



Joel P. Gereaux

March 13, 1936 - May 2, 2026

Joel P. Gereaux, 90, of Bradley, Illinois, peacefully passed away on Saturday, May 2, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Joel was born on March 13, 1936, in Watseka, Illinois, the son of Leonard and Alice (Sandquist) Gereaux. Joel was the last of six children. He graduated from Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School in 1954. On August 31, 1957, Joel married Carol Swinford and they were the proud parents of four children.

Joel was a homebuilder and remodeled homes around the community. He was a former trustee for the Village of Bradley, the president of the Bradley Public Library Board, and a former longtime member of The Hundred Club. Joel was also a member of Bradley Evangelical United Methodist Church, where he served on the administrative council. He was a longtime Chicago White Sox and Bears fan and enjoyed Nascar and southern gospel music.

Preceding Joel in death were his parents; his sisters, Ruth, Evelyn, and Faith; his brothers, Mark and Marvin; and his beloved son, Jeff and his beloved dog, Dusty Miller.

He is survived by his wife, Carol (Swinford) Gereaux of 68 years; his children,

Tim Gereaux (Jill) of Kankakee, Julie (Gereaux) Smith (Bob) of Columbia, Missouri, Todd Gereaux (Mary Kay) of Essex; seven grandchildren, Jared, Allison, Joel, Jessica, Mason, Michael, and Matthew; two great-grandchildren, Ada and Wesley; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Services will be held at Schreffler Funeral Homes in Kankakee on Friday, May 8, 2026.

A family visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Public visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with the funeral service beginning at 12:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Kankakee Memorial Gardens.

Memorials may be made to Uplifted Care in Bourbonnais and Kankakee County Humane Foundation.

His legacy will live on through his humor and kindness. Like he always said, "Don't fight, guys. There's not many of us left."

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 South 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall

PE

“ *Phyllis Emmerson lit a candle in memory of Joel P. Gereaux*



Phyllis Emmerson - May 11 at 08:27 AM

MR

“ *So sorry to hear of your father Passing, Todd. Prayers to you and your family.*

Mike Ratcliff - May 08 at 08:45 AM

VS

“ *Village of Reddick & Christopher Smith purchased the Purple Rose Buds with Baby's Breath (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of Joel P. Gereaux.*



Village of Reddick & Christopher Smith - May 07 at 10:34 PM

MB

“ *Always admired this clever, witty, hardworking talented man. What a great family example he and Carol were/are helping guide many of us throughout the years..... We treasure our visits to the Gereaux home. Thanks for the friendship and memories, Mike and Margie Beach and family,*

Mike Beach - May 06 at 08:25 PM

MB

“ *Mary Barnett lit a candle in memory of Joel P. Gereaux*



Mary Barnett - May 05 at 03:25 PM

SB

So sorry to hear of your fathers passing Julie. Keep his good memories close. We send love to you all. Xoxo love Sarah, Benjamin, and sharon.

Sharon, sarah, and Benjamin - May 08 at 05:51 PM

MS

“ *Monte Schweizer lit a candle in memory of Joel P. Gereaux*



Monte Schweizer - May 04 at 08:54 PM

MS

Donna and I want to reach out to everyone and give Our Deepest Condolences! My Life has been Blessed to know this man for a very long time and to have all his children as very good friends! What a Great Human Being! Rest Easy Pop's Gereaux! Heaven sure gained a great angel in this man! Hugs and Love to Everyone!

Monte Schweizer - May 04 at 08:59 PM

VP

“ *Sending love and prayers to Aunt Carol, Tim, Tod, and Julie. May Uncle Joel rest in peace. Great picture!!*

VICKY PRATER - May 04 at 06:55 PM