



Gerrie Ann Clay  
1937 ~ 2026



### My Memory

I'd like the memory of me  
to be a happy one,

I'd like to leave an afterglow  
of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo  
whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times  
and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve,  
to dry before the sun.

Of happy memories that I leave  
when life is done.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the  
race, I have kept the faith.

Geraldine "Gerrie" Ann Clay, age 89, of Perry, Iowa, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 29, 2026, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Gerrie was born on May 11, 1937, in Tomah, Wisconsin, to Charlotte (Field) Honel and Carl Honel. She grew up in Tomah, where she attended school and formed many lifelong friendships that she treasured throughout her life. She graduated from Tomah High School in 1955. During high school, Gerrie was actively involved in numerous activities. She was a member of the marching band, where she served as a baton twirler and Marinette, sang, and was honored as the 1955 Honor Queen of Job's Daughters.

On June 10, 1956, Gerrie married the love of her life, Ronald Clay, in Tomah, Wisconsin. Together they shared more than 53 wonderful years of marriage before Ron's passing in 2010. Their marriage was blessed with three daughters, ten grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Gerrie began her career as a telephone operator for Ma Bell and later worked at the McKewin Eye Doctor in Tomah. After moving to Perry, she balanced raising her daughters while working as a processing clerk for Oscar Mayer for 14 years. She then managed Family Eye Clinic for 15 years before retiring. Never one to stay inactive for long, she also enjoyed working part-time at H&R Block during tax season.

As a proud military wife, Gerrie was honored to stand beside Ron throughout his service. Ron served honorably in the United States Army during the Korean War, and Gerrie was deeply proud of both his service and their country.

Family was the center of Gerrie's life. She and Ron spent countless weekends cheering on their daughters as they played softball and basketball. Their unwavering love and encouragement helped shape the remarkable women their daughters became, a legacy that has continued through future generations.

Her grandchildren were among her greatest joys. Each one held a special place in her heart, and she loved them for their unique personalities and talents. They will forever remember their grandma faithfully attending their games, recitals, school programs, and milestone celebrations, always