



Gerald Pruitt

May 4, 1941 - January 1, 2026

Gerald Pruitt, 84, of Paxton, passed away on Thursday, January 1, 2026, at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. He was born on May 4, 1941, in Homer, the son of William Henry and Mittie (Hillard) Pruitt. Gerald married Janet Sue Ayers on January 26, 1964, in Ogden.

He is survived by his wife, Janet Pruitt of Paxton; two children, Vicky Reetz of Milford, and David Pruitt (Tammy Milburn) of Loda; two grandchildren, Ashton Pruitt and Lacey Pruitt, both of Paxton; and a great-granddaughter, Peyton Pruitt of Paxton. He is also survived by his favorite sister-in-law, Orlena Pruitt of Homer; his daughter-in-law, Sheila Pruitt of Paxton; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Herschel and Margaret Ray; eleven siblings, Marie Stonum, Hattie Larkin, Francis Pruitt, Jim Pruitt, Frank Pruitt, Garner Pruitt, Lonnie Pruitt, Hester Raymer, Lester Pruitt, Ray Pruitt, and Ronnie Pruitt; and his son-in-law, Michael Reetz.

Gerald worked for 25 years for LeHigh Paving, Cross Construction and Champaign Asphalt. He enjoyed playing pool in Ludlow, and meeting friends for coffee at the former Country Gardens restaurant in Paxton. He also liked riding around in his golf cart and letting his grandchildren drive.

Gerald was a veteran of the United States Army, serving for three years. He was a proud lifetime member of IUOE Local 841 Operating Engineers Union, and was awarded 50 years of membership in 2024.

Private services will be held at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Gerald's family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gerald Pruitt.* ”



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