friends. He graduated from Washakie County High School in 1951.

Jerry married Irma Lee (Lungren) Geis on November 3, 1956. They had two daughters, Elizabeth and Cheryl, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two granddogs. In the summer of 2021, Jerry moved to Loveland, Colorado to be close to his daughters.

At age 14, Jerry began working in the family livestock trucking business. Working with the livestock community and driving throughout the state of

Wyoming inspired his love and respect for Wyoming and her citizens. Jerry eventually owned the business and operated it until 1991. He was a member of the Wyoming Truckers Association for over 20 years. After the sale of his trucking business, Jerry worked for McGarvin-Moberly Construction Company until retirement.

Jerry loved his family. His daughters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews all have memories of spending time with him on Upper Nowood, riding horseback, hunting grasshoppers, fishing in Deep Creek, and helping during cattle branding. When each of his grandkids turned eleven years old, he taught them to drive on those red-dirt mountain roads. For family birthday celebrations, Jerry provided his specialty: homemade ice cream. While the finished product was praiseworthy, the real treasure came with assisting him in the process of making the ice cream. Everyone vied for the opportunity to taste the ice cream fresh off the dasher. He enjoyed having his family as passengers in his truck when he hauled livestock. Irma would pack lunches and fill thermoses with coffee and hot chocolate and they'd all head out to load, then unload sheep or cattle. Liz and Cheryl usually brought their Barbie dolls to play with in the sleeper bed of his truck. His grandchildren enjoyed riding on the middle hump in the truck cab while Grandpa navigated the roads of Wyoming. During his time as a State Senator, he loved having his family visit, showing them around the Capitol Building, introducing them to his legislative colleagues, and inviting them to watch the proceedings from the floor of the Senate chamber. He taught Cheryl and Liz to play pinochle when they were young and carried on that tradition, teaching grandkids, sons-in-law, extended family and friends to play the game. That, along with playing dominos, were favorite pastimes with grandkids. After Irma died, he took over making her popcorn crunch, baking cookies, and creating crock pot dinners to share with family. He enjoyed following the Wyoming Cowboys, Colorado Rockies, Denver Broncos, UNC Chapel Hill basketball, and televised college women's softball. Jerry and Dorothy Scheurman, his sister-in-law and close friend, had a standing date to watch Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune together.

Every morning, he read aloud the Daily Bread devotional. Growing up, Jerry and his sister, Jane, did everything together; she even played a part in the beginning of Jerry and Irma's romance. Jerry, Jane, and their younger brother, Lyle, who Jerry described as his "little brother with a big heart," were close comrades, taking care of each other as youngsters and again, later in life. Jerry loved the State of Wyoming. He enjoyed working with the wide variety of people he met through his vocational, political, and personal connections. His public service career touched six decades which began when he won as a write-in candidate for the Worland City Council. He served on the Council from 1967-1975. Local civic leaders recruited him to run for the state senate and he was elected in November 1974. During his career as a state senator, Jerry chaired the Revenue Committee and the Ways and Means (Appropriations) Committee, he served as vice president of the Senate, Majority Floor Leader and in 1984 - 1986, he served as president of the Wyoming State Senate. During his second tenure in the Senate, he served on the Education Committee and was the longtime Chair of the Agriculture, State and Public Land, and Water Resource Committee. Throughout his service as a state senator, Jerry was a contributing member of the National Conference of State Legislators, representing Wyoming at conferences in Alaska, Texas, Tennessee, Washington, California, Massachusetts, New York, Arizona, Colorado, and the District of Columbia.

One of Jerry's greatest legislative accomplishments was helping establish the Wyoming Water Commission which then developed vital water systems throughout the state of Wyoming. Of politics, he often stated, "When the elections are over, it doesn't matter whether you are Republican or Democrat. We all need to work together;" and "If you can't say it in five minutes or less, you probably shouldn't say it."

In 2005 Senator Geis was inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame for his demonstrated commitment as a "true friend to Wyoming agriculture." He enjoyed advising the American Legion Girl State from 2003-2011. In 2016,

Governor Mead asked Jerry to serve on the Wyoming Water Development Commission, calling him the “Water Guru,” due to Jerry’s extensive knowledge of Wyoming’s waterways. In 2021, Jerry was inducted into Washakie County School District #1 Hall of Fame. He recently served on the advisory board of the Worland Senior Center where he loved playing pinochle, connecting with friends, and promoting membership and attendance. He faithfully attended Zion Church in Worland.

Jerry never met a stranger, he had a ready smile, an infectious laugh, and chose to recognize the best in those around him. Jerry will be dearly missed by his family, community, and friends throughout the state.

Jerry was preceded in death by his wife, Irma, his parents, his brothers Timothy, Homer, Neil, and Sidney Harold. He is survived by his sister Jane (Jim) O’Connor, brother Lyle (Marge) Geis, his daughters Elizabeth (Mike) Pike of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Cheryl (Rod) Murray of Loveland, Colorado, his grandchildren Levi Pike, Sam Pike, Taylor Scott, and Eric Scott, four great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life for Jerry is planned for Sunday, November 20, at 1 pm, Worland Middle School Auditorium, 2150 Howell Avenue, Worland, Wyoming. For floral service arrangements please go to flowerexchange.net. Donations in Jerry’s memory may be made with checks payable (memo: Jerry Geis) to Zion Church ZEST Fund, 1500 Circle Rd, Worland, WY 82401, or the Chief Washakie FFA Chapter, Worland High School, Chief Washakie FFA, 801 S 17th, Worland, WY 82401. Go to bohlenderfuneralchapel.com to share memories with the family.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **20**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Worland Middle School
2150 Howell Ave.
Worland, WY 82401

Tribute Wall



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Senator Gerald Eugene Geis.*



January 24, 2023 at 05:30 PM



“ *What a sad day! So many memories growing up with his family. I will never forget his kindness to Dad (Archie Harvard) in visiting with him every week when he lived at the Beehive - double trouble! May you all feel God's arms of love around you as you grieve.*



Chuck & Peggy (Harvard) Morrison

Peggy - November 19, 2022 at 05:22 PM



Dad loved his time with Archie. Two wonderful, good hearted men. Great memories! 🤔 Thank you

Cheryl Murray - November 22, 2022 at 02:16 PM



“ *Senator Geis was a true gentleman and friend to me during my time with him on the water commission. My thoughts are with all of his family.*

Liisa Anselmi - November 18, 2022 at 02:51 PM

CM

Thank you so much.

Cheryl Murray - November 22, 2022 at 02:17 PM

KF

“ *Enjoyed a friendship with Jerry while Bill Frederick worked for the newspaper in Worland. I had the honor to sit on the Senate floor on a visit in Cheyenne. A true friend for Wyoming.*

Karen Frederick - November 18, 2022 at 02:06 PM

CM

That's a very special memory! Thanks for sharing!

Cheryl Murray - November 22, 2022 at 02:18 PM

MB

“ *Senator Geis was my "go to guy" for guidance during my 11 year tenure as the Director of the Wyoming Water Development Program. He was a dedicated advocate for water projects included in the Legislature's Omnibus Water Bill. Each fall we compiled the Omnibus Bill that was sponsored by the Water Development Commission and the Legislature's Select Water Committee. I often spent time with Senator Geis, who was a select committee member, prior to the Legislative session to hear his views on individual projects and other water related issues.*

I will miss Jerry. The Wyoming and the Water Development Program will also miss Jerry.

*Mike Besson, Retired
WWDC Director*

Mike Besson - November 17, 2022 at 05:39 PM

MC

“ *What a life well-lived! Senator Geis was such a sincere and special person. He was always approachable and willing to discuss an issue that might help the businesses or state of Wyoming. He always had a smile and often an story to share! I so enjoyed working with him. Wyoming will surely miss him and his vast knowledge.*

*Mary Lou Chapman
(Rocky Mountain Food Industry Assn.)*

Mary Lou Chapman - November 16, 2022 at 04:55 PM

CM

Thank you Mary Lou. He truly was the water guru! His knowledge was incredible! We do miss him so much!!❤️

Cheryl Murray - November 22, 2022 at 02:21 PM

PW

“ *Jerry was one of the toughest most sincere people I have ever known. A legislator that always kept all of Wyoming in the forefront when it came to legislation and doing what was best for our state. Getting to know him and Irma was such an honor. He always made sure to call and visit on his way through Cheyenne to ask how we were doing and what our daughter was up to and who can ever forget the bags of carmel popcorn he always brought at Christmas. Rest in Paradise and dance forever with Irma. Love you my friend.*

Patty Wells - November 16, 2022 at 03:39 PM

CM

Thank you Patty. He thought very highly of you and enjoyed hearing about your family. It's wonderful knowing he and Mom are together again❤️

Cheryl Murray - November 22, 2022 at 02:23 PM

MP

“ I was Director of the WY Water Development Program. Senator Geis was instrumental in shepherding the annual water bills through each legislative session. He was a mentor and friend. I always enjoyed his company.

Mike Purcell - November 15, 2022 at 04:42 PM

CM

Thank you Mike

Cheryl Murray - November 22, 2022 at 02:24 PM

ES

“ Wyoming has lost one of its best leaders and more importantly one of it's greatest citizens. RIP Senator Geis

Emerson Scott - November 14, 2022 at 07:42 PM

CM



Cheryl Murray - November 22, 2022 at 02:25 PM

JG

“ Gerald, I and my Sister has keep in contact over years, our Father were first miss his phone calls.

John Geis - November 14, 2022 at 11:46 AM

CM

Dad loved staying in touch with family and friends.

Cheryl Murray - November 22, 2022 at 02:27 PM

GG

“ He was a lovely man, beloved by all who knew and worked with him. He was generous and will be sorely missed. He is resting now in heaven with Irma.

What a wonderful couple they have always been, gloria geis

gloria geis - November 10, 2022 at 01:27 PM

LP

Thank you, Aunt Gloria.

Liz Pike - November 12, 2022 at 01:48 PM

LP



Liz Pike - November 12, 2022 at 01:51 PM

CM

Thank you for sharing Aunt Gloria. He is truly missed ❤️

Cheryl Murray - November 14, 2022 at 01:03 AM

GG

Wow--there will never be anyone like him or Irma either. They were a joy to be with. luv Trudy and me

gloria geis - November 21, 2022 at 05:41 PM

DK

“ We feel extremely blessed to have known Jerry Geis! He was a gift to the world and especially to his family and to Wyoming friends. Teaching his 11 year old family members to drive is priceless and so "Wyoming"! I enjoyed your company for dinner when you were serving in the legislature in Cheyenne, and it meant a great deal to my folks for you to visit them, Jerry. I'm sure they were at Heaven's Gate to welcome you. We send our love and deep thanks for the memories! Deb Muirhead Kellam

Deb Kellam - November 10, 2022 at 09:11 AM

CM

Your memories touch my heart Deb...thank you for sharing ❤️

Cheryl Murray - November 10, 2022 at 01:28 PM

LP

Thank you, Deb. He looked forward to visiting with you while in Cheyenne

Liz Pike - November 12, 2022 at 01:47 PM

GB

Senator Grr we is and my dad, Senator Bill Barton we're good friends during their tenure serving the State of Wyoming. I met Senator & Mrs Geis several times when in Cheyenne with dad. He was a wonderful, articulate, knowledgeable man who was greatly admired and respected by all who served with him. My thoughts and prayers for Senator's daughters and their families. (His smile was the best!)

Ginger Barton-Jordan - November 14, 2022 at 05:53 PM

CM

Thank you Ginger! His smile was the best!! I miss seeing it every day. Sharing your memories touched my heart. Thank you!

Cheryl Murray - November 22, 2022 at 02:29 PM

MF

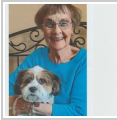
“ *What a lovely man. I enjoyed reading the detailed summary of his exemplary life. I have a memory that is dear to my heart. Tolman Sheep Company was among the many operations that counted on Geis for hauling livestock. My sister and I loved to see the Geis trucks pulling up to the sheep corrals. They always meant hearty men-work. We loved to watch the boys who were older and yet friendly to us. One time we got to ride down to Worland from Onion Gulch in the Geis truck and it was a memorable treat. I'd love to know what that conversation was like.
Blessings on the whole wonderful family.
Maureen Tolman Flannery*

Maureen Flannery - November 10, 2022 at 07:47 AM

CM

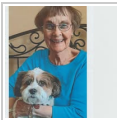
Oh how special! That memory of yours brings back cherished memories of my own. Thankyou so much for sharing Maureen ❤️ Cheryl

Cheryl Murray - November 10, 2022 at 01:27 PM



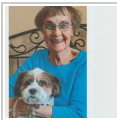
When your dad started campaigning the girls and I made posters--lots of fun. Also I have a wonderful poster of a real photograph--don't know where it is is now. When you move you lose things. They were so valuable. Good thing they are in the memory.

Gloria Geis - November 21, 2022 at 06:06 PM



I am so happy sharing--more things come to remembering--

Gloria Geis - November 21, 2022 at 06:08 PM



He always had time to share. One yr at a class reunion I stayed behind the others, and actually got lost--It was o.k. because he and I had fun trying to figure where we were --

Gloria Geis - November 21, 2022 at 06:13 PM

SB

“ It was an honor to serve in the Wyoming Legislature with Senator Geis. He took this Freshman Democrat under his wing and treated me like we had been friends forever. Serving on the Agriculture Committee and Select Water Committee with him was pure joy. His stories of trucking and legislating always brought a smile to my face. I will always cherish my time with you Sir. Rest in Peace my friend.

Stan Blake - November 09, 2022 at 11:14 PM

CM

*Dad was amazing at making people feel at ease. He LOVED sharing his knowledge and stories...what a gift!
Thank you for sharing your memories, Cheryl*

Cheryl Murray - November 10, 2022 at 01:40 PM

LP

Dad enjoyed mentoring new legislators because he so appreciated those who mentored him. Thank you for sharing. Liz

Liz Pike - November 12, 2022 at 01:54 PM



“*Uncle Jerry taught me how to cook lamb. He came over in the morning to show me what to do. Then he came back that night to have dinner with Harry and I and said that the lamb was cooked perfectly. We will miss you Love Harry and Patty O'Connor*

Patty O'Connor - November 09, 2022 at 07:46 PM

CM

Dad was great at sharing his culinary skills! Even more, he enjoyed savoring the end results and great company. So happy for that memory Patty❤️

Cheryl Murray - November 10, 2022 at 01:49 PM

MC

I learned some important life lessons from Jerry Geis. Don't let adversity slow you down, humility is a good thing, and be thankful for what the Lord has done. I thought so much of him. Marilyn Snyder Connolly

Marilyn Connolly - November 11, 2022 at 09:33 AM

LP

Thanks for sharing such a wonderful memory, Patty ❤️ liz

Liz Pike - November 12, 2022 at 01:56 PM

LP

Marilyn, thank you for your kind words. 💞💞 Liz

Liz Pike - November 12, 2022 at 01:57 PM

RC

Mona and I have so many fond memories of time spent with Jerry. Serving with him in the Legislature was a special time for me. Jerry was an uncommonly good thinker and could express his thoughts very well to everyone.

Jerry was a special friend and spent a lot of time with us as a special guest in our home.

We loved Jerry very much and will miss him dearly.

He is in Heaven with Irma now.

Love you all,

Rich & Mona Cathcart

Richard Cathcart - November 12, 2022 at 02:32 PM

BS

Gerry was a true statewide leader, in the old style. He could work with anyone. A very nice man. Sorry to hear this news. - Bill Sniffin

Bill Sniffin - November 13, 2022 at 09:52 PM

CW

Gerry Was a great man!

He was always ready to encourage everyone even as kids. Getting to know him better as an adult and becoming a friend was a great honor. Gerry's commitment to our community and state was unprecedented. He truly loved to serve his community. Thank you Gerry!

A quote that rings true is "The world should be a better place because a man has lived." I truly believe Wyoming and the world is a better place because Gerry lived and served!

Our sincere condolences

Clark and Cindy Willard and the whole Willard family

Clark Willard - November 14, 2022 at 09:37 PM

AM

Jerry was a special man. He made everyone feel comfortable. I remember him making jokes about just being an trucker, but people trusted him to be a senator. He respected people in all positions of life.

Alisa Martin - November 20, 2022 at 02:31 PM