



## Wayne Allen Gurnsey

September 26, 1948 - January 1, 2026

Wayne Allen Gurnsey, age 77, went peacefully to be with the Lord on January 1, 2026, New Year's Day, surrounded by love. His passing leaves a profound emptiness in the hearts of all who knew him and an enduring legacy of kindness, strength, humor, and unwavering love.

Wayne was born on September 26, 1948, to James Gurnsey and Hazel (Colston) Gurnsey and was raised in rural Cass County, Illinois. From an early age, he learned the value of hard work, integrity, and community while working alongside his father and grandfather on the family farm. Those early lessons shaped the man Wayne would become: steady, dependable, and deeply good.

On July 2, 1971, Wayne married the love of his life and soulmate, Patricia "Trish" Standish Gurnsey, at St. Basil's Church in Chandlerville, Illinois. Together they shared 54 beautiful years of marriage marked by devotion, laughter, and deep respect. They were inseparable and showed everyone around them what a loving partnership looks like.

Wayne was a devoted husband, a loving father, a protective brother, a cherished father-in-law, and the very best "Papa Wayne" to his grandchildren. He was immensely proud of his family and loved them fiercely.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia Ann Gurnsey; his sons, Aaron Wayne Gurnsey and Neil Allen Gurnsey. Neil and his wife, Janelle Gurnsey, share three children, Willamina, Gwyneth, and Haze, lovingly named in honor of Wayne's mother, Hazel. Aaron is the father of Jack and Savannah, whom Wayne loved dearly, and Aaron's longtime partner, Sarah Kink. Through Aaron and Sarah, Wayne was also a loving presence in the lives of Sarah's daughters, Sophie, Olivia, and Molly, all of whom he embraced with warmth and pride.

Wayne is also survived by his sister, Sheila Burton, and her husband, Charlie; their daughter, Melissa Heil, and her husband, John; and their children, Audrey, Trevor, and Thomas.

Wayne also leaves behind Trish's brother and sisters and their loving families as well.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Hazel Gurnsey, and by his beloved nephew, Sam, the son of Sheila and the brother of Melissa.

Wayne was a man people trusted. He always seemed to know exactly what to do, offering measured advice and steady guidance. He never took life too seriously, yet he always understood what truly mattered. He was gentle, patient, kind, and quietly funny, someone who made life better simply by being in it. If you knew Wayne, you were better for it.

He was tough as nails, strong as an ox, and a fighter until the very end. Wayne faced his final days with the same quiet strength, resilience, and determination that defined his life, surrounded by love and the people closest to him.

Wayne loved the simple joys of life. He cherished traveling across the United

States with Trish, golfing with his sons and his friends, and spending time with his family. He also loved basketball and baseball, showing cattle, and farming, a passion that stayed with him throughout his life.

After many years of farming, Wayne began a new chapter working at People's State Bank in Chandlerville. He later completed his career at Petefish, Skiles & Co. Bank, where his work ethic and integrity were deeply respected. Wayne was a 32nd degree Mason, and a member of Chandlerville Masonic Lodge 724.

Wayne built a legacy in countless ways through his work, his friendships, and most of all through his family. He was loyal, dependable, wise, and loving. Simply put, he was good. They do not make them like Wayne.

We like to say Wayne was so wise he chose to leave us on January 1st, a day when we can always raise a glass in his memory. We hope that everyone who was blessed enough to know him will think of him each New Year's Day and smile.

Wayne Allen Gurnsey was a truly great man and will never be forgotten. He leaves behind an immeasurable hole in our hearts, and life will never be the same without his presence. In his memory, we light a candle, as we have done for all those we have loved and lost too soon.

The family asks that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers, hug your loved ones a little tighter, and remember Wayne by living as he did: happy, loving, steady, and wise.

A funeral service for Wayne will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, IL. Burial will follow at

Oakland Cemetery. The family will receive friends the evening prior, on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM, at Hurley Funeral Home. There will be a Masonic Service at The Funeral Home at 4pm prior to the visitation. Memorial contributions in Wayne's memory can be made to St. Jude or The PORTA Foundation.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakland Cemetery

Petersburg, IL

# Previous Events

## Masonic Rites

JAN 7. 4:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg  
122 West Douglas Avenue  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2500  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Visitation

JAN 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg  
122 West Douglas Avenue  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2500  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Funeral Service

---

JAN 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg  
122 West Douglas Avenue  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2500  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ So sorry about the loss of Wayne. My prayers are with you and your family. Memories of you both back to the 4-H days. Blessings to you

-----  
**Carol McCombs** - January 07 at 07:23 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



-----  
January 07 at 11:47 AM



“ Deb Kelly and Mark Lundin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.

-----  
**Deb Kelly and Mark Lundin** - January 07 at 11:47 AM



“ The Nehlsen Creative Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



-----  
**The Nehlsen Creative Team** - January 07 at 11:22 AM

H1

“ Heat & Frost Insulators Local 1 purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



---

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 1 - January 07 at 10:49 AM

P5

“ Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 551 purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



---

Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 551 - January 06 at 11:00 AM

P5

“ Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 551 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.

---

Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 551 - January 06 at 11:00 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



---

January 06 at 10:53 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



January 06 at 09:56 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



January 06 at 09:47 AM



“ *The Family of John & Ellen Standish planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*

**The Family of John & Ellen Standish** - January 06 at 09:47 AM



“ *Kayla RN & Dynastie RN purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



**Kayla RN & Dynastie RN** - January 05 at 07:30 PM

TF

“ *The Tomaich Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



---

**The Tomaich Family** - January 05 at 06:31 PM

SL

“ *Scott Larkin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



---

**Scott Larkin** - January 05 at 05:26 PM

MF

“ *Mike Pence and BOS Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



---

**Mike Pence and BOS Family** - January 05 at 04:49 PM

JW

“ *James W. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



---

**James W.** - January 05 at 03:50 PM

JW

“ James W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.

James W. - January 05 at 03:50 PM

14

“ Ironworkers Local 46 purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Ironworkers Local 46 - January 05 at 03:00 PM

14

“ Ironworkers Local 46 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.

Ironworkers Local 46 - January 05 at 03:00 PM

BS

“ Brad and Melissa Schaive purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Brad and Melissa Schaive - January 05 at 02:08 PM

L4

“ Local 477 purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Local 477 - January 05 at 02:02 PM

L4

“ Local 477 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.

Local 477 - January 05 at 02:02 PM

FS

“ Fulcrum Government Strategies purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Fulcrum Government Strategies - January 05 at 12:34 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



January 05 at 11:32 AM

BL

“ Bryan L. purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity* S pray for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



---

**Bryan L.** - January 05 at 10:10 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



---

January 05 at 10:06 AM

P1

“ *Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 149* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



---

**Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 149** - January 05 at 09:41 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



---

January 05 at 09:36 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



---

January 05 at 09:14 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



---

January 05 at 08:52 AM



“ *patrick obrien planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*

---

**patrick obrien** - January 05 at 08:52 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



---

January 04 at 10:08 PM

TC

“ Tom and Kelly Carlock planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.

Tom and Kelly Carlock - January 04 at 10:08 PM

ST

“ Steve Taylor purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Steve Taylor - January 04 at 05:01 PM

OT

“ Officers & Staff of Illinois Pipe Trades purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Officers & Staff of Illinois Pipe Trades - January 04 at 12:17 PM

OT

“ Officers & Staff of Illinois Pipe Trades planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.

Officers & Staff of Illinois Pipe Trades - January 04 at 12:17 PM

JH

“ I thought the world of Wayne. He was such a super person, full of good advise and wisdom. I hate to hear that he has passed but I am so glad I got to know him. He will be missed.

Judith K Hurdle - January 04 at 10:53 AM

CB

“ Charlie Bailey purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Charlie Bailey - January 04 at 10:27 AM

LH

“ Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Wayne Allen Gurnsey



Larry and Mary Hundt - January 04 at 09:05 AM

TH

“ TERNI HINRICHS lit a candle in memory of Wayne Allen Gurnsey



TERNI HINRICHS - January 03 at 07:04 PM

GV

“ Greg And Steph Vaughn lit a candle in memory of Wayne Allen Gurnsey



Greg and Steph Vaughn - January 03 at 06:28 PM

BM

“ Brian & Marlaina Medley purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Brian & Marlaina Medley - January 03 at 06:22 PM

SR

“ Sheryl Blair & Emily (Blair) Rubright purchased the Summer's Light Bouquet for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Sheryl Blair & Emily (Blair) Rubright - January 03 at 06:02 PM

DH

“ Dona Huffman lit a candle in memory of Wayne Allen Gurnsey



Dona Huffman - January 03 at 05:56 PM

DH

*So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you Trish and family*

**Dona Huffman** - January 03 at 05:57 PM

JF

“ *Jp & Kristin Fyans purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



**Jp & Kristin Fyans** - January 03 at 05:44 PM

JF

“ *Jp & Kristin Fyans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*

**Jp & Kristin Fyans** - January 03 at 05:44 PM

WF

“ *Wayne and Karen Eddings & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*



**Wayne and Karen Eddings & Family** - January 03 at 05:26 PM

BB

“ I'm so sorry to hear that Wayne has passed. He was a true gentleman and I always enjoyed seeing him in the office. I admired him and his obvious love and respect for his beautiful wife, Trish. I will pray for the family to find God's strength as they go on without him. God Bless You all.  
Bev Berberet



Bev Berberet - January 03 at 04:30 PM

MB

“ Heartbroken reading this. Wayne was a wonderful man and will be dearly missed. Fly high, my friend. We are so sorry Trish and family.  
Marla & Jerry Bloyd



Marla Bloyd - January 03 at 04:17 PM

HF

“ Herb and Dawn Frohock & Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



Herb and Dawn Frohock & Family - January 03 at 04:11 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.



January 03 at 03:20 PM

JR

“ *Jim and Laura Riemer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Allen Gurnsey.*

---

**Jim and Laura Riemer** - January 03 at 03:20 PM

BS

“ *Buster Shoemaker lit a candle in memory of Wayne Allen Gurnsey*



---

**Buster Shoemaker** - January 03 at 02:29 PM