

Celebrating the Life of
GERALD “Jerry” BERGQUIST

A Brother to All
He walked these streets with steady grace,
A guiding light in time and space.
Not bound by blood, yet still he gave,
A life of service, strong and brave.

His voice was calm when fear ran high,
A steady force as help drew nigh.
Through weary nights and trials vast,
His heart stood firm, his love held fast.

A mentor, pillar, friend so true,
For every soul, his kindness grew.
He asked for little, gave so much,
A steady hand, a warming touch.

Now echoes of his work remain,
In lives he lifted, hearts unchained.
No statue stands, no grand display,
But his spirit lives in those he swayed.

A brother not by name alone,
But through the lives his strength has shown.
His legacy—no fading light,
It shines in those he guided right.

By Dee Wanzek (family friend)



DATE OF BIRTH

March 30, 1953
Jamestown, ND

DATE OF DEATH

April 24, 2025
Jamestown, ND

VIGIL SERVICE

8:00 PM, Thursday, May 1, 2025
St. James Basilica

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

10:00 AM, Friday, May 2, 2025
St. James Basilica

Very Reverend C.F. Wilhelm ~ Celebrant
Dave Klein - Eulogy

MUSIC

Brittany Heim - Organist Katie Hemmer - Cantor
“Amazing Grace” #559
“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” #365
“On Eagles Wings” #558 “Song of Farewell” #376
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” #371

PALLBEARERS

Rachel Cichos - Nick Cichos - Jakson Davis
John Umsted - Rhonda Umsted - Peter Umsted
Kate Wier - Jim Wier

Chad Kaiser - Mark Gusaas

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Jerry’s Co-workers and friends

INTERMENT

Calvary Cemetery
Jamestown, North Dakota

RECEPTION

At the 1883 Club (KC Club) immediately following the
funeral service/committal service.

Gerald "Jerry" Bergquist 72, died Thursday April 24th, 2025 unexpectedly. Gerald Lyell Bergquist was born March 30th, 1953, the son of Lyell & Agnes (Vincent) Bergquist. He attended St. John's Academy in Jamestown through the 9th grade and spent his high school years at Jamestown High School, graduating in 1971. He was known as the photographer for the high school annual. He started Jamestown College in the fall of '71. He took some time off and managed Jetstream Carwash. He then went back to JC and graduated in May of 1978, with a BA in Business Administration.

In 1979 Jerry was co-owner and manager of Leaf and Shutter until 1987. For the next two years he was office manager for System Resource.

In January of 1989 he started his career as Stutsman County Emergency Manager and 911 Communications Center Coordinator. The following are most of the attributes of his career pertaining to Jamestown, Stutsman County and the State of ND. Jerry led the city of Jamestown and Stutsman County through numerous disasters, provided training and planning for various agencies. He led the development of 911 systems across the state. He founded the ND Emergency Management Association and also served on the board. He served as a mentor to emergency managers across the state. He assisted schools, universities, law enforcement and government offices in planning, preparing and responding to emergencies. He served on local committees and boards including the Salvation Army, St. John's Academy (FACE), South Central Homeless Coalition, American Red Cross, Chamber Committees, Emergency Planning Committees, Land use Transportation planning, the Central Valley Health district board, County Weed board, Jamestown Regional Airport Authority, Stutsman County Human Rights Coalition, and was Treasurer of the Jamestown Amateur Radio Club.

In 2009 Jerry received the "Above and Beyond" award and in 2020 "The Citizen of the Year Award" both presented by the Chamber of Commerce.

In 2021 after more than 32 years as the Stutsman County Emergency Manager, the Mayor proclaimed that forevermore the 30th day of June 2021 will be known as "Jerry Bergquist Day" in the city of Jamestown.

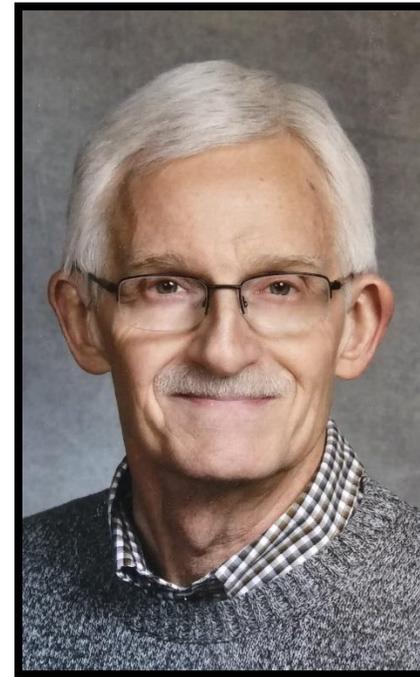
Shortly after his retirement he was elected as a member to the Stutsman County Commission in November of 2022. He was serving as the Chairman of the Commission until his death.

Jerry is survived by his brother Mike (Kris) Bergquist, nieces Rachel (Nick) Cichos all Jamestown, Kate (Jim) Wier, Lewistown, MT, nephews John (Rhonda) Umsted, Helena, MT, Peter (Carey) Umsted, Billings, MT, a great-niece, 5 great-nephews and several great-great nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Pat Umsted, brother-in-law Curt Umsted, nephew Ross Bergquist, dear friend Angie Kokott and several aunts and uncles.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to St. John's Academy, Red Cross or the Salvation Army.

JERRY BERGQUIST



We often meet our greatest friends at work and it really doesn't matter if you don't work together anymore, some ex-coworkers will be our friends for life.