



Gerald Thomas Zengel

January 2, 1941 - January 19, 2023

Gerald (Gerry) Thomas Zengel, 82, passed away on 19 January 2023 near his home in Tallahassee, Florida, due to injuries received in an automobile crash. Gerry was born on 2 January 1941 in Dayton, Ohio, to George and Reba Zengel. He spent his earliest years growing up on small family farms outside Dayton until moving to Indian Rocks Beach, Florida near the age of 12. He graduated from Largo Senior High School in 1958. He briefly served in the U.S. Army and received an honorable discharge in 1960. He was married to Judith (Judy) Lee Koon of Largo, Florida in 1961 and they had two children together, Scott and Kyle. Gerry and Judy divorced in 1977 but remained family and friends for life. In 2003, Gerry married Carmen Estella (Stella) Adarmes of Cali, Colombia. They lived in Coral Springs, Florida and later in their retirement built a small farm together near Monticello, Florida before moving to nearby Tallahassee. They also established a “hacienda” together outside Cali known as Vista Verde, with magnificent gardens and fruit trees in the foothills of the Andes Mountains.

Gerry worked in the construction and building industry and held General Contracting and Real Estate Licenses in Florida and North Carolina. He started his career on a field survey crew doing boundary and topographic surveys in the then wilds of northern Pinellas County, Florida, frequently encountering chest deep swamps, alligators, and rattlesnakes, which was

great adventure. From there he worked his way up with roles ranging from field engineer to project manager to regional and division manager for major construction firms including the Continental Can Company (Construction Engineering Division), Federal Construction, J.A. Jones Construction, Tutor Perini Corporation (James A. Cummings Construction), and associated subsidiaries, rising to become the CEO and President of Tiber Construction in addition to serving in Senior Vice President, Vice President, and Project Executive roles. He also founded and operated his own firm, Gerald Zengel Construction in Jacksonville, Florida. He lived and traveled all over the country leading major building projects. His most well-known projects were in Florida, including the initial phase of the Sawgrass resort developments in Ponte Vedra Beach, home to professional golf tournaments, and the iconic Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort in Naples, which helped make Southwest Florida a world-renowned resort destination. One of the projects of which he was most proud was the Porter Center for Performing Arts at Brevard College in North Carolina, a state-of-the-art musical and theatrical performance venue with world-class acoustics. Though known as a hard-driving construction manager, Gerry most enjoyed mentoring and teaching young professionals. He was one of the most popular instructors in J.A. Jones' project management courses and also taught construction management as an adjunct lecturer at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

In addition to family and career pursuits, Gerry was a great sports enthusiast, including motorsports, and later in his middle age, he became a licensed competitive sports car driver. His favorite racecourse as a driver was Lime Rock Park in Connecticut; as a spectator he loved watching races and camping on the infield at Daytona International Speedway. Gerry's other interests included wood carving, painting, reading books and studying history, nature, and psychology, writing poetry and short stories, jogging, hiking, canoeing, boating, fishing, golfing, racquetball, snorkeling, SCUBA diving, and

riding motorcycles. He loved to explore the Everglades, Big Cypress, and Florida Keys, among other locations. Right up until his passing he was hiking several days a week on the Miccosukee Greenway near his home.

Gerry is survived by his wife Carmen (Stella) Zengel; his children Scott Zengel (wife Lori) of Tallahassee and Kyle Zengel of Clermont, Florida; three grandchildren, Michael, Zoey, and Bianca Zengel; and his sister Suzanne (husband, Larry) Mackert. Gerry was predeceased by three siblings, Robert, Murray, and Cynthia. Gerry will be cremated and his ashes scattered in undisclosed locations meaningful to him and his family. Donations in his name can be made to the National Wildlife Federation, <https://www.nwf.org/>.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Zengel family with their arrangements.

Tribute Wall

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Scott Zengel - March 15, 2023 at 12:04 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Bevis Funeral Home - March 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM