



## Jerome L. "Jake" Tesar

January 18, 1941 - March 26, 2026

A Memorial Service for Jake was held Friday, April 17, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Geneva. Pastor Gaylen Rasmussen presided over the Memorial Service. The recorded selections "Why Me," "I Can't Stop Loving You," "How Great Thou Art," and "Happy Trails" were played during the Memorial Service.

Honorary Pallbearers included Chad Withers, Stephanie Verley, Janson Jirkovsky, Meghan Volpi, Shannon Jirkovsky, Brynlee Turner, Everlea Turner and all of Jake's great grandchildren.

A Graveside Committal of Ashes was held in the Geneva Public Cemetery following the Memorial Service.

Memorials in lieu of flowers are suggested to the Fillmore County Hospital Foundation or the Geneva Rescue Squad.

Jake's service is posted to our YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@FarmerSonFuneralHome>.

Jerome LeRoy "Jake" Tesar, 85, of Geneva, Nebraska, passed away at his home at Pioneer Manor on Thursday, March 26, 2026.

Jake was born on January 18, 1941, in Friend, Nebraska, to Jerry and Leona Rose (Krisl) Tesar. He, along with his siblings, was baptized at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Ong, Nebraska, on May 15, 1955. He grew up on a farm south of Tobias before moving into town in 1953. Jake attended grade school in Tobias until 1956, when his parents divorced. He and his siblings then moved to Geneva with their mother, who later married Henry Ceerle, a wonderful stepfather to Jake, Hoot, Marlys and Gaylen. With union of Leona and Henry, a sister, Cindy, joined the family.

Jake started at Geneva High School as a sophomore in the fall of 1956 and graduated in 1959. A strong student, he excelled in mathematics—a talent that would influence his hobbies and career later in life. He attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, studying Civil Engineering, but financial constraints caused him to pause his studies. After working for local farmers, Jake took employment Nichols Construction for several years. In 1964, Jake was forced to quit the construction business due to the physical demands. With the suggestion and help of Howard Nichols, Jake returned to the University and completed his Civil Engineering Degree, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in August of 1968. Following graduation, Jake began a long and respected career with the Nebraska Department of Roads, serving as a Civil Engineer for 40 years. For the last 20 years of his career, he was a Quality Control Engineer, a role that reflected his meticulous nature and deep expertise. He retired in 2008.

In August 1968, Jake was introduced to Delores “Dee” Schupbach Jirkovsky through mutual friends, Delfs Linder and Bennie Linder. After five years of dating, they married on January 27, 1973, in Fairbury, Nebraska. Jake often said that meeting Dee and becoming a stepfather to her four children was the best thing that ever happened to him.

Jake's interests were varied and passionate. In his younger years, he enjoyed

hunting pheasants, fishing, hunting morel mushrooms, and gardening. He and Dee often traveled to Las Vegas with friends, spending time taking in shows and at the casinos. Jake and Dee also enjoyed their yearly 4th of July get togethers in Lincoln with the Nichols and Matejka families. Jake had a particular love for horse racing, applying his mathematical skills to the art of handicapping. Even as betting odds and tracks changed, he enjoyed studying the daily race forms and making his picks, always with a twinkle in his eye when he hit a winning “pick five.”

After retiring, Jake devoted more time to caring for Dee while still traveling to visit family. Following Dee’s passing in 2011, he remained in Lincoln for two years before returning to Geneva, where he found companionship with Pam Turner. Despite living apart at times due to family obligations, Jake and Pam shared many enjoyable moments, traveling between Geneva and Lincoln.

Jake’s life was marked by dedication, intellect, and love for his family and friends. He will be remembered for his kindness, sharp mind, and enduring passion for the simple joys of life.

Jake was preceded in death by his parents; stepfather, Henry Ceclre; wife, Dee Tesar; brothers Gaylen Tesar, Norman “Hoot” Tesar; and step-daughter, Marcy Wythers.

He is survived by stepsons, Randy (Kris) Jirkovsky, Michael Jirkovsky, and Joe (Mary) Jirkovsky; sisters, Marlys (Jim) Voth and Cindy (Steve) Carrigan; special friend, Pam Turner; five grandchildren, Stephanie Verley, Jason Jirkovsky, Chad Wythers, Meghan Volpi, and Shannon Jirkovsky; great grandchildren and great great grandchildren; and nieces, nephews, and many friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Geneva Public Cemetery

Geneva, NE 68361

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 17. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
906 H Street  
Geneva, NE 68361

## Graveside Service

APR 17 (CT)

Geneva Public Cemetery  
Geneva, NE 68361

# Tribute Wall

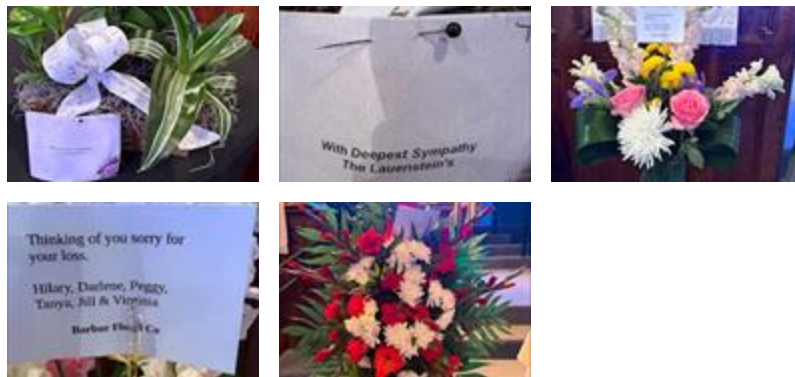
VD

“ Great guy, always such a pleasure to talk with. He will be missed, love to the family.

Vicky Davis - April 19 at 09:24 AM



“ 13 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - April 17 at 01:40 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Jake's passing! We will miss him! Growing up mom was always talking about Hoot and Jake, I think they were her favorite nephews lol. Jake was the one who taught me how to bet on the horses, we'd run into him a lot when we went, it was fun. Our condolences to the family! RIP!

Jody Richmond - April 15 at 10:04 PM

BV

“ So sorry to hear about his passing. We enjoyed many times visiting with Jake and Dee at the horse races. Also working with Jake at the Department of Roads was interesting and we had a good time.

Bud Vontz - April 06 at 05:12 PM

MD

“ Jake was one of my dad's best friends and we all spent a lot of time with Jake, Dee and their kids. One of my favorite memories of Jake was when he was at our house along with the Gross family. I believe there may have been beer involved, but the men were playing ping-pong in our basement. Any ball that didn't get returned or caught ended up being smashed by Jake's boot heel. At the time, I was concerned there wouldn't be any balls left for us kids to be able to play. But, as I grew, and I looked back on this, it became a dear memory of a very sweet man. Melissa Dennis (aka Missy Houfek)

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**Melissa Dennis** - April 05 at 04:41 PM

SA

“ Jake was my 4th cousin but I really didn't get to know him until he started coming around to visit when Delfs and I were pretty new to Lincoln and he was back in college. Dee was a first cousin of Delfs so she came to Lincoln and stayed with us with her two youngest boys while waiting for the apartment next door to us to open up. Jake just happened to come visiting while Dee was there and they really hit it off and the rest is history. I have so many wonderful memories of Jake and we remained more than distant cousins, but real friends. I always enjoyed my talks with Jake because he really listened and gave his advice on more than one occasion. I will miss him greatly.  
Sandy Amen

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**Sandy Betka Amen** - April 01 at 02:48 PM

AR

“ *Ava Roush lit a candle in memory of Jerome Tesar*



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**Ava Roush** - March 30 at 01:13 PM

DB

“ *Jake was a good friend to our family. Sundays he would show up early, with a 6 pack ready to visit. We were happy when he married Dee. As a couple and family we had great times together, crappie fishing & cooking. One night we came home with 300 fish, Jake stood and cleaned them all, then Dee fried our banquet, along with some Morel mushrooms. Jake & Dee went to Chicago with us for Thanksgiving to see my family. As time moves on we always would see each other on my visits to Nebraska. I will miss his stories, his happy smile & chuckle. He was a faithful friend. Donna Bartels*

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**Donna Bartels** - March 30 at 09:56 AM

JF

“ Another friend gone. I went to school with Jerry Lee for nine years at Tobias, grades one through nine. When there are only six in the class all those years you get to know each other quite well. He was always very smart and a good athlete. When we were in the 7th-8th grades we were both 5-7 5-8 tall and terrorized the other towns grade teams.

*After the ninth grade he moved to Geneva with his Mom and Hoot and Marlys. We got together again at the University but he had to drop out because his scholarship ran out and he had no money to continue. He of course went back to the University and got his degree in Civil Engineering*

*At Geneva High School he was a successful basketball player and student. He was always a math brain. As a Junior at Geneva he was presented the entire high schools Math award earned through examination. He said it ticked off a few Seniors.*

*We lost track of each other for a while but reconnected awhile back. Since then calls and texts. And he told me some good stories of his youth. One was the time he and Butch Painter scared the hell out of Tobias with a big explosion. Butchs Dad was the town cop/maintenance man. So Butch knew where they kept the dynamite to blow up stumps and the like. He and Butch took some of the explosives and set off a blast in a vacant area over by the Catholic Church. It was a little bigger than they planned and make a big hole in the ground. Got the attention of the town though but they were never apprehended.*

*And neither was he caught sneaking out of the big Mumau house they lived in in Tobias. When he was supposed to be in his room upstairs he would go out the window and climb down the big tree next to the house.*

*Jake was just a good guy that's for sure. It wasn't always easy for him but he made the best of it. I will miss talking to him on the*

*phone and seeing him at the Tobias alumni where he was an honary member of the Class of 1959. Some years his picture was in the newspapers as having graduated from both Tobias and Geneva defying the laws of physics. He will be missed.I am glad that he got to see the Huskers win a couple NCAA basketball games.*

**Jim Fisher** - March 29 at 02:28 AM

MP

“ *I worked with Jake at the DOT. He was the go to person for Roadway plans in Design very knowledgeable and always willing to help if you hd questions. I considered him a good friend .*

**Mike Parrott** - March 28 at 09:52 PM

CT

“ *Jake was one of a kind, and a special part of our family. I'll miss chatting and texting with him about sports and horse racing.*

**Chad Turner** - March 28 at 02:05 PM

MH

“ *Our heartfelt sympathy to Marlys and all the family. Jake was a great guy! Remember him from one of the gatherings at Michael and Jamie's.*



**Mike and Barb Hartzog** - March 28 at 09:06 AM

MH

“ Mike and Barb Hartzog lit a candle in memory of Jerome Tesar



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**Mike and Barb Hartzog** - March 28 at 09:04 AM

KN

“ Kellee Neville purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Jerome L. "Jake" Tesar.



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**Kellee Neville** - March 28 at 07:55 AM

BT

“ Barb Trapp lit a candle in memory of Jerome Tesar



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**Barb Trapp** - March 27 at 10:33 PM

JT

“ Jake and Myself used to go fishing together quite often. He would sometimes have 3 or 4 lines in the water at the same time while I would only have 2, but he would have a fish on each line sometimes at the same time, he would just laugh and say there more to fish then just putting your line in the water.

Sometimes me and Joyce, Jake and Dee, Rich and Imogene, and Larry and Bessie would go the Horse and Dog races together we always had a good time.

He was a great friend and even though we did not see each other much in our later years I will miss him.

Konrad Turek

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**John Turek** - March 27 at 07:10 PM

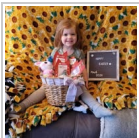
LH

“ Linda Heinisch lit a candle in memory of Jerome Tesar



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**Linda Heinisch** - March 27 at 05:45 PM



“ Our condolences Marlys, Cindy and families. I'm going to miss our talks. Both on the phone and texting.



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**Deb Clark Rohla** - March 27 at 05:40 PM