



# Gerald "Jake" Hawley

JUN 20, 1933 - JAN 21, 2025



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# Gerald "Jake" Hawley

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**G**erald "Jake" Hawley, born June 20, 1933, in Wolsey, South Dakota, passed away on January 21, 2025, in Medina, Ohio. He was 91 years old. Jake is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Ann (Drey) Hawley, and their children: Janine (Dale) Girard of Kernersville, NC, Todd (Marsha) Hawley of Sylvania, OH, Kurt (Janet) Hawley of Medina, OH, and Melissa (Michael) McConnell of Overland Park, KS. He was a cherished grandfather to Lauren (Max) McKee, Ryan Hawley, Morgan (Daniel) Barnes, Emma Hawley, Erin Hawley, Mattie Girard, Claire McConnell, Derek Girard, and Grace McConnell, and a proud great-grandfather to Jack and Calvin McKee.

Jake overcame many hardships as a young man but never let that hold him back or define his legacy. He always was determined to do better, be better, and provide better for everyone he knew.

Jake lost his father at a young age and his life could have taken many turns. His family marvels at his journey and takes pride in his accomplishments. He was a father to four, but willingly, openly, and compassionately fathered many as a teacher, coach, friend, and mentor over the years. He was the first in his family to attend college, receiving a scholarship for basketball & academics. Amazingly enough, the first football game Jake ever saw was his freshman year. It also happened to be the one he started in as an offensive linemen! He went on to play both offense and defense, and was inducted into the Huron College Hall of Fame due to his success on the gridiron.

He served as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in the 1950s, and was a part of the Navy-Marine All-Star football team. After his service, he began a career as a math teacher and coach in Nebraska. A few moves later with his bride Ann and three kids in tow, he transitioned to a successful tenure with State Farm Insurance, which led to one more child and five more moves before retiring in 1995. Yes, he is the "original" Jake from State Farm. Jake was an avid and competitive golfer with countless holes-in-one -- his most recent one in the Spring of 2024. He spent many memorable years playing at Elmcrest Country Club in Cedar Rapids, Iowa



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and Olde Hickory Golf and Country Club in Fort Myers, Florida. We can all still picture Jake's left foot hanging off the side with his wide-brimmed hat as he cruised in a cart to his next shot. Jake was also a savvy card player, with a passion for playing gin and poker. His card groups at Olde Hickory were always a highlight of his week.

Even though he embraced the family motto of "it's not about the money, it's about the memories," Jake enjoyed life's simple pleasures, including some favorites: vodka and Squirt, a glass of Livingston Cabernet, dancing with Ann, and listening to his grandchildren giggle and watching them grow. Jake signed every card he gave to Ann with "All my love." We are fortunate that all his love didn't end on January 21. It carries on in each of us because we had him in our lives.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Wolsey Community Foundation (<https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/local-impact/community-foundations/wolsey>) or the Burke Community Foundation (<https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/local-impact/community-foundations/burke>), reflecting Jake's lifelong commitment to education and the communities where he and Ann grew up, met, and were married in 1959.

A celebration of Jake's life will take place at a later date in Herrick, South Dakota.




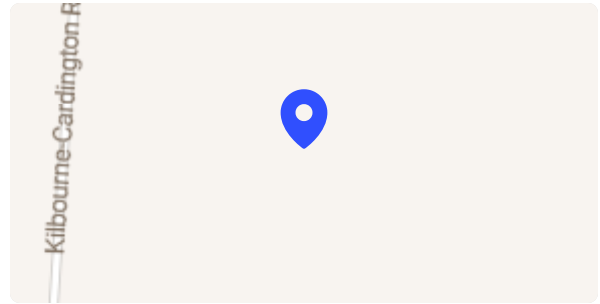
## Events

**Gerald "Jake" Hawley**

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### Cemetery Details

 PRIVATE  
OH





## Tribute Wall

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**Janet Hawley** posted:

To the best father-in-law anyone could ask for: thank you for everything. You may be gone, but you will never be forgotten. You will always have a special place in my heart, and I will honor your memory by striving to live with the same grace, kindness, and love that you embodied every day. You were one of a kind. Rest in peace. Love, Janet Hawley

January 22 at 11:39 AM



**Mark Thurm** February 12 at 1:35 PM

Jake was my second manager as a trainee agent with State Farm in Cedar Rapids. I had just learned that the manager who hired me was moving to Mason City & I was struggling. Our first meeting we discussed where I was and where I needed to be. At weather below zero we went door to door x-dating for over two weeks. This gave me the confidence I was lacking. Thanks to Jake's mentoring & help I had a successful career with State Farm. Our sincere condolences to Ann & family. Mark & Diane Thurm - Marion, Iowa



**Gary Wiren** February 10 at 1:10 PM

I knew Jake as my most trusted blocker. playing at right guard on the Huron College football team which I quarterbacked. But I knew him better as a person who was enjoyable to be around, as well as one you could depend upon, one you could trust Take good care of those folks up there Jake, just like you did for me.. Gary Wiren, PGA



**Chuck Fodness** February 9 at 10:39 AM

What an honor it was to know Jake. He lived life to the fullest with no regrets or apologies. He always had a kind word for you as well as a pat on the back. I cannot remember a negative word coming out of his mouth. My sympathies to Ann and his family. Jake was truly one of a kind. Chuck Fodness, a State Farm Associate, Fountain Hills, AZ



**Reid Richards** February 5 at 6:31 PM

Jake and I were Agency Directors in West Central together for 6 1/2 years. We rode together to Lincoln from Iowa, solving many problems and becoming wonderful friends. We retired to Florida and continued our deep friendship with him and Annie. Miss you, Jake. I'll see you again I know and you can give me more insights of what is yet to come. Reid and Cathy



**Connie Ramser** January 22 at 12:20 PM

Dear Hawley Family, Our deepest sympathy for the loss of such a wonderful man. Jake was such a great example of how to love others and take care of his family. He really provided so many wonderful memories for you all. I always admired him for that and for just how kind he was. We pray you find comfort in knowing Jake is at peace in the presence of his loving father! Mark and Connie



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Gerald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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