

*Provided by Bradshaw Funeral Home and and  
Cremation Services*

# Gerald "Jerry" W. Greupner

August 10, 2019



## Services

### VISITATION

Friday

August 23, 2019

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Bradshaw - Stillwater

Stillwater, MN

### VISITATION

Saturday

August 24, 2019

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

### FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday

August 24, 2019

11:00 AM

Age 73 of Lake Elmo, formerly of Elk River, passed away peacefully at home on August 10, 2019.

Jerry is preceded in death by his parents, Herb & Luvurne.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Pat Tesch Greupner; daughter, Jennifer Greupner; sister, Judy (David) Greupner Butcher; other relatives & friends.

Jerry Greupner lived a colorful life that reached far and wide. He was an engaging man with a quick wit and a wonderful sense of humor. Jerry often referred to life as a "grand adventure", saying "I've lived a grand life," which he certainly did! He was born on February 10, 1946, grew up in Elk River, MN with his parents, Herb and Luvurne Greupner, and sister Judy. He attended Elk River High School where sports and music started the theme of his life. He played baseball, hockey and football for the Elks, performed tuba in the band, sang tenor in the choir, and was even the student band leader before graduating in 1964. Jerry joined the Army immediately after high school and was stationed in Chicago, where he played with the 5th Army Band. After the Army, he attended grad school at River Falls to become a high school counselor. He married his wife, Pat, on July 26th in 1969, and they were lucky enough to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary just two weeks before he died.

Military Bands and performing his tuba was a big part of who Jerry was. He joined the Army National Guard Band in 1982, then transferred to the 451st Minnesota Army Reserve Band in 1990, and finally retired from that in 2002. Over the span of his life, he performed the tuba in a number of ensembles, including, but not limited to, orchestras, bands, brass quintets, brass bands, and up until the last couple months, was a member of the Sheldon Theatre Brass Band and The Above Average Tuba Quartet. Music was a special connection he had with his daughter, Jennifer. They enjoyed playing in ensembles together, including the occasional tuba-horn duet for church and special ensembles that traveled to Europe. He loved music and his eyes sparkled whenever he spoke about his time in the military bands. Above all styles of music, Marches were his favorite, which stemmed from his time in the Army.

Golf was another facet of his life that meant a lot to him. Playing his tuba and playing golf were essentially the two activities that he continued throughout his entire life. He owned The Golf Shoppe in Stillwater with a small group of friends for about a decade. He coached golf at Farmington High School until he retired, and then was an assistant golf coach for a number of years at Rosemount High School. If it wasn't raining and there wasn't snow on the ground, as long as the greens were open, you could find him on the golf course.

The bulk of Jerry's career was spent working at Farmington High School. At one time or another, in addition to coaching golf, he also coached baseball and volleyball. He cared so much for his students, and everyone knew it because in his 30+ years of being a high school counselor, he rarely ate lunch. Instead, he spent his time talking and connecting with students. Students came first.

Jerry always enjoyed learning about people. After retiring from Farmington High School, he worked at the University of Minnesota reading applications until he got sick in 2017. If there was a silver lining to his illness, it was all of the new people he got to talk to whenever he went in for treatments or stayed overnight in the hospital. One of the things he enjoyed most was learning about people's unique and interesting lives. Everyone was fascinating to him. He truly got a kick out of people and had a knack for making people feel special.

We were all better for having known Jerry Greupner. He loved his family and dogs, and had a calm strength to him that made everything ok, even when it wasn't. He will be missed dearly by his family and all who knew him.

Visitation 5-8 PM Friday, August 23rd at Bradshaw, 2800 Curve Crest Blvd., Stillwater. Funeral Service 11 AM Saturday, August 24th at First United Methodist Church, 813 Myrtle St W, Stillwater, with visitation beginning one hour prior. In lieu of flowers, send donations to a charity of your choice or Sheldon Theatre Brass Band, 8549 75th St S, Cottage Grove, 55016.

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## Guest Book

Message from **Pete Holste**

September 14, 2019 9:38 PM

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*I just now found out that Jerry had passed, when I went to put a link on his Facebook page by a Norwegian tuba player involving the kind of technological esoterica that he would have enjoyed. Although I only met him once, at a quartet jam session in Minneapolis, our FB exchanges were always looked forward to by this French hornist. Sincere condolences to Jerry's family.*

**Expression of Sympathy**

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*A Peaceful Lilies was ordered on August 22, 2019*

Message from **David F Weulander**

August 22, 2019 7:11 PM

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*One of the nicest guys I ever met. Many fond memories.*

### Expression of Sympathy

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*A Sunflower Smiles was ordered on August 22, 2019*

### Expression of Sympathy

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*A Hues of Hope was ordered on August 19, 2019*

Message from **Jeff Keating**

August 18, 2019 7:53 PM

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*Heaven has gained the perfect golf partner. He will be missed here, but the greats of the game now have a worthy and witty opponent.*

*I will miss our talks. Best wishes to his family.*

Message from **Wendy Pell Larson**

August 18, 2019 11:58 AM

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*I met Jerry from my time as librarian at Farmington High School. I liked hearing him greet me with, "Hi, Lars!" It still makes me laugh. My sympathies to his family.*

Message from **Randy Ferguson**

August 18, 2019 11:54 AM

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*Beyond his skills with students, Jerry was a wonderful person and incredible musician. When I was a middle school band director, many years ago, he played a piece with my 8th grade band, "The Egotistical Elephant," for tuba soloist and band. Just a blast. We laughed about that for years. I'm sure that in lieu of a harp, a tuba has been accepted into the heavenly realm. Rest well.*

Message from **Linda Storlie**

August 18, 2019 8:58 AM

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*I will remember Jerry for his smile, his laughter and his concern for others. The comments of others say much about his multi -faceted impact on others. The memory of his life and relationships will sustain us all in our great loss. Condolences to all his family*

Message from **Mike markuson**

August 18, 2019 7:48 AM

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*A great man who loved people. "Groop" was a true difference maker who enriched lives, he did mine! I will never forget my high school days in Farmington when he was our counselor! Blessings to his family!  
Mike Markuson (79)*

Message from **Simon Schmitz**

August 16, 2019 9:44 PM

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*I'm proud to say Jerry was my golf coach. He was always a positive person, encouraging and always lifted me up when I was down. R.I.P. Jerry.  
Simon Schmitz*

Message from **Glee**

August 15, 2019 9:57 PM

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*I'm saddened to hear of Jerry's passing. He helped get me started in school counseling in Farmington. He was always a joy to be around and had a wonderful, calming presence. He had a great sense of humor and knew how to put things into perspective. I enjoyed seeing his eyes sparkle as he shared stories of playing in various bands and golfing. I feel blessed to have known such an honorable and caring person. My condolences to his wife, family and his dear friends.*

Message from **Andy Silis**

August 15, 2019 9:19 PM

*I met Jerry when my sales rep and I opened up the Golf Shoppe as an account. We soon became friends in addition to our business relationship and I am proud to say that we remained that way even after he left the golf business...He was always upbeat and went out of his way to make sure that everyone he knew and met left with smile on their face...He gave fully and freely of himself to enrich and better the lives of everyone around him and did so with an infectiously positive energy.....I and everyone who knew Jerry will miss him deeply but I guarantee you we will always remember how much he brightened and bettered our lives.*

*Rest In Peace my friend and remember this: In Heaven there are no tee times, the greens run fast and true, the bunkers are always perfectly raked and rounds never take longer than 3 hours.....Oh,and I almost forgot the best part: Clubhead speed gets back up to 105 and Par 5's are again hittable in two!*

*My deepest condolences to the Greupner family.*

Message from **Dr. Herminio Diaz**

August 15, 2019 2:29 PM

*So sad to hear of Jerry's passing . A great musician and human being. My condolences to Pat, Jennifer and Judy,*

Message from **David Granger**

August 15, 2019 12:26 PM

*David*

*Jerry was very helpful as a counselor and was always willing to take the time to listen to you and offer advice or assistance if need be. He was also my baseball coach in 1980/1981 and it was a blast. He was a great guy and will be truly missed. My deepest condolences to the Gruepner family.*

Message from **Mary A.**

August 15, 2019 7:16 AM

*Jerry, you were truly one of the good guys and words cannot express the deep sorrow I feel. Rest in peace. My deepest condolences and prayers for Pat and Jenny.*

Message from **Kenneth Takada**

August 15, 2019 3:49 AM

*I was a student at Farmington High School when Gerry Greupner was one of the guidance counselors. Although I'm not proud of my time there as a student, if I'm honest, I was a troublemaker, cut from the same cloth as a stereotypical rebellious student, making trouble, talking back, skipping class, you name it. I had a general disregard toward authority but "Mr. G" (as I always called him) was a rare breed, and the way that he talked to you, it was like he could tailor the way he speaks to make things relative to the individual he was addressing and he always had my respect.*

*Eventually, it came to a point that I could either be a dropout or join the military, so I chose the latter and ended up joining the Navy.*

*I remember him telling me he was in the Army and the last time I spoke to him as a student, he simply and sincerely told me, "Mr. Takada, I think this really is the best decision for you" and the conviction of his words gave me hope that everything will end up all right.*

*That conversation was almost 18 years ago and now, I'm in the twilight of my military career and have lived a fortunate life. He sure was right, it all ended up being all right.*

*Even in adulthood, I always called him "Mr. G," and in the story of Gerry Greupner, he has impacted many throughout his life and I'm sure there are plenty of people out there who had the same experience with this amazing man that I did.*

*With Gerry Greuper's passing, the world lost a titan among men and I count myself among the most fortunate to have been able to receive his wise counsel and guidance even after I left Farmington.*

Message from **Jennifer**

August 15, 2019 11:01 PM

*What a wonderful sentiment. Thank you. *

Message from **Jan Pladson Weinzetl**

August 14, 2019 11:28 PM

*He and I had many chats about my daughter Deb, he said she was so entertaining that he was thinking of hiring her to entertain at his band meetings. He was such a nice man, he had a fantastic sense of humor and he really did love the kid, all of them... :(*

Message from **Pauline (Foley) Stoffel**

August 14, 2019 8:29 PM

*So sad to hear of Jerry's death. My condolences to Pat, Jennifer and Judy,*

Message from **Peter Martin Malijewski**

August 14, 2019 7:12 PM

*We were band mates in the 5th. Army Band when the Army had the creme de la creme musicians to choose from. His spirit and demeanor were uplifting to many of us who would later be shipped to overseas assignments in Europe, Korea and Vietnam. Every day was a joy to be around him because he was one chuckle closer to sanity than the rest of us. Great musician and brother who I look forward to meeting in the heavenly realm. I love you Jerry and I know your family will miss you most. Rest easy dear prince.*

Message from **high school parent**

August 14, 2019 7:06 PM

*His greatest advise to me, as a parent, was to "never give up".*

Message from **Ned Potter**

August 14, 2019 6:40 PM

*I first met Jerry in the Choir at Hazel Park United Church of Christ. We sat together in the Bass section. He had a lighthearted way about him but he was serious about his music and he loved his Tuba which I thought was neat as I was a band director! I will remember Jerry for Oh, so many things!!!*

Message from **Robert V. Wargo III**

August 14, 2019 6:36 PM

*Great man! Always so kind. He will be missed.*

Message from **John Rotenberry**

August 14, 2019 6:34 PM

*Jerry, it was a blast for 9 years playing with you in the tuba section of the 451st Army Band. Thanks for being a great friend all these years. Rest in Peace. Prayers for Pat and Jennifer.*

Message from **Megan**

August 14, 2019 6:13 PM

*So sorry to hear this. I was a student at Farmington and appreciated his dedication and his humor. He was a great man and had a great impact on me. My thoughts are with his family.*

Message from **Jim Tomsy**

August 14, 2019 6:07 PM

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*Jerry was the most humble, good humored, giving, and talented person I've known*

Message from **Farmington High School Class of 1987**

August 14, 2019 5:51 PM

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*Rest In Peace Mr. Greupner, we appreciate everything you did for us.*

Message from **Ruthie Dahlstrom**

August 14, 2019 6:55 AM

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*It is so sad to hear of Jerry's passing, I graduated in 1964 with Jerry and just recently caught up with him on Facebook. It sounds like he had a wonderful life and much love and respect from all that knew him. RIP Jerry and keep enjoying playing your tuba in Heaven. All my best to Pat, Jennifer and the rest of his family.*