



## Jerry Dewayne Knight

December 4, 1957 - December 20, 2022

Jerry Dewayne Knight was born on December 4th, 1957 to Jerry Dean and Ruth Ann (Gates) Knight, in France. Jerry passed away from this life on December 20th, 2022, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the age of 65.

Jerry graduated high school in 1976 from Pernel High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball. Jerry also met his lifelong friends Rod Hammond and Dewayne Harrel at Pernel. After high school, Jerry attended East Central University, in Ada Oklahoma, graduating in 1981, with a degree in special education, leading to his first job working at the Garvin County CO-OP. Jerry enjoyed the many friendships he developed while working in special education.

In 1984, Jerry chose a new career path, when he and his younger brother Jerald, joined the United States Navy. They shipped off to boot camp in June, 1984. After boot camp, Jerry completed training to become a Quartermaster, working in ships navigation, and was assigned to the USS Duluth LPD6, homeport in San Diego, CA. after 12-month separation, he convinced his brother to join him onboard the USS Duluth. Together they completed a West Pac deployment, and joined the special bond of becoming "Shellbacks", after crossing the Equator on their way to Australia. Everyone who knew Jerry, and heard his tales know how much he treasured his navy adventure. Jerry attained the rank of Petty Officer 2nd class, and was surface warfare qualified. After leaving the Navy in 1988, Jerry returned to Oklahoma to begin his next career as a Training Specialist II for the Developmental Disabilities Services

division of the Okla. Dept of Human Services. Jerry loved his job, as it allowed him to use his experience as a Special Education educator. It also allowed him to meet new people, and travel the State, training an array of classes, to benefit/improve the quality of life for the individuals the agency served in their community services. Jerry retired from the State of Oklahoma after 30 years of service in 2018.

After retirement, Jerry loved spending time with his friends and family. He always looked forward to the annual Memorial Day, Lake Eufaula reunion with his aunts, uncles and many cousins. He and his brothers Dave and Jim would usually get there a week ahead of everyone to set up. Jerry loved to cook/smoke ribs and brisket for his friends and family. During family get togethers, besides supplying the BBQ, he always ensured that this great nieces and nephews had cold soda to drink, earning him the nick-name, "The Soda Man".

His other hobbies and interests included OU Sooner football (many have heard of the RV trip to Orlando) golfing, fishing and his fantasy football league. He loved the yearly competition with his friends.

Jerry is survived by his brothers David Knight, Jimmy Knight, Jerald Knight, and John Sheets of Pauls Valley, and Bill Knight and wife Angel of Pearland Texas. His sisters Jennifer Mathews and husband Ron of Falcon, Colorado, Jeannie Heil of Purcell, Ok., and Denise Martin of Pauls Valley, OK. Nephews Chris Mathews, Derick Knight, Andrew Knight, and Parker Knight. Nieces: Angela Hodges, Brittney Zinn, Lindsey Parks, Jessica Parks, Haley Knight, Jadyn Nunley and a whole host of other family and friends.

Jerry is preceded in death by his parent, Jerry Dean and Ruth Ann (Gates) Knight, nephews Benjamin Knight, and Valton Doss, and Niece Elizabeth Knight.

Funeral Services are pending time for 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 11, 2023, at the First Church of God in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. You may send condolences to the family at [www.woosterfuneralhomes.com](http://www.woosterfuneralhomes.com)



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 11. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Church of God  
414 N. Chickasaw  
Pauls Valley, OK

# Tribute Wall

CR

“ I’ll always cherish my memories with Jerry. One of my favorites was our inside joke about a water bottle. “Who’s gonna need it first”... it was always me though... His humorous personality would have everyone laughing. We would give each other a hard time and joke around at reunions and it was never a dull moment with Jerry around. It won’t be the same playing our traditional card game every year without him there.

*A good man with a big heart and always smiling and helping others. He is missed and loved so much.*

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**Candice Richardson** - February 25, 2023 at 07:11 PM

BP

“ So sorry to learn of Jerry’s passing. I worked with Jerry at DDSD. He was such a nice person and fun to work with. God Bless him.



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**Betty Pannell** - January 16, 2023 at 04:59 PM

MB

“ It was my pleasure and honor to supervise Jerry as a Training Specialist. There was no stronger advocate for people with developmental differences. At every single unit meeting I could count on Jerry to have stories about individuals receiving services. Jerry was “person-centered” before it was a thing. His stories always had that homespun, country quality and humor. I remember a story of Jerry staying at a motel in deep SE Oklahoma. A female case manager came to Jerry’s motel room so they could go to dinner together. The motel manager made Jerry check out because “they weren’t gonna tolerate a girl in his room”. Jerry, you left a legacy that will continue.

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**Michaela Bishop** - January 04, 2023 at 10:19 PM

DN

*I am sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. I always enjoyed his stories and appreciated his wisdom and wit. Due to circumstances beyond my control I will not be able to attend his services today.*

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**Deanya Driskill Norris** - March 11, 2023 at 10:03 AM

BL

“ I will always your cheery smile and funny antics that helped lighten the mood at DDSD. I learned to love your concoction of a bagel with cream cheese, tomato and onion. I didn’t like your turkey burgers. RIP my friend.

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**Beth Little** - December 31, 2022 at 07:06 PM

JJ

“ A great friend who I had a lot of laughs with. Over 20 years in our fantasy football league together and more than that of watching OU football together. Not many big Sooner wins over that time that we weren’t setting and watching together. I’ll miss him.

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**Joe Johnson** - December 26, 2022 at 08:24 PM

TH

“ Tina Hume lit a candle in memory of Jerry Knight



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**Tina McCarty Hume** - December 26, 2022 at 08:19 PM

AN

“ Miss you uncle Jerry. Life won't be the same without you.



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**angela** - December 26, 2022 at 06:05 PM

MG

“ I first knew Jerry from ECU. I always thought he was such a nice looking fella, but his gentleness and kindness were the characteristics I enjoyed the most. RIP, friend.

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**Mickie Grimmatt** - December 26, 2022 at 05:34 PM

TP

“ Tom Parker lit a candle in memory of Jerry Knight



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**Tom Parker** - December 26, 2022 at 02:34 PM

SJ

“ *Sheila Jacobson lit a candle in memory of Jerry Knight*



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**Sheila Jacobson** - December 25, 2022 at 01:21 PM

JH

“ *Jerry I miss you more than words can say! You were a wonderful big brother and I love you so much! I will miss your smile and you and that coffee cup you never seemed to be without! BOOMER SOONERS!! To my favorite OU fan!❤️👍😭*

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**Jeannie Heil** - December 24, 2022 at 03:13 PM