



## Gerald Eugene Umbarger

August 20, 1924 - December 30, 2016

Gerald Eugene Umbarger, age 92, of Chanute, Kansas passed away peacefully at home, Friday, December 30, 2016 Chanute, KS. Gerald was born on August 20, 1924 in Earlton, Kansas, the son of Winnie and Flossie (Miller) Umbarger.

Gerald graduated from Thayer High School in 1942. On April 14, 1946, Gerald married Eleanor Fairchild in Chanute, KS.

Gerald began farming at a young age, with his father and brothers. The family farming tradition continued with his son, Philip, at Umbarger Farms. Gerald continued to farm until he was 88 years old. Gerald and Eleanor witnessed many changes in farming, from farming with horses to his four-wheel drive tractor. Favorite past times included hunting, fishing and spending time with his family. Gerald was a member of the First Baptist Church in Chanute.

Gerald is survived by:

Wife:

Eleanor Umbarger, of the home

Children:

Joyce Whitson of Fredonia, KS

Linda Collins and husband Ron Frazier of Manhattan, KS

Philip Umbarger and wife Lisa of Chanute

Grandchildren:

Jayne Whitson

Lamar Whitson III and wife, Jill and children: Lamar IV, Jarrett, Haylee and Emma

Lewis Whitson Sr. and wife, Kirsten and son, Lewis Jr.

Mark Collins wife, Ann and children: Jordan, Cade, Kylee and Chloe

Ron Frazier Jr., and daughters, Jessica and Shelby

Ryan Frazier

Ashley Thomas and husband, Willie and children, Bailey and Dante

Angie Courter and husband, Matt and daughter, Cali

Stanley and Kale Krusich

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents; seven brothers; one sister and son-inlaw,

Lamar Whitson Jr.

Cremation has been requested. A memorial service will be held at the First Baptist

Church in Chanute, KS on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 1 pm. Inurnment will follow at

Neosho County Memorial Park Cemetery in Chanute. Online condolences may be left

at: [www.countrysidefh.com](http://www.countrysidefh.com). Memorials have been suggested to First Baptist Church

in Chanute and Horizon Hospice and may be left with or mailed to the funeral home.

Arrangements have been entrusted to: Countryside Funeral Home 101 N. Highland,

Chanute, KS 66720.



# Cemetery Details

## Neosho County Memorial Park

21st Street  
Chanute, KS

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 9. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Chanute  
118 N. Forest  
Chanute, KS 66720

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Maryann Sweely purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gerald Eugene Umbarger.*



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**Maryann Sweely** - January 10, 2017 at 11:27 AM

MS

“ *My husband and I first met Gerald and Eleanor on a Caribbean cruise 20 years ago. That cruise was one of the most memorable in my lifetime. We were so very fortunate to be seated at the "Umbarger table" with Gerald, Eleanor, and his 2 children Linda, Phil and partners. From the very evening we met we felt as though we were with "Family". Such a warm, happy, and welcoming man with such a great sense of humor. From day one of the cruise we spent time with the Umbargers eating, laughing, and enjoying our time spent. My husband and mother have died but I have found peace having Gerald for my "adopted Dad" and Eleanor for my "adopted Mom". We have been constant Pen Pals since our cruise. "Dad" you will always remain in my thoughts, my prayers and my heart. I thank God I was so very fortunate to meet you and have you in my life over these past many years. To say you will be missed is too simple. You will remain with all of us whom you have touched. "Love leaves a memory.....NO ONE CAN STEAL".*

*With Love,*

*Maryann Sweely*

*Big Flats, New York*

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**Maryann Sweely** - January 10, 2017 at 10:18 AM

KS

“ Aunt Eleanor, Joyce, Linda, Phil & your families my thoughts & prayers are with all of you in this time of loss. Uncle Gerald will be greatly missed, but I know he is being reunited with all the family that has gone before him. My thoughts & love be with you all.

Love

Kathy (Umbarger) Sehorn

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Kathy (Umbarger) Sehorn - January 08, 2017 at 08:44 PM

JN

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all. It has been a difficult year for your family. I pray your family can be at peace with your loss of this loved one, knowing that he now knows the ultimate peace. Judy Neely

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Judy Neely - January 03, 2017 at 01:55 PM

ED

“ Eleanor, my heart goes out to you for the loss of your wonderful husband. Dale and I enjoyed the many times we shared with you. I don't need to tell you what a wonderful man he was, always so cheerful and caring. We both have God to thank for allowing us so many happy years of marriage. Enjoying the many Happy New Years eve in your home was such a delight.



May God's love help you through this ordeal.

With Love,  
Esther Dayhoff

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Esther Dayhoff - January 03, 2017 at 01:38 PM

SW

“ Stephanie Westhoff lit a candle in memory of Gerald Eugene Umbarger



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**Stephanie Westhoff** - January 03, 2017 at 08:29 AM

CV

“ Sincere sympathy for your loss. He is singing in the heavenly choir.  
Charles & Kathy Volland

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**Charles Volland** - January 02, 2017 at 10:01 PM

JF

“ My eyes are leaking as I write this about a very sweet man...Gerald Umbarger. He was funny, quick to tease and gave the best hugs ever. He let me drive his truck thru the country side to did up flowers along the side of the road. Even had a shovel just in case I forgot one and buckets of water to put the plants in. When My Dale got sick...it was Gerald who I called if I needed help. He was there in minutes and always gave me encouragement thru Dale's illness. He was a man with a beautiful spirit. He knew God and he loved his family. I will treasure his friendship for the rest of my life.  
Love, Jeannie Fairchild.

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**jeannie fairchild** - January 02, 2017 at 07:10 PM

PZ

“ Linda, so sorry to learn of your father's passing - May God's grace bring you peace and comfort. Ron and Pat Zentz

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**Patricia Zentz** - January 02, 2017 at 04:27 PM

DM

“ *Such a wonderful man. I bowled with him for many years in the Twilight league at Bowl Mor. He bowled with the John Deere dealers team, Salzman Implement. Happy always smiling. He will be missed.*

*Denny Maher*

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**denny maher** - January 02, 2017 at 02:42 PM

JW

“ Such a blessing to have my G'pa and Granny U in my life for 50 years! Many memories to treasure and share with others. My G'pa U called me a "peanut" when I was a little girl tailing him around the farm whenever I visited. I suppose it was because I was a nuisance and asked him so many questions, not that it really seemed to bother him at the time, I sure didn't notice if it did. I just fired back calling him Snoopy or Charlie Brown, hee HEE! He laughed and we carried on with chores and learning to drive the lil red tractor before I could reach the pedals- sitting on his lap, the ride didn't seem too bumpy. I always asked him why he didn't have horses on his farm instead of cows-didn't make much sense to me at that time.....later on, my lucky cousin Ashley brought horses to the farm when she was growing up there.

Winter time at the farm was fun riding the big family size sled G'pa made and pulled by the tractor through the fields. Wheeeeeeeeeee! Hang on tight if Uncle Philip was driving! I haven't found as big of a sled anywhere, not even in Minnesota.

G'pa made everything seem like fun, not a chore....even the green riding lawn mower!

G'pa and Granny enjoyed taking the grandkids on trips with them and we always loved to go! Among the trips I remember were trips to St. Louis, Mo to Six flags over mid-America and on to Salem, IL to visit my great Uncle Richard and Aunt Liz and cousins....with BYF to Green Lake, Wisconsin....Branson, MO a drive thru Safari- boy could Grandpa "Hee Haw" like the donkeys!....and one of my favorites was Hawaii with great Uncle Wayne to visit cousins Jean and Jim Gilbreath...beaches, snorkeling, shopping the markets, fresh pineapple and papaya, a luau, Pearl Harbor and of course lots of "Hawaiian Ice cream"!

Grandpa shared his wonderful voice in the choir at church but one of my favorite memories of him singing was at our home when accompanied by my mom on the piano and they led the family in

*hymns and Christmas carols and other favorites.*

*Grandpa always shared whatever he had, from a ride on the tractor or combine, there was always a seat beside him in the grain truck during wheat harvest and even in his pick up, to vacations, ice cream, chocolates, attending my school events and basketball games, many meals at home and away ....and he was eternally grateful, thanking and praising our Lord for everything, especially before meals, every meal and at family gatherings.*

*For these memories and more you will always be in my heart G'pa!  
God Bless you and may you Rest in Peace G'pa with our loving  
Savior Jesus Christ until we meet again in His Glory!*

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**Jayne Whitson** - January 02, 2017 at 11:23 AM