



## David William "Pee Wee" Erlbacher

May 20, 1939 - March 20, 2016

David William Erlbacher, 76, of Cape Girardeau passed away Sunday, March 20, 2016, at Southeast Hospital in Cape Girardeau.

“Peewee” was his nickname, but his personality was anything but small. He could charm a crowd or a mad customer like no other. Peewee, a funny man, will be remembered for his mischievous wit, his sense of style and his ability to fix anything.

He was born May 20, 1939, in Cape Girardeau to Edwin G. and Grace Kinder Erlbacher. He and Noel Rickard Erlbacher were married May 22, 1971, in Cape Girardeau.

He built Erlbacher Gear and Machine Works from the ground up. He was an innovative businessman who, in his early years, designed and patented a steering unit for modified and sprint race cars. It was known far and wide to make the start faster and the finish line closer. There were many “projects” in between, including becoming a major influence in the local banking community. In his later years, he was known for redesigning and modernizing an antique circular knitting machine. He began building these machines and selling them all over the world, in 17 countries and five continents.

Survivors include his wife, Noel “Riki” Erlbacher of Cape Girardeau; five

daughters, Dawn E. (Gary) Ton of Memphis, Tennessee; Deborah Erlbacher of Fort Collins, Colorado; Kathryn (Kevin) Van de Ven of Maryville, Missouri; Jamie (Jeff) Mayfield of Cape Girardeau and Grayson (Larry Patterson) Erlbacher of Jackson; a brother, Jerry (Cis) Erlbacher of Cape Girardeau; a sister, Joyce (Charles) Blattner of Cape Girardeau; 10 grandchildren, Crystal Mitzner, Andrew Steger, Katie Hockaday, Steven Ton, Betsy Steger, Amy Van de Ven, Anny Van de Ven, Abby Van de Ven, Zak Mayfield and Zoe Mayfield, and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an older sister.

Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Centenary United Methodist Church in Cape Girardeau, with the Revs. Jim Matthews and Dave Wiant officiating.

Pallbearers, William Arnold, Cliff Crowden, Roger Graham, Rod Holshouser, Randy Rister, Bill Schoen, Darrell Schwarz, Bill Schoen and Rick Wolpers work at his shop, Erlbacher Gear and Machine Works.

A private burial will be at Cape County Memorial Park in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be given to Hope Children's Home, 709 E. Main St., Jackson, MO 63755.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 24.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Service

**MAR 25.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Centenary United Methodist Church  
300 N. Ellis  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

KA

“ We just learned of Peeweess passing from Jim and Anna. Our deepest sympathy to you, Ricki, and the kids. We well remember the wonderful times we had while cruising in Kentucky Lake and particularly the adventures we all had when we chartered in the Virgin Islands. We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.  
Allen & Karen  
m/y Sylvia K

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**karen** - April 03, 2016 at 03:26 PM

LM

“ Riki

*Please accept our deepest sympathy on the unexpected passing of Pee Wee. We've been away from home and learned of his death while traveling. He was truly a gentleman and we always enjoyed the time we had with him and you at various times we were together at events in Cape.*

*Lydia and Dale Meier, St. Louis*

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**Lydia and Dale Meier** - March 29, 2016 at 03:08 PM

GM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, so sorry to hear of your loss. Gene and Carolyn McCalister

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**Gene McCalister** - March 28, 2016 at 07:16 AM

JK

“ My best to All of the family,Peewee was my FRIEND, and we did business together in the 60s and 70s.When we where trying to figure out something he would draw on the floor with chalk .....When I went broke in the 70s Peewee stayed my Friend,He and Riki invited me to the table more than once.I'm Proud to say Pee Wee was my friend I will pray for all of you ....JiM Red Kuehn

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**James Kuehn** - March 27, 2016 at 05:43 PM

BN

“ Our sincerest condolences to your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. It was a pleasure knowing Pee Wee.

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**Brian and Quantella Noto** - March 25, 2016 at 03:46 PM

NR

“ Our apologies that we were unable to attend the visitation or service. Our days were always brightened we when saw PeeWee. His personality was infectious and his friendship true. Treasure the memories as we will.

*Narvol & Amy Randol*

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**Narvol Randol** - March 25, 2016 at 02:36 PM

BW

“ My heart is with you all today....I will always remember him, smiling.....

*Barbara Woodard*

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**Barbara Woodard** - March 25, 2016 at 10:38 AM

GI

“ A good man is gone, words may help now but memories will be with you always.

*Paul Sharon & Brevin Giebler*

*Riki*

*Thinking about what to say, I remembered meeting you and listening to the stories about Pee Wee's "projects" and the knitting machine and the honey (in a box with a jar for money) and your horses. You made a new Bridge player feel welcome and did we not have some great if not unique bids and wins !!*

*Take care, prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.*

*Sharon*

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**Giebler** - March 25, 2016 at 08:50 AM

DK

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Sincerely, DON and MARY KIRN

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**Don Kirn** - March 25, 2016 at 07:02 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David William "Pee Wee" Erlbacher.



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March 24, 2016 at 01:37 PM

MP

“ To the PeeWee family, you are in our thoughts and prayers today, PeeWee has given everyone he met a special place in their hearts. Love Marnie & Gordie Parkin



Marnie Parkin - March 24, 2016 at 01:02 PM

Jl

“ Riki and family: it was such a shock to hear about Peewee. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. From the first time we met Peewee we knew he was a special person and will be missed. Jim and Diane Brown

jimbrown - March 24, 2016 at 12:53 PM

KS

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Erlbacher family in the loss of your loved one. Our prayers are with all of you at this difficult time. T Gale and Katherine Seabaugh

Katherine Seabaugh - March 23, 2016 at 08:24 PM



Sorry for your families loss. Pee-Wee was a good man and he will truly be missed. Chris and Kay keller

Chris Keller - March 24, 2016 at 09:11 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of David William "Pee Wee" Erlbacher.



March 23, 2016 at 06:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David William "Pee Wee" Erlbacher.*



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March 23, 2016 at 06:25 PM



“ *I am Steve Harris's wife, Susan. Steve passed away in Dec. He talked alot about "Peewee" & race car talk. Steve admired him & his friendship. My condolences to the family.*

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**Sue Harris** - March 23, 2016 at 05:35 PM



“ *Navy Recruiting Command (N37) has you in their thoughts and prayers.*

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**Jennifer L. Kelly** - March 23, 2016 at 05:10 PM



“ *Sloan Seier Masters lit a candle in memory of David William "Pee Wee" Erlbacher*



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**Sloan Seier Masters** - March 23, 2016 at 03:07 PM

PT

“ Pam Torres lit a candle in memory of David William "Pee Wee" Erbacher



pam torres - March 23, 2016 at 02:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David William "Pee Wee" Erbacher.



March 23, 2016 at 01:55 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of David William "Pee Wee" Erbacher.



March 23, 2016 at 12:20 PM

JR

“ Rest in peace, Uncle Pee Wee. I have such fond memories of time spent in Cape when I was a little girl. From ice cream to a canoe trip, you always made it fun. Janice (Rickard) Rebhan

Janice Rebhan - March 23, 2016 at 11:19 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of David William "Pee Wee" Erlbacher.*



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March 23, 2016 at 10:27 AM



“ *Dear Erlbacher Family, I am sorry for your loss which must be Heaven's gain. I am Betty (Phelps) Hellige and I used to babysit for little Dawn. She was cute as could be as a bitty thing and probably was too young to remember me now. I was always struck by how pleasant her parents were. It seems Mr. Erlbacher lived a rich, full life which is something to celebrate.*



*With love,  
Betty*

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**Betty Hellige** - March 23, 2016 at 07:35 AM



“ *What a loss. Pee- Wee was proof of what the love of hard work and commitment could accomplish. I know, anytime I was lucky enough to get a chance to talk to him, I came away either laughing or in deep thought. It always made for a better day. My father, Joe Mirgeaux was always amazed by Pee-Wee's intelligence and sense of humor.. He would always say "What a Pee-Wee". Thoughts and prayers to his family.*

*Steve Mirgeaux*

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**steve mirgeaux** - March 23, 2016 at 06:51 AM

SM

“ Will remember PeeWee from way back to the Central High School day in the 50's , he was a great guy and a lot of fun RIP

*Sonny & Barb Minor*

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**Sonny Minor** - March 23, 2016 at 06:34 AM

MC

“ Proof there is laughter i Heaven.....So very sorry for this loss. Deepest sympathies and prayers for your family!

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**Melanie Coy** - March 23, 2016 at 05:10 AM

KA

*Riki and family, what a shock to learn of PeeWees passing! My thoughts and prayers to all of you! He was one of a kind guy! Know he will be so missed by many. All my best!*

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**Kay Ancell** - March 28, 2016 at 12:42 PM