



Gerald F. Carr

December 29, 1930 - October 21, 2024

Gerald Francis Carr was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on December 29, 1930 to James (born in Glasgow, raised by his grandparents in Loch Eske, Donegal) and Hannah (born in Fanad, County Donegal), immigrants from the north coast of Ireland. He was one of six children to survive infancy. He attended Catholic schools in Pittsburgh, graduating from Central Catholic High School in 1948. But not before a brief stint in Notre Dame, Indiana attending seminary preparatory school which, to the great good fortune of his future wife and progeny, didn't work out.

After high school, he worked a number of jobs, helping to support his mother, including as a janitor at a dance hall. Next, during the Korean War, he served in the Marine Corps as a corporal. Following the Marines, and using the GI Bill, he received his undergraduate degree at Duquesne University. From Duquesne he went to the University of Wisconsin to study German. While there, he met the love of his life, Irmengard Rauch, who just happened to be his professor.

They married in 1965 and settled in Pittsburgh, where she took a position at the University of Pittsburgh and he at Duquesne, embarking on the peripatetic life of academics. In 1968, they moved to Illinois, where Gerald taught at Eastern Illinois University and Irmengard taught at the University of Illinois. They settled in the small farm town of Villa Grove, which was about

equidistant from the two universities. In 1984 the family permanently relocated to northern California, residing in Benicia. While Irmengard taught at U.C. Berkeley, Gerald taught at Sacramento State University through 2004.

In addition to teaching foreign languages, Gerald was a frequent collaborator with Irmengard in editing journals and convening conferences. He liked to joke how “progressive” he was because his wife kept her last name (Rauch) in the professional world. In fact, he assiduously supported her career, shouldering numerous responsibilities for raising their children – picking them up from school, cooking meals, dragging them kicking and screaming to visit Lincoln historical sites in central Illinois, etc.

A polyglot, Gerald relished teaching generations of students German, French, and Latin. A bibliophile, he coined the adage, directed at his sons when they said they were bored: “Read a book, damn it.” A life-long lover of words, after retiring he became an accomplished crossword puzzle player.

He is survived by his wife Irmengard; son Chris and wife Karen, and their sons Justin and Ethan; son Greg and wife Mary; and brother Vincent and wife Eleanor.

Cemetery Details

St. Dominic's Cemetery

585
hillcrest avenue
BENICIA, CA 94510

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **26.** 2:00 PM (PT)

St Dominic's Catholic Church
475 E I St
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 747-7220

Tribute Wall

GK

“ I will always remember Gerald as a humorous person who, along with Irmis, I had the pleasure of getting to know on my trips and visits to the USA.



We had fun and told each other about our lives. There were many years between me and them and that's what made the conversation so interesting.

I also remember that Gerald liked to tease a little Irmis whenever he could. In a very affectionate way. I liked seeing them like that and I hoped that one day I would be lucky enough to be married for so long and with so much love. Gerald was the perfect man for Irmis's temperament with his calm, balanced nature. :-)

He and Irmis will always have a place in my heart.

Gaby Kiss with family, Heroldsberg / Bavaria / Germany

Gaby Kiss - June 10, 2025 at 04:37 PM

SS

“ Your love, kindness, and generosity will be greatly missed, Gerald. Thank you for the impact you had on my life to make me a better person.

-Scott

Scott Shell - January 13, 2025 at 04:20 PM

LZ

“ As a student of Professor Irmengard Rauch, I had the privilege of forming a friendship with Professor Carr through conferences and early collaborations on manuscript digitization. I will always remember him as an intelligent, kind, and humorous individual who was always willing to help.

Lihua Zhang - January 12, 2025 at 01:02 AM

MS

“ I fondly remember the advanced German courses (Old High German, Middle High German, German phonetics, etc) that Doctor Carr taught at Sacramento State during my last year year of my German Masters Degree. Dr. Carr also patiently read (and corrected) my Masters Degree Project. Finally, I distinctly remember how, whenever I visited his office, he has some small gift (German related material) for me. RIP dear Dr. Carr.

Mike Snyder - December 04, 2024 at 08:55 AM

YY

“ Yue Y. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald F. Carr.

Yue Y. - October 25, 2024 at 08:58 PM

TF

“ The Shannon Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gerald F. Carr.



The Shannon Family - October 25, 2024 at 01:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald F. Carr.

October 25, 2024 at 05:57 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerald F. Carr.



October 25, 2024 at 05:57 AM



“ Love, the Smolinski and Walmet families purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gerald F. Carr.



Love, the Smolinski and Walmet families - October 24, 2024 at 09:41 PM



“ Love, the Smolinski and Walmet families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald F. Carr.

Love, the Smolinski and Walmet families - October 24, 2024 at 09:41 PM

RF

“ Roe, Laura, Julie & family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Gerald F. Carr.



Roe, Laura, Julie & family - October 23, 2024 at 01:55 PM

MA

“ Marquita A. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald F. Carr.

Marquita A. - October 23, 2024 at 12:34 PM