



Roger W. Lang

August 5, 1950 - September 4, 2022

Roger Warren Lang, 72, of Whitewater (formerly Cape Girardeau) passed away in Cape Girardeau on Sunday, September 4, 2022, after a lengthy hospital stay and complications from a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Roger was born in Cape Girardeau on August 5, 1950 to Bernhardt Lang and Marjorie Gohn. He graduated from Central High School and went on to obtain a degree in architecture from Southeast Missouri State University. He also attended Gem City College in Quincy, IL, and then settled into the family business, Lang's Jewelers, where he worked until his retirement in 2012. He married first wife Brenda Ward and had one daughter, Erika. Roger served over 30 years in the Missouri Army National Guard and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant.

He later married Judith Anne (Jenkins) Ventrella, and for many years, they ran the jewelry store together. In their retirement, they enjoyed fishing, camping, traveling, and doting on their granddaughter. Roger lovingly cared for Judy throughout her battle with breast cancer, until she preceded him in death in 2020.

He was active in many community organizations, most recently the Cape Girardeau Elks Lodge, where he served in several different officer roles. He was also a member of the Jackson Elks, the American Legion, and had been

in the past a member of the Downtown Merchants' Association and Old Town Cape. He was active in Girl Scouts when his daughter was young. He was a life member and benefactor of the NRA. In his free time, he enjoyed woodworking and gardening, exploring the Missouri outdoors with his family, and discovered a love of kayaking in his later years.

Roger was a man with a huge heart who did not know a stranger. He is known to many simply as "Santa," as he enjoyed portraying the character for local schools and organizations at Christmastime. In his tenure at Lang's Jewelers, customers knew the store as a place to hang out and share a story. Stories circulate of his generosity; he was a dear friend to many and always had time for a conversation.

Roger is survived by his daughter Erika Lang (Jason Goben), step-daughter, Vicki Ventrella-Meyer (Clint Meyer), granddaughter Aubrey Meyer, sister Pat (James) Fuhrmann, nephews Thomas Karraker and Ryan (Danielle) Fuhrmann, niece Stacey (Kyle) Dunn, and dear friend, Monica Gould.

Visitation will be Thursday, Sept. 8, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel. A graveside service will be held Friday, Sept. 9, at 10:30 a.m. at Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Elks Lodge 639 in Cape Girardeau, or to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation; please memo "Cape Nature Center" to ensure the contribution reaches the appropriate organization.

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

SEP 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Elks Service

SEP 8. 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Graveside Service

SEP 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

Cape County Memorial Park
2315 Highway 61 N
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

AM

“ Roger was the best grandfather a girl could have ever asked for I lost him at the age of 9 and he was in the hospital for a long time but he fought so hard just to be with us a little longer I am now 13 and I still grieve his loss he always knew what to say and do he was the best human alive and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have someone as amazing as him in my life

Aubrey Meyer - May 29 at 12:35 PM

DN

“ Dear Pat and family: Sorry to hear about your loved one passing away. I recall when I was in Central Junior High at Cape and we had study hall in the cafeteria area. Roger was one of the folks who walked around the area to see that students were quiet so those of us who needed the quiet to get our homework done during that hour. He was a kind person that I'm proud to have met during my junior high days. I graduated from Central High School June 5, 1970. Deborah Nance

Deborah Nance - September 11, 2022 at 03:38 PM

AS

“ Prayers to Roger's family! I went to high school with Roger, who was such a nice man! He will be missed 🙏 Alice Rosenberger Steinweg

Alice Rosenberger Steinweg - September 09, 2022 at 12:24 AM

TP

“ Got acquainted with Roger when he purchased a building from us at the then "Pierce Supercenter". He and His wife were a joy to work with and visit. He will be greatly missed. Praying for comfort for his family. Tim and Ilene Pierce

Tim and Ilene Pierce - September 08, 2022 at 01:15 PM

KH

“ Roger And I shot bb guns at the VFW years ago and even went to the state championship! Great Man!

Kim m Hindman - September 08, 2022 at 07:58 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Roger W. Lang.



September 07, 2022 at 10:38 PM

BM

“ Roger had the biggest heart than anyone I have ever met. If he had only a \$ 1.00 he would give it freely..and try to figure out how he could give you more....and always gave more of his time to others and never expected to receive.

He never met a stranger- always wanted to know about you - not him- he was the best human being I have ever met. The world lost a true humanitarian . I find comfort that he is with Judith Anne and his Dog Amos.

Roger thank you for all you have given to our town- and for being an example what we all should aspire to be. You will be missed. You and Judith Anne made a sweet mark in my heart. Sure miss our porch swing visits.

We all will miss your smiling eyes and wit Beth.

Beth McFerron - September 07, 2022 at 09:45 PM

EL

“ This man...

This man had a heart bigger than himself.

He would meet everyone with a smile & a story.

This man would tell bootcamp stories as bedtime stories & wake you with firecrackers. He would also sing "You are my sunshine" along with a yellow toy elephant.

This man would work late for weeks to build you your first one of a kind bicycle.

He would make you late for school everyday just to have a few extra moments to quietly sit by the river & have a cup of coffee. And if you were lucky you'd get to count the cars of a passing train.

This man would stay up all night with a sick parakeet & secretly shed a tear or two with it's passing.

This is the man that would put his own goals & dreams on hold to make sure yours would be met.

This man would somehow find a way to get you a horse for your birthday.

He would find a way to help you through a situation even if it was to just be there. This man showed himself to be stoic but still keep special memories close to his heart.

This man beamed with pride over his accomplishments & especially "His Girls"

This man...

Will be greatly missed!

Erika Lang - September 07, 2022 at 09:17 PM

LP

Erica, Lynn and I were so sorry to hear of your Dads passing. Lynn loved seeing Roger and talking about the past. May God be with you and your family sweet girl.

lynn and Debbie Petzoldt - September 13, 2022 at 11:26 PM