



Jody T. Gunderson

December 20, 1965 - November 20, 2025

Jody T. Gunderson, age 59, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

Jody was born on December 20, 1965 in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He was the son of Wallace and Marilyn (McDonald) Gunderson and brother to Jeff, Jay, Jamie, Jana & Jerry. He attended Roosevelt Elementary, South Junior High, and Central High School in Grand Forks. A dedicated athlete who excelled in football, Jody always aspired to be the best running back in the state, a drive that earned him an invitation to the Shriners Game during his senior year of high school. After high school, Jody attended the University of North Dakota receiving his Undergraduate and a Master's Degree in urban and economic development while also playing football for UND. During his time at UND, Jody welcomed his oldest son, William. Following graduation, Jody accepted a position in Cresco, Iowa, serving as the Economic Development Director for Howard County. It was there that he met his wife, Kellie, and had two sons, Benjamin and Alexander.

Jody was a highly respected professional in his field. He received his Economic Development Certification in 2000 from the University of Oklahoma. Throughout his distinguished career, he held Director of Economic Development positions in Howard County, IA; Lee County, IA; Waukee, IA; Northfield, MN; and the City of Hamilton, Ohio and credited with being a part of several large developments in the Hamilton area.

Jody taught his sons that there is nothing more important than love and loyalty

to family and was so proud of his sons. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed attending his sons' sporting events, beating everyone at pool, or grabbing dinner with family and friends. He was a staunch supporter of local businesses, whether stopping in for a beer or bringing home dinner for the family. Jody had an infectious laugh and was known to break out into lyrics even in the middle of a conversation. He had a love for cigars and the Riehle Raspberry Blonde—a MBW beer dedicated to his wife. For the last five years, Jody dedicated himself to renovating their 1862 historic house. Every detail crafted in memory of his wife Kellie and her elegant style.

Jody is survived by his three sons, William Gunderson of Minneapolis, MN; Alexander Gunderson of Hamilton, OH; Benjamin (Jessika) Gunderson of Milford, OH & his four-legged friends Leo, Lucy, & Tucker. He is further survived by his siblings Jay (Diane) Gunderson of Grand Forks, ND; Jamie Gunderson of Las Vegas, NV; Jana Monroe of Grand Forks, ND and Jerry (Lisa) Gunderson of Grand Forks, ND. Also survived by his father-in-law, Jerry Riehle of Cresco, IA; sister-in-law Kim (Nick) Krause of Rochester, MN; brother-in-law Ron (Sara) Riehle of Decorah, IA; and sister-in-law Jenilee (Cory) Schnell of Cedar Falls, IA & many nieces & nephews. Jody was preceded in death by his parents Wallace and Marilyn (McDonald) Gunderson; oldest brother Jeff Gunderson, mother-in-law Genny (Markovetz) Riehle & his beloved wife, Kellie Riehle.

Visitation will be from 4 to 6 pm Tuesday, Nov. 25 with funeral services immediately following at Weigel Funeral Home, 980 N.W. Washington Hamilton, OH. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Kellie and Jody Gunderson Memorial Fund at bit.ly/KellieandJodyGundersonMemorialFund which will honor their legacy and commitment to the city.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **25**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Weigel Funeral Home
980 N.W. Washington Blvd.
Hamilton, OH 45013
(513) 892-1524
<https://www.weigelfuneralhome.com/>

Service

NOV **25**. 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM (ET)

Weigel Funeral Home
980 N.W. Washington Blvd.
Hamilton, OH 45013
(513) 892-1524
<https://www.weigelfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

CM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with William, Benjamin , Alexander and the Gunderson family. I cannot begin to imagine the pain that you are all feeling due to the unexpected death of Jody. Jody was a wonderful father with strong family values that I know he inherited from his wonderful parent Wallie and Marilyn. You will be missed. Catriona Mann



catriona mann - December 01, 2025 at 01:52 PM

GA

“ Benjamin, Im so sorry about hearing of the passing of your father! He sounded like a wonderful man. I will keep you and your family in my prayers. God Bless

Gail Asher - November 28, 2025 at 09:19 PM



“ Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jody T. Gunderson.



November 25, 2025 at 07:47 PM

AE

“ Abigail, Tristan, and Elijah planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jody T. Gunderson.

Abigail, Tristan, and Elijah - November 25, 2025 at 07:47 PM

TP

“ T & J Petersen purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Jody T. Gunderson.



T & J Petersen - November 25, 2025 at 09:21 AM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album Gundy



Joshua Smith - November 24, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jody T. Gunderson.



November 24, 2025 at 10:55 AM

MT

“ Matt Davis and the DSD Advisors team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jody T. Gunderson.

Matt Davis and the DSD Advisors team - November 24, 2025 at 10:55 AM

GL

“ George and Debbie Lang purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jody T. Gunderson.



George and Debbie Lang - November 24, 2025 at 09:05 AM

GL

“ George and Debbie Lang planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jody T. Gunderson.

George and Debbie Lang - November 24, 2025 at 09:05 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jody T. Gunderson.



November 24, 2025 at 09:03 AM

RE

“ 3 files added to the album Gundy



Rusty Eknesss - November 23, 2025 at 10:14 PM

RE

I met Jody the summer of 1984 and kept in touch with him over the years, from Iowa to Minnesota to Ohio. Glad we were able to get together in Ohio a few times the past couple years as well as meeting up in Florida for our buddy's wedding. Love the guy and am going to miss him, and miss hearing that laugh of his!

Rusty Ekness - November 23, 2025 at 10:18 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Jody T. Gunderson.



November 23, 2025 at 03:09 PM

TT

“ The Tupa's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jody T. Gunderson.

The Tupa's - November 23, 2025 at 03:09 PM

MB

“ As Jody's high school football coach, I knew a young man who was driven to excel and relentless in his approach - you wanted no part of him if you were an opponent. He demonstrated an attitude that is so rare in these times, both on and off the field, and certainly in his adult life. A saying from his days at Central High School was, "Yes We Can," and the Yes We Can Foundation in Grand Forks has received a memorial in his name. His passing truly takes a portion of my heart, he was one of a kind and I was blessed to know him and his family so well.

Mike Berg - November 23, 2025 at 10:17 AM

DA



Dawn - November 23, 2025 at 08:30 PM

TB

“ 1 file added to the album *Gundy*



Todd Barsness - November 22, 2025 at 09:02 PM

TB

I went to school with Gundy just about every year except high school. Talk about a guy that wasn't afraid of anything. We rode our bikes to baseball games when we kids...same teams for hockey football, track...he did it all. He was from a pretty big family, so sports gave him individuality and recognition. He was definitely a guy you wanted on your team and on your side. I feel lucky to have had him as a friend and teammate. Hugs to Jody's family and everyone that had the privilege to know him.

Todd Barsness - November 22, 2025 at 09:14 PM

DD

“ I’m in disbelief and heartbroken. Gundy was a special guy. Tough, but always wanted a family, and he had a good one. Gundy used to come over to my parents’ house to raid the freezer for donuts and watch “Dallas” reruns in the afternoon. Could share stories of Whitey’s and The Bridge, but the best are about his kids and Kellie. We would talk for hours. As good of athlete as he was, he was a better dad and husband. I don’t believe he had a heart attack. I think his heart just missed Kellie so much it took him to her. I write this with tears in my eyes. Gundy touched more lives than he knew. He left his mark both professionally and personally. That’s a good life. Gone too soon and it kills me to say goodbye to one of my best friends. Way to leave us hanging, Fisthead.

Dave Dondoneau - November 22, 2025 at 04:08 PM

RE

Dave D captured it very well. Jody was a special guy that will be missed. Lots of great stories can and will be told about our adventures with Gundy over the years.

Rusty Ekness - November 23, 2025 at 10:33 PM

RE

“ Renay lit a candle in memory of Jody T. Gunderson



Renay - November 22, 2025 at 02:41 PM

GM

“ George, Sue, Shawn, Darin & Missy purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jody T. Gunderson.



George, Sue, Shawn, Darin & Missy - November 21, 2025 at 11:44 PM

TB

“ Traci, Lorenzo, Aiden, Lincoln Burt-Lopez purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jody T. Gunderson.



Traci, Lorenzo, Aiden, Lincoln Burt-Lopez - November 21, 2025 at 02:50 PM

TB

“ Traci, Lorenzo, Aiden, Lincoln Burt-Lopez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jody T. Gunderson.

Traci, Lorenzo, Aiden, Lincoln Burt-Lopez - November 21, 2025 at 02:50 PM

YM

“ Your friends and coworkers at Milford purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Jody T. Gunderson.



Your friends and coworkers at Milford - November 21, 2025 at 02:09 PM

YM

“ Your friends and coworkers at Milford planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jody T. Gunderson.

Your friends and coworkers at Milford - November 21, 2025 at 02:09 PM