



## GERALD IRVIN KLOPPER

July 5, 1937 - September 9, 2015

Jerry Klopper died Wednesday, September 9, 2015. He was 78 years old. He fell down a flight of stairs; the impact broke his neck. The irony is not lost on his family and friends: after all the difficulties he had faced, absorbed, and then climbed up and over, it was an actual set of stairs that killed him.

Husband, father, brother, uncle, friend: Jerry embraced a life filled with abundant joy that was pure and abundant tragedy that seemed cruel to everyone but Jerry. Throughout these challenges, his positive attitude was seasoned with love, kindness, and a fine sense of humor that was never mean-spirited.

Gerald Irvin Klopper was born July 5, 1937 in Kansas City, MO. As he told the story, his mother Leah claimed the doctor had promised her a girl and asked that the new son, her second, be sent back, like an undercooked dinner entree. After graduating from Paseo High School, Jerry served in the U.S. Army, delivered mail for the U.S. Postal Service, and sold aluminum siding. He worked with his brother Harold at Klopper Realty Company for some 30 years, followed by many years in the service department of the Armstrong, Teasdale law firm.

He married Susan Tick on February 10, 1963 in Paducah, KY (her home town) at the Irvin Cobb Hotel. Jerry and Susan's strong love for one another provided shelter and solace after the deaths of their two children, and that same love opened their hearts and lives to the subsequent adoption of two girls. "In the end," Jerry often said, "all that matters is family."

Health issues challenged Jerry throughout his adult life, yet he was not plagued by them. Though he faced many hurdles—including: a collapsed lung, gallstone and kidney stone trouble, diabetes, heart bypass surgery, recurring bladder cancer, two broken clavicles, and a minor stroke—he displayed neither self-pity nor a sense of "Why me?" One of his oft-quoted sayings was, "Man plans. God laughs." He saw the folly of expectations and asking for mercy, no matter how small. That informed his favorite quotation: "Every day is

a good day. It's just that some are better than others."

Menorah Medical Center liked Jerry—maybe for all the billable insurance his illnesses brought them over the years, and definitely for his volunteer work at its help desk, where he gave comfort and reassurance with his good-natured honesty, directness, and wit. He walked the 13.5-mile Hospital Hill Run—in 2014, at age 76—because it was a race he knew he could walk and complete. Just another staircase to climb.

Jerry Klopper was a hero to his family. So, too, did he love and revere his brother, Harold. They had a way of speaking to one another—a different tone, somehow softer—that family and friends admired, envied, and respected of these two brothers who shared such a deep, abiding love.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Manuel and Leah Klopper, and his daughters Peri and Stephanie.

In addition to wife Susan and brother Harold and sister-in-law Natalie, of the many who mourn his loss and honor his memory: his daughter Janice Bleich, her husband Ken, their daughter Courtney (Castle Rock, CO) and their daughter Erin (Overland Park); his daughter Nancy Johnson and her son Stephen (Prairie Village); his niece Audrey Klopper (McLouth, KS); and his nephew Hal Klopper (Brooklyn, NY).

The funeral service will be at 10:30am on Sunday, September 13, 2015 at Louis Memorial Chapel. Burial to follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations in honor of Jerry may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

# Cemetery

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## Mt. Carmel Cemetery

5529 Ditzler Avenue

Raytown, MO,

# Events

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**SEP**  
**13**

**Funeral**

10:30AM

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Louis Memorial Chapel

6830 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO, US, 64131

# Comments

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“ It would be impossible for Gerry to know how grateful I am for having had the opportunity to know him. Because he was so humble and grounded he probably never realized that he truly inspired and motivated me to be a better person. The words of wisdom, patience, kindness, and humor he brought to every single situation made me hope to carry myself one day with just half of his grace. Gerry thank you for being a reminder of what a life looks like when we make consistent small right choices.

Most of all though, I want to thank you for the day you saw Nancy in tears and ended up giving me my best friend. You couldn't have known it at the time, but that decision gave me a family, hope, love and bond that is single and beautiful and like no other. I am a better person for knowing you. Thank you Gerry.

**Summer Kelly** - September 11, 2015 at 01:27 PM

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“ 16 files added to the album Armstrong Teasdale



**Carolee Frakes** - September 11, 2015 at 01:27 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



**Nancy Johnson** - September 11, 2015 at 10:47 AM

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“ I am grateful for the life of Mr. Klopper. Thanks to his service and to the service of others in our armed forces, my family and I have been able to lead our lives in freedom and peace.

**Bob in Overland Park, Kansas** - September 11, 2015 at 09:14 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family

**Paula and Don Staton** - September 11, 2015 at 12:17 AM

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“ Dad, you have been an amazing father. You've instilled into me the values of family and friendship. You've helped me to become a person that I'm truly proud to be. Your wisdom has helped shape my life in more ways than you can ever image. Even without words, just from watching your actions, you taught me so many things. You taught me to always try to see the positive side of things. To give freely to people without expecting anything in return. To forgive. You've taught me to persevere when life becomes difficult and to be brave enough to find happiness through adversity. By far the most difficult event in my life has been losing you. Through your example and wisdom I am finding a sense of solace in knowing how lucky I am not only to have had you as a father but for the family I have been blessed with. You once told me a story about the King and the Prince. Dad, you've come as far as you can. I will meet you the rest of the way. You were and always be my hero. You may be gone but you will never be forgotten. Your words will always be whispered in my ear and will continue to make me a better person. I thank you for that and for everything you've ever done for me. I love you.

**Nancy Johnson** - September 10, 2015 at 11:39 PM

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“ 8 files added to the album New Album Name



**Nancy Johnson** - September 10, 2015 at 10:52 PM

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“ Susan,

I had to read the obit. at least 3X's. It seems like it was just a couple of months I saw U 'n Jerry volunteer @ Menorah! Such a loss to 'every 1' who knew him! I remember babysitting for the girls since U lived on Norwood in Meadowlake 'n I on 77th st/ Those were the days- no 1 locked their doors/ I 'loved' babysitting for both Janice 'n Nancy.

Jerry was a character, enjoyed his humor-always had a smile on his face= Susan U need to be strong now more than ever. U had ur shareof sorrow in ur short life. U will be 'in my thoughts 'n prayers. may his memory be for a blessing. May G-d help U get thru this tragic accident . My love.

Janet Shaw

janet Shaw - September 10, 2015 at 10:19 PM

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“ I would like to just say to Mrs. Klopper and family how sorry I was to hear today of their loss. I work with Kansas City Missouri Fire Dept and worked for part time for a doctors office at Menorah Medical Center and knew Mr. and Mrs. Klopper because they volunteered at MMC. Seeing Mr. Klopper at Menorah he would always stop and talk to me and ask how "business" with the fire department was. Mr. Klopper was a person that I could have talked to for hours on end because he was so interesting and also very entertaining. Words cannot describe how much he will be missed by myself and by all. Mr. Klopper was an example of how we all should act and treat one another everyday. He will be missed

Nathan Holden - September 10, 2015 at 09:40 PM

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“ Dear Harold and Natalie,  
Please accept my sincere sympathy on the sudden loss of your brother.  
May you find solace in the memory of Gerald's wonderful qualities and the good times that you spent together. May Gerald rest in peace.  
Thinking of you at this difficult time. Always your friend,

Paul Wacknov

Paul Wacknov - September 10, 2015 at 04:27 PM

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“ I really only got to know Jerry well, while rehabbing at Village Shalom with Susan. I never saw a more loving, attentive husband and kind, considerate new friend. He was one of a kind, and his passing is a true loss that will never be replaced. All I can wish for the family is that their very happy memories will sustain them in the future.  
Marian Shear

Marian Shear - September 10, 2015 at 04:18 PM

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“ As a volunteer at Menorah, Jerry always had a gift for making those that were ill feel better with his smile and kind words. He was an inspiration for all who knew him. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy for your loss.

Randi Feder

Randi Feder - September 10, 2015 at 03:03 PM

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“ I worked with Jerry for 4 years at Armstrong Teasdale in the late 1990s and early 2000s. He was quick with a smile, had a great wit and was a delightful person to spend time with. I have very fond memories of Jerry. Best to his family.

Stuart Shaw - September 10, 2015 at 02:53 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Shirley Nixon - September 10, 2015 at 02:41 PM

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“ Jerry would have loved this obit. It was well filled with the humor the ruled Jerry's life and I can see him with that ever present smile as he would read this. We all loved Jerry. Our heartfelt feelings go out to Susan the girls Harold and Natalie and all of the rest of the family and friends. Truly this is one time you can say honestly, may his memory be for a blessing. We hope soon that only the happiest of memories will be what you remember. With our love, Felicia and Seymour.

**Felicia abd Seymour Weiner** - September 10, 2015 at 11:40 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss. May all your wonderful memories bring you some comfort at this difficult time. His memory will certainly be a blessing to all his family & friends.

**Barbara and Skip Rein** - September 10, 2015 at 09:05 PM

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“ Susan and family. Jerry's smile, positive attitude and humor will live in our memories forever. When we created Shir Chadash, those qualities played such an important role in our founding mission. Jerry will be missed by all of us that loved him. May his memory be for a blessing.

Marlene

**Marlene Krakow** - September 10, 2015 at 11:34 AM



“ Susan and Family, Peter and I send our deepest sympathy. I am not sure you know that we were related through my Mother's family.

Bev Newman

**Bev Newman** - September 10, 2015 at 05:44 PM



“ In all my years in the Armstrong Teasdale community, there was no one more beloved than Jerry. He was always so kind to me and ready with a smile. I will never forget watching him skydive on his birthday. He will be a person I remember with love and fondness. He is an inspiration to me. My condolences and prayers are with you Susan.

**Suzy Spalty** - September 10, 2015 at 06:04 PM



“ Phillip and I were just stunned when we heard the news of Jerry's passing. Our condolences go out to Susan and the girls. May his memory be for a blessing. Barbara & Phillip Goodbinder

**Barbara & Phillip Goodbinder** - September 10, 2015 at 07:13 PM



“ Harold and I send our condolences. Our memories go back to the early 60s when the girls all lived in a duplex , met their future husbands, and married within months of each other. Jerry was a mench -- easy going and a friend to everyone he met. Those were happy days and our memories will always be happy ones. Susan, our prayers are with you. Susan and Harold Gerecht

**Susan and Harold Gerecht** - September 11, 2015 at 05:57 PM



“ Such a sweet, kind and loving man. He adored you all because you could feel it whenever he spoke of his family. So thoughtful to everyone he encountered. Allan and I have many childhood memories of him. Myself at KI and Allan living in Nall Hills. All filled with a smile. Whether we were five or forty-five... he always stop to talk to us. Our hearts and thoughts are with you all.

jackie and allan rosenstock

**Rosenstock** - September 12, 2015 at 09:00 AM



“ Dear Susan and family...I am so sadden to hear this terrible news. I have such wonderful memories of Jerry at both KI and Shir Chadash. My deepest condolences to all of you.

Sharon Krinsky Davis

**Sharon Davis** - September 12, 2015 at 12:03 PM



“ Harold and Natalie I am sorry for your loss. I remember your little brother when he thought he could tag along wherever you went. He was so sweet the way he looked up to his big brother. So glad I knew him. When Jack was in hospital he came by as

soon as he went on duty and brought the newspaper and a big

smile to go with it. May he rest in peace

**fannie Krashin** - September 13, 2015 at 03:28 PM



“ I met Jerry and Susan at Shalom Village in January during my knee replacement recovery. I have never seen a more loving couple. Jerry was there most of the day attending to Susan's recovery. He encouraged her to eat, to do her therapy and to try everything to be able to come home again. He waited on all the rest of us, getting us drinks or whatever we needed. I ate nearly every meal with them. Of all the couples I have every met, Jerry and Susan showed me what true love is. He was the kindest man I have every known. My thoughts are with you, Susan

**Selinda Williamson** - September 15, 2015 at 08:57 AM



“ Dear Susan and Family. Jerry and I were close cousins growing up. We shared every Jewish holiday together, went to the same high school and even asked if we could march down together at graduation. Jerry was always there for me and my kids when I needed him in years past. You will always be in heart Jerry. May you rest in peace. Your cousin Bobbie

**Bobbie Bograd** - September 15, 2015 at 11:39 AM



“ I have fond memories Of playing ball with Jerry and friends in the backyard of Jim Scott in the 40s and 50s. A Super Guy.

Jack Gladbach

**Jack Gladebach** - September 15, 2015 at 09:02 PM