



# Jerry Ballard

AUG 15, 1938 - JUN 29, 2019



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## **Jerry Ballard**

AUG 15, 1938 - JUN 29, 2019

**J**erry Ballard, 80, threw his last bale of hay on June 29th, 2019, while surrounded by family at Morrison House in Zanesville, Ohio.

He was born August 15, 1938 in Middletown, Ohio to Benjamin “Floyd” and Nancy “Nannie” Louisa Ballard. In his early years he could be seen riding on the backs of pigs as he dreamed of life on the range as a cowboy. After graduating from Middletown High School, he achieved his dream as the entire Ballard clan moved to Nashport, Ohio to begin cattle farming. Walnut Hills Farm, which later became Ballard Stock Farm, was one of the preeminent Polled Hereford and Angus cattle breeders in North America. Over the span of almost 60 years, Jerry won numerous local, state and national Grand Champion and Premier Breeder awards at many fairs and shows.

Jerry demonstrated his well-known assertive nature by vigorously pursuing and winning the affections of the magnificently attractive woman he saw at a Frazeysburg High School basketball game. The woman in question, Patricia Ann Mercer, soon became his bride in 1962. Knowing that he needed help running his expanding empire and being particularly aware of how much good help cost...he and Pat had three kids: Jay, Ray and Jeri Ann.

Over the years Jerry became known for a number of things. He was a great husband and father, an outstanding cattleman, a garden hose assassin and a world-class artist who worked in swear words much like Rembrandt worked in oils. At times he was a cattleman/poet who was often heard to say, “ok - make fun of the old man” (usually meant that he’d rather we not), “while you’re up” (usually associated with filling his water glass or changing the TV channel...used even if no one was actually up), “Sears called and the TV is in” (which accidentally let all of the kids know what they were getting for Christmas), “yo boys” (used as a rallying cry to roust his two sons on the weekend for morning chores), “my three sons” (uttered during his and Pat’s 50th wedding Anniversary, when he meant to say ‘kids.’ His Son-in-Law, Bob, was particularly shocked by this statement.), “get out and get the stink blowd off you” (also used to motivate his kids to get out of the house and do something productive).



## Obituary

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The true measure of a person is how they affected the people they leave behind. With that as a guideline, Jerry was an extraordinary man who will be dearly missed by many. He is survived by Patricia, his loving wife of 56-years; his children Jay, Ray and Jeri Ann - who are all very different, but highly successful; his daughter-in-law, Dale, and his son-in-law, Bob, his grandchildren Riley and Logynn as well as many extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held for friends and family. There will be no public funeral. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation to Christ's Table, 28 South 6th Street, Zanesville, OH 43701.



## Tribute Wall

**Jerry Ballard**

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JF

**Joyce Weiser And Family** posted:

Our sympathy

June 25 at 6:27 AM

EB

**Ed Blachaniec** posted:

I MET JERRY IN THE ARMY, AROUND. THE MID 1960'S. ALONG WITH ANGELO MELCHIORRE WHO PASSED AWAY WAS FROM LAKE FOREST, I LLINOIS. WE WERE THE ORIGINAL 3 AMIGO'S JERRY WAS ONE OF THE GOOD GUY'S. ABOUT 40 YEARS AGO, JERRY CONTACTED ME ABOUT HAVING, I BELIEVE A SON AT THE GREAT LAKES NAVAL CENTER. I COULD BE WRONG ON THAT. BUT WE MET AT HIS HOTEL, HAD A FEW BEERS AND ENJOYED OUR COMPANY GOD BLESS JERRY AND HIS FAMILY. ED BLACHANIED. 847-421-3780.

September 28 at 5:04 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Pat, Jay, Ray, and Jeri Ann, we are so sorry to hear of your loss. Another legend of the Big "Shannon" Valley is gone! Hopefully, he'll keep the "country vet" company on the hill in Irville until we arrive. There are memories which I'll always cherish, and certainly never forget, involving growing up with the Ballard Clan! Again, our sympathies!The Wines, Houston, Texas

July 4 at 6:47 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I Remember going out to His Farm More than once as my Dad Would buy His Polled Herefords for us to Show. it seemed that I always got the wild one. but We always did good. R.I.P to another great one. Terry Brock.

July 3 at 5:23 PM

VG

**Valerie Parks Graham** posted:

So sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. I always enjoyed visiting with him when he took pictures at the cattle shows. He will be missed!

July 3 at 4:13 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Jerry Ballard**

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**Anonymous** posted:

Jerry will be greatly missed. He was a force to deal with in the cattle business Especially Polled Herefords. Our family has known Jerry and his family since 1970. We showed cattle and were involved with the Buckeye Polled Hereford Assoc. for many years and many other activities. Oh the tales we could tell. Jerry always took time to visit and talk with you on how things were going. Our sincere sympathy to all the Ballard family. Dwain, Connie, Shelley, Mandy Peak.

July 3 at 2:28 AM



**Erin Waite-Hoak** posted:

I'm so very sorry for your loss. May you find peace that he is in a much better place. I graduated with Ray and I can testify that he and his wife raised wonderful children..prayers to your family .

July 2 at 5:07 PM



**Kathryn Morrison** posted:

what a beautiful obituary to describe a wonderful summation of his life. I ONLY HAD THE HONOR OF INTERACTING WITH THE CHILDREN AND JERRY FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME THIS PAST THURSDAY WHEN I VOLUNTEERED AT THE HOSPICE HOUSE. IWISH GODS COMFORT BE WITH ALL OF YOU AND SAFTEY IN YOUR TRAVELS

July 2 at 1:24 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

It has been a long time since our paths have crossed but we remember Jerry with admiration and respect. We learned a lot from Jerry with the Polled Herefords. Our deepest sympathy to Pat and family.Walt and Linda Helmke & Betsy and Dave Bowers

July 2 at 7:25 AM



**Heather And Ryan Lepage** posted:

Sending hugs and prayers to the entire family. "Uncle Jerry" was a gem! No cattle show or sale complete without a hug and a swing around the dance floor with my favorite guy. He meant so much to my husband and I. Oh the stories and the memories we shared. Love you Uncle Jerry! May we all find joy in the memories and comfort in the Lord as we grieve the passing of this great man.

July 2 at 7:22 AM



## Tribute Wall

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CL

**Christy Riley Little** posted:

To the Ballard Family, So sorry for your loss. The Riley's and the Ballard's had a lot of good times at the cattle shows. Lots of great memories. May God comfort you during this difficult time.

July 2 at 6:49 AM

ER

**Erma Riley** posted:

Patty and family I was so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing, I will always remember the fun times we shared over the years when your family and ours was showing Polled Hereford cattle. I'm sure he will truly be missed by all who knew him, may he rest in peace in heaven. With deepest sympathy Erma Riley

July 2 at 6:36 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Patty so sorry for your loss from an old friend from North terrace church Butch Gadd.

July 2 at 4:40 AM

TP

**Tim Patton** posted:

Ballard family, On behalf of Genesis Hospice, thank you for letting us help to take care of Jerry. I do hope we were able to provide some measure of comfort and peace to him. I pray that his legacy will continue to be reflected in each of you and that God's presence may provide grace and peace in all ways. Blessings, Tim Patton, Chaplain

July 1 at 7:43 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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