



## Jerry K. Wolfrom

October 16, 1929 - January 30, 2015

Jerry was born on October 16, 1929 in Rawson, Ohio to Ferrol and Helen Wolfrom. His father worked in construction his entire life. Jerry's brother, Norman, was born six years later.

Jerry was always proud to be from a small town, and often felt he had a better handle on life than some of his friends from large cities.

He loved school and never celebrated when a term ended. As a student he was a voracious reader, participated in all school activities and played football, basketball and baseball. He developed an interest in theatre and writing while still in grade school. He once said he wrote his first book while in the fourth grade - three notebook pages about race horses.

He cherished his boyhood days growing up in the village of Mt. Cory in Hancock County. There, his dad taught him to hunt, trap and fish and he delighted in summer days spent swimming in creeks near town.

While those were Great Depression times, life was good and worry-free. Jerry's mother and father instilled in him a strong work ethic. For recreation during the middle -1930's, a trip to Bluffton every Saturday night was a treat. Parents of that era usually gave their children a nickel to spend on penny candy at five different stores.

Later, in high school, he held jobs on a night clean-up crew at a dairy. He also worked as, a laborer in a glove factory and as a farm laborer at harvest time, back-breaking toil in the corn and sugar beet fields. He also worked nights in the finishing room at the Cooper Tire company and then with a pick and

shovel on highway construction projects.

His interest in writing was developed in the fourth grade when he wrote a book -- a three page handwritten story about race horses. His appetite for writing was further sharpened as sports editor of his high school yearbook. His writing career spanned SEVEN DECADES.

He met his first wife, Joan, while they were in high school. The relationship began on a hayride and turned into a marriage of 41 years. She passed away at age 58, much too young for such a wonderful woman, he said. She gave him two great children, Steve and Scotti Mesarchik, and he was often saddened in recent years that Joan never got to see her grandchildren. Joan supported him when he returned to college - after 10 years as a marketing analyst with Marathon Oil -- to learn to be a journalist.

Jerry later was married to Neva for 10 years, saying recently he learned a lot from her about life. Things like honesty, faith and compassion. She's remained his good friend in the years up until she passed in May 2014.

He has a long time friend and recent companion, Gloria, who helped him continue in his faith and enjoy the last of his life.

At Bowling Green State University he was voted the Top College Writer in Ohio in 1962, the same year BGSU gave him the prestigious Golden Scissors Award, the School of Journalism's highest award. The University again honored him in 1990 by inducting him into the journalism school's Hall of Fame for 33 years of community newspaper service. The Ohio Senate honored him in August 2014 for 50 years of service to Cambridge

Jerry worked as a reporter for the Findley Courier, The Reynoldsburg Record and the Easton Maryland Star-Democrat before joining the editorial staff at the Daily Jeffersonian in 1962.

There, he began as a reporter, then moved up to sports editor, city editor and managing editor. From 1973-78 he ran the Newcomerstown News for the Jeffersonian company and served on the Jeff's board of directors. He wrote about 4000 columns during his career, in addition to thousands of news articles and editorials. While he had held the editor's job with the Daily

Jeffersonian, his first love was writing. He wrote five books, all collections of his better columns.

For many years he was a sought-after speaker, always presenting an upbeat humorous message to audiences in this area. He often said, "If you ain't got no sense of humor, you ain't got no sense at all." He also liked to say, "If your too busy to go fishing, you're too busy."

He retired in 1992, but returned to the Daily Jeffersonian a year later to spend another year as acting general manager. A few months later, he returned again for a short time as the newspaper's ombudsman.

After buying a home in Florida, Jerry worked for the Fort Myers News-Press and became a travel writer for Mature Lifestyles, a large circulation magazine for senior citizens. The job took him to several foreign countries.

Jerry always said his associations with the Amos, Moorehead and Dix families were wonderful, calling them great friends and mentors. Over the years he was active as a Boy Scout Leader, Little League, Midget Football, bass clubs, the Cambridge Writers Workshop and in community theatre. He also enjoyed Chamber of Commerce work, cooking and competitive bass fishing.

As an editor he enjoyed working with young reporters and always was happy when they moved on to larger papers. After his retirement he took a special interest in his grandchildren --- Amanda Grace Wolfrom, Zachary Stephen Wolfrom, Jordan Michael Mesarchik, Carli Joann Mesarchik and Sarah Corner.

In addition, he stayed active by writing two columns a week for the Jeffersonian, bringing a smile to thousands of readers. He also was a founder of the Cambridge Writer Workshop and most recently a member of the Rainy Day Writers, whose last book debuted in November 2014.

Not long ago someone Jerry, "How would you like to be remembered?" He replied, "Oh, I'd be happy if people just said 'Jerry was a nice guy.'"

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, memorial visitation will take place at Bundy-Law Funeral Home from 2 pm to 3 pm. A memorial service will follow

at 3 pm. Pastor Sturman Moore will officiate the service. Private family burial will take place in Northwood Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice. Jerry's online tribute wall may be viewed and signed at [www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com](http://www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com).

ACROSS THE DARK WATERS WAS WAFTED A SHOUT...MY COMRADES  
CALL "30" LIFE'S EDITION IS OUT.

# Cemetery Details

**At a later date**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

FEB 4. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Bundy-Law Funeral Home  
120 North 11th Street  
Cambridge, OH 43725  
(740) 432-5705  
info@bundy-lawfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com>

### Service

FEB 4. 3:00 PM (ET)

Bundy-Law Funeral Home  
120 North 11th Street  
Cambridge, OH 43725  
(740) 432-5705  
info@bundy-lawfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ *God Bless*



---

**Joe King** - February 04, 2015 at 01:57 PM

LO

“ *I had the great pleasure of working with Jerry at The Jeff during summer vacations when I was a student at Ohio State. He was affable and in his columns into which he injected much humor, he always referred to his wife as "the helpmate."*

*Lorrie Secrest Osman*

---

**Lorrie Secrest Osman** - February 04, 2015 at 11:16 AM

SW

“ *Jerry was a very unique man with great writing talent. He will be sadly missed as a neighbor and friend. We will definitely miss his articles in the Jeffersonian. Rest in peace Jerry.. Sandy & Larry West*



---

**Sandy West** - February 03, 2015 at 09:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jerry K. Wolfrom.



February 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Jerry and Joann were close friends when they lived in Newcomerstown. I bowled with Jo for years. They were very good people! Jerry will be missed for his writings Love them! God bless his children Barb Westhafer

Barbara Westhafer - February 02, 2015 at 07:46 PM



“ What does this mean:ACROSS THE DARK WATERS WAS WAFTEA A SHOUT...MY COMRADES CALL “30” LIFE’S EDITION IS OUT.

liz - February 02, 2015 at 05:36 PM



30 is written at the bottom of news copy to indicate it doesn't continue on another page. It's over/done/finished. You've read it in It's entirety. I think that's the reference in the short verse. I wonder if Jerry wrote those lines. Anyone know?

Becky LeMond - September 24, 2024 at 05:04 PM



Its entirety. Autocorrection.

Becky LeMond - September 24, 2024 at 05:05 PM

YF

“ *Your CHELCO Marketing and Member Services Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jerry K. Wolfrom.*



---

**Your CHELCO Marketing and Member Services Family.** -  
February 02, 2015 at 05:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jerry K. Wolfrom.*



---

February 02, 2015 at 01:10 PM

BC

“ *Board, Staff and Employee's of CHELCO purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Jerry K. Wolfrom.*



---

**Board, Staff and Employee's of CHELCO** - February 02, 2015  
at 11:32 AM

DK

“ I always loved reading his story's posted in the Jeff paper he always had the best that had good funny humor and I couldn't wait to get the paper just to read his story's. Jerry was a great guy even tho I never knew him personally. I knew him through his writings and he also was known to me by my aunt Beverly of the Rainy Day Writers group. Jerry you will be missed by all who knew You and thank you for all your great story's I enjoyed reading them all ,R.I.P.Jerry..

---

**Dale Kerr** - February 02, 2015 at 11:11 AM

NC

“ Nancy C. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jerry K. Wolfrom.



---

**Nancy C.** - February 02, 2015 at 08:35 AM

PS

“ This friend, former high school classmate and fellow basketball and football team member, who also dabbled in journalism will truly miss my buddy and friend Jerry. We shared many remembrances of Mt. Cory & Rawson and our early days.

*Our love and prayers to all who join me in missing my buddy and friend.*

---

**Paul Stuckey** - February 01, 2015 at 02:17 PM

DO

“ Gloria, draw strength from the memories you will carry with you the rest of your life. With love and prayers I send to you.

Debbe

Debbe Osborne - February 01, 2015 at 04:53 AM

"G

“ Gloria, I share your sadness, but I envy the joy your association with Jerry must have brought you. May that joy continue as my prayers for you will.

"Ghost" - January 31, 2015 at 06:57 PM

GO

“ Scotti and family, sorry to hear about your fathers passing. Hugs.  
Gail Oiler

gail oiler - January 31, 2015 at 04:39 PM

 Pam  
Ritchey

“ So sorry and sad to hear of Jerry's passing.  
Though we had our differences in recent  
years, he was once a much loved companion.  
My prayers go out to all the family.



Pam Ritchey - January 31, 2015 at 02:41 PM

JM

“ *What a life he had! How fortunate you were to have time together. As a life long lover of words and writing, how much he impacted others. Gloria, I wish I had known Jerry but I feel I did through your love.*

*Jackie Monies*

---

**Jackie Monies** - January 31, 2015 at 12:24 PM

PS

“ *I will never forget when Jerry and Joan took me to New York City when I was about 12. It was wonderful to see the sights and the Broadway shows. I fell in love with the play "Grease" and it remains one of my favorite movies.*

---

**Paula Combs Shuman** - January 31, 2015 at 09:36 AM

VB

“ *Thoughts and prayers to all family members. May they find peace and comfort in this time of sorrow.*

*Garry and Val Berisford*

---

**valerie berisford** - January 31, 2015 at 09:29 AM

PP

“ *I was blessed to know Jerry and to be able to call him friend. He was one of a kind!  
Thinking of you, Steve and Scottie. God bless.*

---

**Pamela Pulley** - January 31, 2015 at 08:14 AM

FM

“ Jerry was a special person in the life of my daughter Lisa McDonald Loos he was Mr. Cambridge for many years It is sad that Jerry's legacy did not stay with the Daily-Jeff



Fred McDonald - January 30, 2015 at 09:54 PM

John  
Clark

“ If it weren't for Jerry, I never would have gotten into journalism. He let a high school kid hang around the office one day a week, taking photos, writing briefs and learning how things worked. Then hired me as a stringer when I graduated. Hadn't thought about him in years, but he really made a huge difference in my life. Peace Jerry.

John Clark - January 30, 2015 at 09:31 PM

JD

You were a great guy Jerry. .RIP.-30-

Jennifer Dearth - January 30, 2015 at 10:00 PM

NC

We know how much Mandy and Zach will miss "Grandpa Jerry." Yes, he was "a nice guy" with a quick wit and a welcoming heart. All of the Wolfroms and Mesarchiks are in our thoughts and prayers.

Nancy Cochrane - January 31, 2015 at 08:03 AM

KE

I will always be grateful to Jerry for treating my mom, Gloria Ryan so well. He lit up her entire life; they loved each other very much. My heart is very heavy with his loss.

Katie Erickson - January 31, 2015 at 10:06 AM

JR

“ *And as he wished. Jerry was a nice guy!!!! So sorry to hear this but he certainly leed a full life!!*



---

**Jane Rawlings** - January 30, 2015 at 09:23 PM

CH

“ *He will be missed. Sending prayers to you all. May your Guardian Angels keep vigil throughout this time.*



---

**Cheri Harding** - January 30, 2015 at 08:25 PM



“ *A truly great man and mentor. He encouraged me to be a writer and taught me more about the craft than any teacher or professor I've ever had.*



---

**Beverly Justice** - January 30, 2015 at 08:10 PM