

Dennis D. Gearhart

ROCHESTER - Dennis D. Gearhart, 67, of Akron, died at 9:22 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at Lutheran Hospital of Fort Wayne.

He was born Jan. 11, 1952, in Rochester, to Gerald and Arlene Holloway Gearhart. He married Trillia Kae Azbell on March 8, 1980, in Rochester. She survives.

Dennis retired from Sonoco Products of Akron in 2018.

A celebration of his life will be at 2 p.m. Sunday in Good Family Funeral Home, 1200 W. 18th St., Rochester.

Calling is from 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday and one hour prior to the service Sunday in the funeral home.

Interment will be in Rochester IOOF Cemetery.

Memorials to Henry Township Fire Department, 206 W. Rochester St., Akron, IN 46910; or The Cancer Crusaders "Wheels on Fire," 9798 W. 1000 S., Akron, IN 46910.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to his family at www.goodfamilyfh.com.



Times Union March 8, 2019

Dennis Devon Gearhart

Jan. 11, 1952 – March 5, 2019



Dennis
Gearhart

Mr. Dennis Devon Gearhart, 67, Akron, passed away at 9:22 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

On Jan. 11, 1952, Dennis Devon Gearhart was born in Rochester. He was a treasured son of Gerald and Arlene Holloway Gearhart.

Growing up, he shared his childhood with a sister, Sandra, and brother Tim. During his high school years, he was a vibrant member of the Future Farmers of America championship soil judging team. In 1970, he graduated from North Miami High School.

At Rochester's Grace United Methodist Church, Dennis married the love of his life, Miss Trillia Kae Azbell, on March 8, 1980. They shared nearly 39 years of life's adventures. From their union came three wonderful children, Ashley, Emily and Cory. The family tree continued to grow with the added blessings of four grandchildren.

With a strong work ethic, Dennis was dedicated to Sonoco Products of Akron, working for more than 45 years and retiring in 2018. He enjoyed a lifelong love of farming. For many years, he oversaw the operation of a fine herd of Holstein dairy-beef feeder calves, bottle-feeding 50-60 of them at a time. Dennis also raised Suffolk sheep and farrowed crossbred pigs. The crops of beans and corn complemented his livestock operation. Each spring, he could be seen plowing then disking the fields onboard his shiny red 1977 Massey 1085 tractor. It was a great multipurpose tractor for pulling wagons or planting.

A man with great taste for dining out, Dennis enjoyed Mentone's Teel's Restaurant or going south to Akron's Fluff. He loved attending fish fries and the annual Fourth of July Henry Township firemen's breakfast. Back in the day, his first stop after getting off at Sonoco was heading to Stephen's garage to catch up on the latest and flipping for a soda with George or Mike.

Enjoying the element of competition, Dennis loved playing Super Nintendo, and with family and friends, he took great joy in the challenges of euchre. To relax, he watched "AgDay" on TV or religiously read the Farmer's Exchange, of which he was the proud owner of many volumes over the years.

Paramount in his life was his precious family. Grandpa Dennis was proud to oversee three generations. He loved and adored his grandchildren, always attending sporting contests, school concerts and academic competitions. Grandpa

always had two big pocketfuls of Brach's Star Brites candy-striped mints that he enjoyed and was always ready to share. With great versatility, Grandpa Dennis always looked forward to playing Barbies and Candy Land with Hailey. There was nothing better than his family getting together making memories at special family celebrations and the holidays.

Left to cherish the memory of Dennis are his wife, Trillia; two daughters, Ashley Craft and husband Chris, Akron, and Pastor Emily Gearhart, Leiters Ford; a son, Cory Gearhart and companion Ashley Moore, Burket; four grandchildren, Alex Craft, Hunter Craft, Derek Craft and Hailey Craft; a sister, Sandra Gearhart, Akron; a brother, Tim Gearhart and wife Diane, Macy; mother-in-law Berdene R. Azbell; sister-in-law Mila Barts, Rochester; and several nieces and nephews.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents; and father-in-law Maurice Azbell on March 14, 2011.

A celebration of the life of Dennis Gearhart will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2019, at the Good Family Funeral Home, 1200 W. 18th St., Rochester. Pastor Butch Troke will officiate. Friends may visit with the family from 3-7 p.m. on Saturday and one hour

prior to the service Sunday at the funeral home. Interment will be in the Rochester IOOF Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Henry Township Volunteer Fire Department, 206 W. Rochester St., Akron, IN 46910, or the Wheels on Fire-Cancer Crusaders, 9798 W. 1000 South, Akron, IN 46910. Electronic expressions of sympathy may be made to his family at www.goodfamilyfh.com.

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March 8, 2019