



## Jerry Froida Jr

January 22, 1933 - December 23, 2024

Jerry Froida, a devoted family man, proud Navy sailor, skilled printer, and passionate outdoorsman, passed away on December 23 at the age of 91. Born on January 22, 1933, in Chicago, Illinois, Jerry was a man of courage, kindness, and steadfast love, leaving behind a legacy of dedication to his family, his country, and his passions.

Jerry answered the call of duty, joining the Navy, where he was stationed in Key West, Florida on the USS Bushnell AS-15. His years of service were marked by bravery, camaraderie, and an unyielding commitment to protecting his country. He kept in touch with many of his fellow Navy service men and women throughout the years by attending several annual Bushnell Reunion throughout the U.S, and was active at the American Legion Allied Post 369 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 717.

Following his Navy service, Jerry pursued a successful career as a printer, where his meticulous attention to detail and dedication to his craft earned him respect among colleagues and clients alike. He took pride in his work, and enjoyed showing his grandchildren the art of papermaking and ink printing after retirement.

Family was the cornerstone of Jerry's life. He was a loving husband to Mary (nee Petras) who precedes him in death, father to four daughters—Gail (Jodi), Connie, Erin (Russell), and Mary Jean (Tom) who precedes him in death— a proud Papa to three cherished grandchildren Belinda (Andy), Tommy, and Eric (Rebecca)--and a wonderful great-grandfather to Sebastian, step great-grandfather to Jacob and Connor, and to countless furry and scaly great-grandchildren. Whether it was coaching his daughters softball teams, teaching his grandchildren to cast their first fishing line, or taking care of his beloved animals, Jerry found his greatest joy in the moments spent with those he loved most.

Outside of his Navy career and family life, Jerry found solace and excitement in fishing. Whether it was a quiet morning by the lake in Arkansas or a thrilling beach outing in Jekyll Island or Topsail Island, the water was his second home. Additionally, Jerry loved to spend time gardening, cooking, bowling, and reading the paper on Sunday mornings. He was also an avid baseball fan, rarely missing a Chicago White Sox or Chicago Cubs game on

TV, and relished the simple pleasure of enjoying America's pastime with his family. Jerry was a man of integrity, loyalty, and compassion, always ready to lend a helping hand or share a heartfelt laugh. His resilience and optimism touched the lives of everyone fortunate enough to know him. His love for life and family will be carried forward by all who knew and loved him.

There will be a visitation Saturday, January 4, 2025 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The celebration of life service will begin at 12 p.m. at Memory Lane Memorial Park and Funeral Home 6305 W. Lincoln Hwy, Crown Point, IN 46307. Burial will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the VFW or the American Legion, organizations to which Jerry devoted much of his time and love.

Jerry, you will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

# Cemetery Details

## Memory Lane Memorial Park

6305 W. Lincoln Highway (US 30)  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 322-2050  
info.memorylanepark@gmail.com  
<https://memorylanepark.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 4.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Memory Lane Funeral Home  
6305 W. Lincoln Highway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 322-2050  
info.memorylanepark@gmail.com  
<https://memorylanepark.com/>

## Funeral Service

**JAN 4.** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Memory Lane Funeral Home  
6305 W. Lincoln Highway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 322-2050  
info.memorylanepark@gmail.com  
<https://memorylanepark.com/>

## Burial

**JAN 4.** 1:00 PM (CT)

Memory Lane Memorial Park  
6305 W. Lincoln Highway (US 30)  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 322-2050  
info.memorylanepark@gmail.com  
<https://memorylanepark.com/>



# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jerry Froida Jr.*



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January 03, 2025 at 10:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jerry Froida Jr.

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January 03, 2025 at 10:33 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**B.J. Thompson** - December 30, 2024 at 05:32 PM

GF

*There are so many things I could say about my dad. He taught me how to play baseball (his favorite sport), to hunt and fish. Growing up we enjoyed camping and traveling the United States. My father had four daughters who he was very proud of and never hesitated to tell anyone who asked. I admired my dad a Jack of all trades from fixing washing machines to rebuilding engines. Making his own fishing weights to tuckpointing the house. Whatever we wanted to know he told us, whatever we wanted to do he let us, whatever we wanted to learn he taught us. No limits just try.*

*Dad truly participated in life, a family man who worked hard was involved and enjoyed the life God gave him.*

*A few memories important to me I would like to share:*

*Dogs were a constant part of the Froida house. A dog he could pound on he would always say. My Dad and I trained a Brittney Spaniel named Prince to hunt, and what a hunter Prince was. We went on weekends to a friend's farm in Watseka. After a day of hunting, we would stop at the A & W (drive-in) for a root beer. Usually, we came home with a pheasant or two, occasionally a rabbit or a few quail. Reflecting back, I realize I didn't bag much game. Not because I was a bad hunter (I was taught by the Best), but my dad was a quick draw and a darn good shot.*

*Dad asked Jodi and I to go to the Bushnell Reunion, being held in Key West, FL ~ I had to go and visit my birthplace which is where I acquired my 1st tattoo. Dad was excited and proud to be our tour guide around the island. The hospital where I was born, where they lived, the church where they attended Sunday Mass. We took a stroll down Duvall Street and hit all the trendy hot spots to include drinks at the famous Sloppy Joes.*

*I would talk with my dad often. During the summer it was baseball. His beloved Chicago White Sox. He would call and ask did you watch the game? (I had to make sure I did). Oh, my how we would discuss the ins and outs of their performance. In the Fall it was Da Bears, but not quite as intense. My Dad and I could talk about anything and everything from news, to politics, doctor visits, noisy neighbors, what's for dinner, old Navy Days and when are you two coming for a visit. He never said Goodbye without saying I Love You.*

*Goodbye Dad, I love You, Gail*

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**Gail Ann Froida** - December 31, 2024 at 10:29 AM

JW

*Thank You, Jerry for your acceptance of me, (for who I am,) - - and your never-ending unconditional love. You never criticized or passed judgement on me.*

*The Froida house is that one “house” where everyone is welcome and the “house” you would always end up at.*

*My travels with Jerry & Mary (O’l Mar) started early in life... camping at Kentucky Lake and Tippecanoe, IN (with the family cat and where it rained the entire weekend and we did not leave early to go home, because O’l Mar said, “We are not fair-weather campers”! Detroit (to visit Uncle Joe); a very memorable trip to Purley Church Road, Yanceyville, NC to participate in a “Shrimp Boil” at the home of his lifelong Navy Friends “JW” & Charlotte (who were a “HOOT”) and then we were all off to Top Sail, NC where the Eckhoff Family joined us. Two Bushnell Navy Reunions ~ Key West, FL and Charleston, SC. Fairfield Bay, AR (Home of The Eckhoff’s) once with Jerry and once with O’l Mar.*

*I watched Jerry fix cars, we fished and golfed together, went to Thornridge High School basketball games where afterwards O’l Mar would serve us English Muffin Pizzas, that I still make to this day. The English Muffin was multipurpose to O’l Mar... one Thanksgiving it was the garlic bread! Jerry was very versed during our visits discussing fishing, baseball, football, his vegetable garden, politics, cooking and the Navy. The Navy would make its way into every visit which I loved listening to those days in his life as much as he loved telling them.*

*We as a family attended minor league baseball games together as well as freezing our asses off at Tommy’s High School baseball games.*

*What I loved and found most attractive about Jerry & Mary was that they were “Low Key”! Whether I was riding in the back of an old red open cab pickup truck to Gail’s softball game or in the back of covered pickup truck loaded with camping/fishing gear, six teenagers and two Brittney Spaniel dogs. They were flip flops, picnic table, lawn chair under a shady tree, drinking a cold beer with country music playing on the radio people. No pretenses.*

*“I’ll bring the pizza & beer”*

*God’s “wings” are ready for you and your loved ones are waiting.*

*Treasured Memories – Always in my heart “Jodi”*

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**Jodi A Wroblewski** - December 31, 2024 at 03:15 PM

BM

“ *To Jerry’s Family - My deepest sympathy. I wish I could have met Jerry, he sounds like a wonderful man who made a positive impact on life, his family and serving our country. I am lucky to have a cousin like Gail, his daughter, who can share memories of Jerry and keep them everlasting. XOXO, Belinda Maras and Family*

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**Belinda Maras** - December 30, 2024 at 03:43 PM