



Gerald F. Mortensen

August 2, 1949 - November 21, 2025

Gerald F. Mortensen, 76, passed away on Friday, November 21, 2025 in Lake Forest, IL. He was born August 2, 1949 in Chicago, IL and lived in Lake Forest since 1998. Gerald received his bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University, his master's degree from Northeastern Illinois University and was a former middle school science teacher and past principal in Lake Forest. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Lake Forest and enjoyed needlepoint, music, reading, gardening and traveling. Most of all he took great pride in boxer dog rescue and was a member and very involved at Boxer Rebound in Ringwood, IL.

Surviving is his wife, Susan Mortensen; step son, Daniel (Tracy) Pasternak; step grandchildren, Brandon & Megan and by beloved sisters & brothers-in-law, loving nieces and nephews and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred & Anna Mae Mortensen and by a sister, Carol Szontagh.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 31, 2026 at First Presbyterian Church, 700 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL. Memorial donations would be appreciated to church or Boxer Rebound, www.boxerrebound.com. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Tribute Wall

VA

“ *The kindest couple, I feel extremely blessed to have met. I was saddened to hear of the passing of Gerry. He was my favorite. When I came to visit I found it extremely hard to leave as he always had the best stories to tell. I miss those visits. I pray for his family & Susan. I'll never forget your kindness always*
Nurse Vanessa



vanessa - January 28 at 11:24 PM

JG

“ *I remember spending Thanksgiving in New York with Jerry, Susan and my late wife Marianne. We went to see the parade in pouring rain that didn't dampen our enthusiasm for the City. It was a great time. I wish I was back then. My sincere sympathies for your great loss, Susan and Dan.*

Joel Goldberger - January 25 at 05:40 PM

PT

“ *We were so saddened when we learned that Gerry Mortensen had passed. He was principal of DPE while our children, Rachel and Brian, attended. He was always visible and always kind. The kindergarteners were quite suspicious that the man behind the mask, Zero Hero, was really Mr. Mortensen. More recently, it was such a pleasure to see him when he joined us in the sorting room at rummage. We send condolences to Susan and family.*
Mike and Patti Tucker

Patricia Tucker - January 20 at 10:37 AM

JM

I had the pleasure to work with Gerry at Deer Path Middle School in the science department. I also worked under him when he was a principal. He was always a kind, dear person. He supported his teachers, his students and all staff. Things weren't always easy, but he made it seem so. I will miss him. I know Susan and he were incredibly happy together for many, many years. Both, dear friends, Godspeed, Gerry.

Julie Meadows - February 01 at 08:38 PM