



## John "Jersey" Jermier

July 19, 1932 - April 12, 2025

John Allen "Jersey" Jermier, 92, of Cedar Falls, IA, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Saturday, April 12. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Joanne and their four children, John of Cape Coral, FL, Sara (Tim) Congrove of Lake Quivira, KS, Jim (Wendy) Jermier of Cedar Falls, IA, Steve (Lyndsy) of Norwalk, IA, daughter-in-law Sue Jermier of Cape Coral, FL, grandchildren Spencer, Zack, Chase and Maggie Congrove, Tyler, Hunter, Colton, River, Riley, Ryan, Allison and Sam Jermier, six great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews who adored him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Irene Jermier, siblings Dorothy Shahan, Kay Zanger, Don Jermier, Mike Jermier, and brothers and sisters-in-law Mel Shahan, Earl Zanger, Dale Groesbeck, Jean Groesbeck and Sharon Jermier and his great granddaughter, Maeve Congrove.

Jersey was born on July 19, 1932 in Charles City, IA to Irene and George Jermier. It was in Charles City that he met the love of his life Joanne Loye at the young age of 15 and they have been inseparable ever since.

Following graduation from Charles City High School, Jersey enlisted in the US Navy in October of 1950 where he served on the aircraft carrier USS Essex during the Korean War. Joanne later joined him in Bremerton, Washington where they were united in marriage on August 31, 1951 at Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Church. Jersey went on to proudly serve his country for four

years before being honorably discharged in 1954.

Following his service in the US Navy, Jersey and Joanne returned to Iowa where he went to work for Coca-Cola in Cedar Rapids before enrolling at Coe College on the GI Bill. He graduated summa cum laude from Coe in '58 and later earned his master's from the University of Iowa in 1965. Jersey was a multi-sport athlete, letterwinner and captain for the Kohawks, earning three letters in football and baseball and one in track. He was later inducted into the Coe College Athletics Hall of Fame. Following his graduation from Coe, Jersey went on to become the head football coach at Postville, IA. In Jersey's only season at Postville, he led the Pirates to an improbable conference championship.

The next year he returned to Coe as an assistant football and basketball coach. Jersey and Joanne welcomed their first son John to the family in 1961 while coaching at Coe. Jersey's journey took him to Wayne, NE as the head football and baseball coach at Wayne State College. While coaching at Wayne, Jersey and Joanne welcomed their daughter Sara to the family. Jersey had a stellar coaching career at Wayne State with multiple conference championships, including routing the vaunted Bill Parcells' defense at Hastings College. Jersey was later inducted into the Wayne State Hall of Fame for his success on the gridiron and diamond.

Jersey's coaching career continued at Colorado State University as linebacker's coach for the Rams. After 2 seasons at CSU, University of Iowa head football coach Frank Lauterbur recruited Jersey back to his home state to serve as the defensive line coach for the Hawkeyes. While in Iowa City, Jersey and Joanne welcomed their third child, Jim, in 1972. Jersey transitioned to athletic administration for the Hawkeyes at the request of Athletic Director, Bump Elliott in 1974. While serving as assistant athletic director at Iowa, he coordinated recruiting, was a key fundraiser for the

athletics department, and was instrumental in the creation of the I Club.

His prowess in public relations and fundraising got the attention of Kansas State University, where he was hired as the Director of Athletics in 1976. It was in Manhattan, Kansas, where Jersey and Joanne welcomed their fourth child, Steve, in 1977.

After his time in Manhattan, Jersey had a brief stint in the hotel industry. However, his heart was always in athletics and he returned to the profession in the spring of 1980, when Stan Sherriff recruited him to return to his home state to serve as associate athletics director at the University of Northern Iowa. At UNI, Jersey helped the athletic department make the transition from Division II to Division I. What Jersey originally thought would be a two year appointment turned into a relationship with UNI that spanned decades. He “semi” retired from UNI in 1997, but went on to serve the athletics department in different capacities until finally hanging up the cleats in the last two years. Later Jersey was inducted to the 2001 UNI Hall of Fame class.

Jersey was a friend to all who knew him, spanning the globe. He loved his family, friends, coaches, players, administrators and most of all, his wife of 73 years, Joanne. Jersey would be the first to tell you that he couldn't have accomplished everything in his career without Joanne, and their love for one another was inspirational.

Jersey and Joanne loved spending time with their grandchildren, whether it was first communions, graduations, sporting events or music just to name a few. They placed a high priority on family. Jersey loved to golf and there was never a dull moment with him on the course! His foot wedge, gentle “toss” out of the bunker, and teeing it up in front of the tee markers were the stuff of legend. He also enjoyed fishing, especially trips to SW Florida, Canada, Pool

9 on the Mississippi River, Martinson "Lake" and Waubay Lake, SD with their dear friends Jerry and Geraldine Martinson.

A mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10am Thursday, April 24, 2025, at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation will be from 3-6pm Wednesday, April 23 at Richardson Funeral Service in Cedar Falls, with a rosary at 2:30pm and a vigil to conclude the visitation. There will also be a visitation one hour prior to mass at church. Military honors provided by AmVets Post #49. Burial will take place in Calvary Cemetery in Charles City, Iowa. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to: Jersey Jermier Athletic Scholarship at UNI foundation, St Pats Catholic Church, Catholic Charities, or Cedar Valley Hospice.

If you were fortunate enough to know Jersey, you knew he was a friend to everyone he met. His stories and jokes were legendary. If you were a player, coach, administrator, friend, or family member, you know this world is a happier place because of his time here.

To view a collection of newspaper articles from Jersey's life, use the link below.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11ye5XfIZb\\_JB91v6KYcTvMz\\_3VhRXx2O/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11ye5XfIZb_JB91v6KYcTvMz_3VhRXx2O/view?usp=sharing)

# Previous Events

## Rosary

APR **23**. 2:30 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

## Visitation

APR **23**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Saint Patrick Catholic Church  
705 Main St  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

## Burial

APR **24**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Calvary Cemetery  
Charles City, IA

# Tribute Wall

RF

“ 1 file added to the album Jersey Jermier slideshow



RFS - April 24, 2025 at 03:41 PM

RF

“ 1 file added to the album Jersey Jermier Vigil



RFS - April 24, 2025 at 01:22 PM

TC

*Jersey Vigil*

tim congrove - April 11 at 03:19 PM

TJ

“ You were a legend. Everyone around you loved you so much and could listen to your stories forever. I couldn't wait for birthdays to hear you and grandma sing. There wasn't a time I could remember that you weren't smiling, laughing or cracking a joke. You were well respected throughout your entire life and accomplished more in one lifetime than many do in multiple. You lived a great long life with an amazing wife. Until we meet again Grandpa. I love you. Love Tyler

Tyler Jermier - April 23, 2025 at 03:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John "Jersey" Jermier.

April 22, 2025 at 01:03 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.



April 22, 2025 at 01:03 PM



“ Panther Men's Basketball purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.



**Panther Men's Basketball** - April 22, 2025 at 09:01 AM



“ Steve and Kristi Carew purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.



**Steve and Kristi Carew** - April 21, 2025 at 08:46 PM

LH

“ Lance and Karen Hanson purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.



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Lance and Karen Hanson - April 21, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.



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April 21, 2025 at 11:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John "Jersey" Jermier.

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April 21, 2025 at 10:08 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.



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April 21, 2025 at 10:08 AM

RM

“*Joanne and Family- Jersey was one of the first people in athletics I met when I came back to the Cedar Valley to work. My Dad- Dick Morris- and him were joined at the hip when it came to fundraising at UNI. Jersey was very nice to speak at Dick's funeral in September of 2008. He was one of a kind and as well known for that as anyone in the Cedar Valley. It was always a pleasure to run in to him and Joanne. He will be greatly missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers to all of you in his family. Rick and Debbie Morris*

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**Rick Morris** - April 18, 2025 at 07:14 PM

AS

“*We all are so saddened to hear of Coach's passing. I was on his team when he came to the University of Iowa for the 1971 season. It didn't take long for him to make a positive impression on all of us that year as we struggled through a tough first year together. Those of us on defense got to see him in action close up. He was a great coach and a wonderful man. May he rest in peace. God's blessings. Alan Schaefer*

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**Alan Schaefer** - April 17, 2025 at 07:40 PM

SJ

“*Sue, Tyler, and Hunter Jermier purchased the Ful I Of Love Bouquet for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.*



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**Sue, Tyler, and Hunter Jermier** - April 17, 2025 at 04:45 PM

AR

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Jermier family. Its hard to put into words how much we enjoyed seeing and chatting with Jersey the many times over the years since we moved to Cedar Falls, home of Deb's Alma Mater UNI. We shared so many wonderful stories of common acquaintances in the sports world. Jersey was indeed a kind, caring, and genuinely FUN person to be around. His life was Well Lived!! With so many fond memories of Jersey ... Al & Deb Reichow

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**Al & Deb Reichow** - April 16, 2025 at 10:11 AM

FS

“ Joanne and Family,

*My sincere sympathy to all of you at the death of "Jersey". I enjoyed my interactions with him in the years I was pastor at St. Patrick in Cedar Falls. I still have (and hang each Christmas) the tree ornament which wishes "Merry Christmas" in Czech which Jersey gave me.*

*I shall remember him in my prayers.*

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**Fr. Jim Secora** - April 16, 2025 at 12:16 AM

FP

“ From Dave Bross and Roger Parr purchased the Purple Violet Yellow Wildflower Mix (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.



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**From Dave Bross and Roger Parr** - April 15, 2025 at 05:35 PM

CB

“ Charles B. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Jersey" Jermier.

Charles B. - April 15, 2025 at 04:26 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.



April 15, 2025 at 03:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John "Jersey" Jermier.

April 15, 2025 at 03:25 PM

JM

“ Jersey, there are so many people around the world that are going to really miss you. I wear my Panther gear a lot and therefore often run across people who know you. I loved dialing you up and listening to them talk to you. They were so excited. I still remember your first football recruit for KS, George, that I met in AZ. I loved talking golf with you, but now that I know you are famous for a foot wedge, I'm scaling down my judgement about your game! I'll really miss you at New Aldaya on Friday nights. Ollie, Sue and I would try to sit in the same room as you so we could give each other crap. I kept up pretty good with you didn't I? I especially loved it when I talked you into dancing with me. You didn't last the whole song on our last dance. I wondered then if it would be our last. I hoped it wasn't. I'm going to miss you because you were always fun and just real.

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**Jeanette Marsh** - April 15, 2025 at 02:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.



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April 15, 2025 at 01:12 PM

LS

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Jersey...One of Fitzies (Tom Fitzgerald) best friends. They are now back together after 20 years! My most sincere condolences to Joanne and J erseys family especially their children. Jim and Steve who we knew best remember all the stories you heard from your Dad and Fitz. There were certainly alot of them.

Give my love to your Mom.

Leslie Fitzgerald Short

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**Leslie Fitzgerald Short** - April 14, 2025 at 08:55 PM

MB

“ *Megan Ramspott and Jennifer Burgfechtel purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John "Jersey" Jermier.*



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**Megan Ramspott and Jennifer Burgfechtel** - April 14, 2025 at 05:12 PM

JB

“ *Guess no one ever thought he would really be gone! I'm not sure I ever knew his real full name. As Bob Bowsby always said, there were only three people who were ever known by just their first name: Jesus, Elvis and Jersey. He was one of a kind for sure and will be missed by many. Prayers for God's strength and comfort for Joanne and the entire family.*

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**Joyce Barbatti** - April 14, 2025 at 04:28 PM

TH

*Dad's never really pass away, They just rise above for a better view. Should you find there's something more you want to share or say, Pray...*

*God promises he will hear you.*

*Dad's never really pass away, They just rise above for a better view! God bless your Dad, amd Your Family...keep making him proud...*

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**Todd Helmsin** - April 15, 2025 at 10:50 AM

NJ

“ *I will always consider Jersey one of my mentors. He always supported me in a world populated mostly by men and helped me get through some of my most difficult career times. I loved his stories and took his advice to heart ❤️. Am so grateful to have had him and Joanne in my life. Jersey definitely will keep Heaven on its toes and in laughter.*

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**Nancy Justis** - April 14, 2025 at 02:39 PM

DV

“ I am so saddened to learn of Jersey's passing. Like so, so many will share, Jersey was a terrific guy and a wonderful Athletics administrator at the University of Northern Iowa. I feel fortunate to have worked with such an incredible man. He will be missed but remembered with great fondness. Prayers to his family.

-deb vangellow  
Class of 1986

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**Deb Vangellow** - April 14, 2025 at 02:09 PM

DF

I came to Wayne State from Chicago to play football for coach. I never knew anyone who could motivate me more than coach. After playing 4 years under his direction I became a much better person than I thought possible.

God bless the coach and his family!!

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**Darrell (Illinois) Fenton** - April 15, 2025 at 02:04 PM

RS

“ Oh so sad to hear. Jersey was my football coach in Postville. He was the best. Last saw him when he came to 50th class reunion in 2010. Prayers to the family.

Ron schara class of 1960.

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**ron schara** - April 14, 2025 at 01:32 PM

DB

Jersey was the main reason I went to Wayne State in 1964. Although I was not big ,He gave me a chance to show what I could do. Loved the guy. Great Coach , and person.

Dave Bross class of 1967

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**Dsve Bross** - April 15, 2025 at 04:52 PM

PL

*Joanne, I am so sorry for your loss. We used to take lunch breaks together at PCHC when it was in the NW Bell Bldg. I remember your stories about Jersey, and about your grandson Spencer (if my memory serves me, he was your only grandchild at that time). My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this sad time. May God bless you all. Paula Lamphier*

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**Paula Lamphier** - April 17, 2025 at 07:27 AM