



## Jerry W. Cranford

July 5, 1940 - July 26, 2024

Jerry Wayne Cranford was born on July 5, 1940, in Matoy, Oklahoma to parents, Norvil C. and Ruby Iona (Gray) Cranford. Jerry passed away on July 26, 2024, at his home in Durant, Oklahoma at the age of 84. Jerry graduated from Durant High School then spent 1 year in the Oklahoma National Guard, 45th Infantry Division, Headquarters Company, as a truck driver. Jerry joined the U.S. Navy on July 1, 1958, attended basic training in San Diego, CA. and spent the remainder of his first tour in Corpus Christi, TX on temporary duty, then to Oxnard, CA, Point Mugo Naval Station, which is the Headquarters for the Pacific Missile Range, and was discharged on July 3, 1961.

Jerry married his high school sweetheart, Mary Elizabeth Wagoner on October 1, 1958, while on leave from basic training. On March 28, 1961, their son Denis Wayne Cranford was born in Oxnard, CA, Port Huneme. While discharged from the Navy, Jerry went to work for Colvert's Dairy Products and made home deliveries in Hugo, OK. On December 1961, Jerry reenlisted in the Navy, attended schools in Memphis, TN and San Diego, CA, and then stationed in Whidbey Island, WA in Patrol Squadron 47, where he flew the P5-M Seaplane as Flight Engineer. The squadron had the job of protecting the West coast of the U.S. and shipping in the Pacific Ocean from submarines. They hunted submarines from the air. The squadron made one deployment to Sangley Point, Philippines for 7 months and flew patrols off the coast of Vietnam. In 1965 the squadron moved to Moffett Field, CA and made the

transition to P-3 Orion with 4 turboprop (jet) engines. At the time this was the most advanced sub hunting aircraft. Jerry's time in the squadron expired 3 months later and he transferred to the Naval Station in Grand Prairie, TX where his job consisted of training Naval Reserves in flying the P-2 Neptune Patrol Aircraft. Jerry trained the Flight Engineers and Mechanics.

In 1970, Jerry transferred back to Moffett Field, CA to VP-9, another sub hunting squadron, and made 2 deployments to Iwakuni, Japan, again patrolling the coasts of Japan, Korea, and Vietnam for enemy submarines and spy ship/boats. In 1974 Jerry was transferred to Mineral Wells, TX for recruiting duty, which was a recruiting station for many in the Navy Recruiting Command in Dallas, TX. Later he was transferred to the Irving, TX recruiting station then later yet, he transferred to the Recruiting Command Headquarters in Dallas as the Chief Recruiter. Jerry retired from the Navy on July 5, 1978, and was credited with 22 years of service. He immediately went to work for the Pettibone Corporation, a heavy equipment company, renting and selling to the construction industry as the sales coordinator, later promoted to the Branch manager position. In 1978 Jerry went to work for Eager Beaver Trailer Company in Arlington, TX then in 1989, Trail King industries hired him as District Sales Manager for the states of Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. In 2002, Jerry retired from Trail King and full-time work, but maintained an independent sales contract with Trinity Trailer Sales in Dallas and just worked on a part time basis until 2009, when he retired completely.

Jerry is preceded in death by his wife Mary Elizabeth (Wagoner) Cranford; parents N.C. and Ruby Iona (Gray) Cranford; grandparents Early Daughtry and Gertrude Estell (Elliott) Cranford and Arley Prentice (A.P.) and Jeannie Elizabeth (McCurdy) Gray.

Jerry is survived by son Denis W. Cranford of Ft. Worth, TX; sisters Carol (Cranford) Ware of Pasadena, TX, Pam (Cranford) Manners of Calera, OK,

and Susan (Cranford) Rogers and husband Eldon of Norman, OK; brother Eddie Cranford and wife Carolyn of Achille, OK; special friend and travel companion Diana White of Durant, OK and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM Thursday, August 1, 2024, at the First Baptist Church in Durant, OK. Pastor Garry McNeill will officiate. Honorary pallbearers will be Bob Ware, Ed Powers, Don Underwood, Charles Breedlove, Nilan Reed, and Lloyd Manners. Interment with Full Military Honors will be in Highland Cemetery in Durant. The family will receive friends at the Funeral Home on Wednesday evening from 6-8 PM. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.brownsfuneralservice.com](http://www.brownsfuneralservice.com).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Camp El Tesoro de la Vida (grief camp for children who have lost a parent or sibling due to death). <https://www.campfirefw.org/camps/grief-camp/>

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Durant Funeral and Cremation Service.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/PLL8J8DJN7BWMNZF>

# Cemetery Details

## Highland Cemetery

1620 Cemetery Rd  
Durant, OK

# Previous Events

## Family Visitation

JUL 31. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant  
4900 West US Hwy 70  
Durant, OK 74701  
(580) 920-0393  
info@brownsfuneralservice.com  
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

## Funeral Service

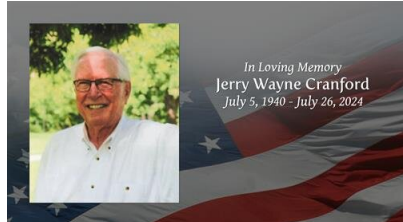
AUG 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
124 W. Evergreen  
Durant, OK

# Tribute Wall



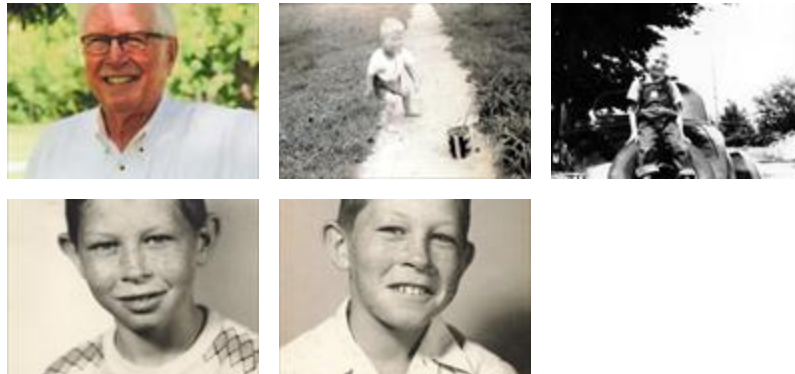
“ *Brown's Durant Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Jerry W. Cranford*



**Brown's Durant Funeral Service** - July 31, 2024 at 01:51 PM



“ *100 files added to the album Gallery of Pictures*



**Brown's Durant Funeral Service** - July 31, 2024 at 01:54 PM



“ *Tim and Teresa purchased the Treasured Lilies S pray for the family of Jerry W. Cranford.*



**Tim and Teresa** - July 30, 2024 at 06:05 PM

TT

“ Tim and Teresa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry W. Cranford.

Tim and Teresa - July 30, 2024 at 06:05 PM

CG

“ Cathy & Steve Guess purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jerry W. Cranford.



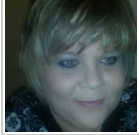
Cathy & Steve Guess - July 30, 2024 at 03:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jerry W. Cranford.



July 30, 2024 at 11:09 AM



“ *Kind, loving, generous,  
cheeky, playful, adventurous.  
Full of laughter, full of fun,  
could get a smile from anyone.*

*Uncle*

*When God gave us gifts  
he tried to be fair,  
but when we got you  
we got more than our share.*

*I have always enjoyed Uncle Jerry and his witty sense of humor, but last summer we took a road trip together. During the 10 hour drive home from Iowa, it was just Uncle Jerry and I. We had some real deep conversations! I got to connect with Uncle Jerry in a whole new way. I will be forever grateful for those hours we got to spend together getting to know each other in an entirely different light!*

*You were loved and will be missed!*

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**Julie Manners Smith** - July 29, 2024 at 07:23 PM

JG

“ *Jerry and I became close friends after he moved back to Durant. We enjoyed going out to eat especially at BG's Catch in Kingston and El Kanelo's Mexican Restaurant in Durant. As retired veterans we had something in common. He was a regular at McDonald's and I would visit he and the other guys there when I didn't go to the donut shop. Jerry, I'm really going to miss you. Prayers for all the family.*

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**Jim Garner** - July 29, 2024 at 03:31 PM

TK

“ Tom and Alice Kendall purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Jerry W. Cranford.



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Tom and Alice Kendall - July 29, 2024 at 01:50 PM

TK

“ Tom and Alice Kendall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry W. Cranford.

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Tom and Alice Kendall - July 29, 2024 at 01:50 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Jerry W. Cranford.



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July 28, 2024 at 05:49 PM

CM

“ So unbelievable I just seen him not a week ago and we sit and talked for a long time Denny you are in my prayers I am so sorry love ya

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Connie Mitchell - July 26, 2024 at 07:27 PM