



Jerry Leon Graham

March 23, 1941 - September 21, 2025

Jerry Leon Graham of Oswego, Kansas, passed away on September 21, 2025.

He attended elementary school in Springdale, Arkansas, and Grove, Oklahoma. He attended junior high school in Jasper, Missouri, before his family moved to Oswego, Kansas, where he graduated in 1959. While attending Coffeyville Jr College on an athletic scholarship, the Detroit Tigers signed him to play baseball. He graduated from Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Jerry later received a Master's in Education from Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas. He began his teaching and football coaching career at Yukon, Oklahoma, and then at Coweta, Oklahoma. He later moved to Joplin, Missouri, where he served as the Dean of Boys at Memorial High School.

Jerry was the principal at Will Rogers Jr. High in Miami, OK, before accepting the position as principal of Miami High School. He retired after twenty-two years in Miami, Oklahoma, and then returned to Oswego, Kansas, to serve as the High School principal. He retired from education in Kansas in 2001.

Jerry served on the board of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. He was a member of the Oklahoma and Kansas Principals Association and the Oklahoma Referees Association and served on the Grand

Lake Mental Health Board. Upon returning to Oswego, he served as the board president of the Oswego Golf Course. He was a member of the Lions Club, the Masonic Lodge, and the Elks Lodge.

Jerry was born on March 23, 1941, to Nolan (Jake) Henton Graham and Mozelle Ruth (Snoddy) Graham, who preceded him in death. In 1962, Jerry married Marilyn Oliver; they had two children together. Later, he married his wife of forty-eight years, Janice (Sparkman) Graham, who survives and resides in Oswego, Kansas. Also surviving are his children, Stephen Graham of Miami, Oklahoma, and Jennifer Frazier, and her husband, Anthony, of Ashland, Missouri; his stepdaughters, Jana Johnson of Miami, Oklahoma, and Joni Vowels, and her husband, Michael, of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

He was Papaw to his grandchildren, Sara and Patrick Hattaway, Bricynn Barger and Dustin White, Jake Graham and Chasie King, Hailey and Trey Roberts, RyLea and Palmer Watkins, Joshua Graham, Logan Vowels, and Adam Larkin, JoLea Johnson, Lila Frazier, Lily Frazier, and his nine great-grandchildren.

Jerry was a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Miami, Oklahoma, and the Oswego Golf Course. He enjoyed playing the guitar and banjo, hunting, fishing, playing golf, and attending his grandchildren's activities. His love of life was to have fun with his family, friends, and faculty. He was a friend and mentor to many. His kind spirit and his joyful laugh will be greatly missed.

Visitation will be at the All Saints' Episcopal Church in Miami, Oklahoma, on Friday, September 26, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At his request, a private family burial will be held at 2:00 p.m. at Fairland Cemetery in Fairland, Oklahoma.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation to the Miami Public School Enrichment Foundation and the Oswego Public Schools' Finding a Purpose Scholarship Fund.

Services have been entrusted to Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Miami, Oklahoma.

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Jerry's Tribute Page at www.brown-winters.com.

Cemetery Details

Fairland Cemetery

Fairland, OK 74343

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 26. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

All Saints' Episcopal Church
225 B Street NW
Miami, OK 74354

Graveside Service

SEP 26. 2:00 PM (CT)

Fairland Cemetery
Fairland, OK 74343

Tribute Wall

HE

“*Janice and family. I was saddened to hear of your loss. Max and I, Max and Shane were so lucky to have known Jerry. He was a good friend to all of us. He was an inspiration to so many. I will always remember the good times we had together. Helen Ehrhart.*

Helen Ehrhart - September 27, 2025 at 09:38 AM

BS

Jerry was a great man. Calm and patient, caring and firm when appropriate. He truly cared about his students and teaching staff's. As my principal during my HS teaching career he was very supportive and loved to celebrate great things done by both students and teachers- and coaches. He was such fun at a party where he could be "himself". I view him as great and a dedicated educator, helping to guide many young lives to successful adults! He sets the bar for good work. So many will remember him - he would be so proud

Barbara Smith - September 27, 2025 at 12:41 PM

TB

“*To my old friend Steve Graham my sincere condolences to you and your family. -Tim Brown.*

Tim Brown - September 26, 2025 at 10:08 AM

VS

“*Dear Janice, Sherry and I were extremely saddened to hear of Jerry's passing. We know he will be missed by you and all the family. You and the family are in our prayers. With deepest sympathy, Vicky Sparkman and Sherry Anderson*

Vicky Sparkman - September 25, 2025 at 06:52 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jerry Leon Graham.*



September 25, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“ *Jerry Graham was my principal at Miami High School and I have wonderful memories of his guidance and when I think of him I smile for the time we shared together. In your sorrow, may you hold close to all the gifts you received.*

patricia heck - September 24, 2025 at 07:01 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jerry Leon Graham.*

September 24, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jerry Leon Graham.*



September 24, 2025 at 11:14 AM