



Gerald Fink

February 22, 1938 - December 20, 2017

Gerald Fink, age 79 of Carbondale, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 in Memorial Hospital of Carbondale surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in 1938 in Mill Creek to Doyle and Mildred Fink.

Gerald married Marlene Cotton in 1962. They were blessed with 55 years of marriage, serving as a role model to family and friends for what makes a happy and lasting marriage.

He received his civil engineering degree from the esteemed Missouri School of Mining and Metallurgy in Rolla, Mo. Upon receiving his degree he began work for the U.S. Forest Service planning public access areas for parks across the country. Returning to Southern Illinois to build a family, he began working for the Highway Department in Carbondale as a Civil Engineer and later for the SIU Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Gerald was an exceedingly talented craftsman with a true inventor mindset – applying his expertise to restoring machinery, customizing the family residence and offering assistance to many individuals and organizations in the community seeking repair for the “unfixable”. There was nothing he could not repair – and if he needed a non-existent part, he created one. He always

crafted an ideal and expedient solution and was quick to lend a helping hand to others.

He was a member of The American Thresherman Association and restored his own 1924 Keck-Gonnerman Steam Engine to its original state. In this endeavor, Gerald recreated long-lost artwork essential to the restoration process helping other Keck owners achieve the same goal.

Gerald and Marlene are members of the First Methodist Church of Carbondale.

Gerald is survived by his loving wife, Marlene Fink of Carbondale; a daughter, Lynn Fink (Kevin Olson) of Chicago; a son, Michael (Leah Lovett-Fink) Fink of Denver, CO; grandchildren, Bruce Fink and Lorelei Fink of Denver, CO; a sister, Marilyn (Ernest) Russell of Jonesboro; nieces, Elizabeth Russell-Bowen of Buncombe and Kim Russell-Burger of Scott City, MO; other relatives and a host of friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial services for Gerald Fink hosted by the family will be Friday February 23, 2018 at 3:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church in Carbondale with Rev. Alan R. Rhein officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the American Cancer Society. www.cancer.org

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Gerald Fink*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *I was Gerald's granddaughter. He may be the strongest man I know. I have so many memories with him that I would like to share. He taught me how to ride the tractor, he always took me to get ice cream, he would let me watch whatever cartoons or shows I wanted to watch, we would cuddle with our dog, Stella who also has unfortunately passed away. His favorite holidays were easter and Christmas. He cared about everyone else so much. He built the basement in his old house and built me a bed. He was the kindest soul ever. All I can say is it's been four years and this still hurts to right and not to ever take your loved ones for granted. Cancer sucks.*

-Lorelei Fink, his granddaughter.

Lorelei Fink - February 27, 2021 at 11:32 PM



“ *My wife Judy and I extend our deepest sympathy to the Fink Family. I knew Gerald and his family when growing up in Mill Creek. Rest in peace friend.*

Weldon Brown - January 09, 2018 at 06:49 PM



“ *Marlene, I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. You have my deepest sympathy.*

Betty Jo Bird Bishop, Class of '59. - December 25, 2017 at 03:25 AM

LW

“ *Marlene, Lynn and Michael*
We were saddened to learn of Gerald's passing. It was always a pleasure to talk with Gerald and to learn of the projects he had going in his shop. We will miss him.
Bob and Lynn Wolff

Lynn Wolff - December 22, 2017 at 09:32 PM

EB

“ *Gerald was one of us Anna-Jonesboro's Class of 1956!*

Hearing the news of his Home going not only leaves us with sad hearts but an emptiness, knowing he will be missed by his family, friends and former classmates.

Marlene and family, may it bring you some comfort, knowing Gerald will be celebrating the Glory of Christmas in Heaven!

Gary and Emily Boyd-Meyer

Emily Boyd-Meyer - December 22, 2017 at 05:39 PM

JS

“ *What a great guy. It was a pleasure to know Gerald. He knew more about machine work and tooling than most of us. I will miss him at church, but am confident that we will visit again in heaven.*
Joe Swindell

Joe Swindell - December 22, 2017 at 10:59 AM