



Gerald Francis Houle

August 29, 1937 - October 24, 2025

Gerald Francis (Jerry) Houle was born on August 29, 1937 in Williston, North Dakota, the second of seven children born to John (Jack) and Mildred (Carson) Houle. He graduated from Williston High School in 1955. On December 30, 1961, he married Edith Olson in Williston.

Jerry graduated from North Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy in 1962 and was a 50-year, lifetime member of the North Dakota Pharmaceutical Association. He did his pharmacy internships at Irgens Drug in Williston and at San Carlos Pharmacy in San Jose California. He had the privilege of serving as master of ceremonies for the President's Banquet at seven State Pharmacy Conventions.

He and Ede moved to Beach in 1962, where he worked for Steve Sleight at Sleight's City Drug. In 1966, he purchased the business and it became Houle's City Drug in "downtown metropolitan Beach, North Dakota." He was also the consulting pharmacist for Golden Valley County Hospital. He sold the business to White Drug in 1990 and then worked in their Glendive, Montana store. Prior to his retirement in 2003, he also worked for F&G Pharmacy in Glendive and for New Salem Pharmacy.

Jerry was very active in business and civic organizations and was master of ceremonies for a number of local talent and variety shows. He served on the Golden Valley County Fair Board and the Beach Park Board. In the early 1960's, he was a member of the Beach Roping Club, participating in "tie-down" team roping. He was crowned Miss Golden Valley County in the early

1970's, edging out Don "Fats" Abernethy for the title.

He took a year off from the pharmacy and helped Vince Nistler build his home in the country. Vince gave him the "opportunity" to hand trowel concrete for 44 steel bins. While working in New Salem, he spent weekends working with Marman Construction, where he did carpentry, brick work, rock work, concrete work, block masonry and water and sewer. After his retirement from pharmacy, he worked at Smith Creek Ranch and Sperry Horse Ranch. He was involved in fencing, corral building and general ranch maintenance. While working for Sperry's, he traveled with Robert to horse shows in Indianapolis, St. Paul Horsefest, North Dakota Winter Show, Minot, Bowman and Glendive. He maintained the "Booth" while Robert competed in the shows. He also rode "shotgun" for Paul Schmitz, delivering lumber for Prairie Lumber Company throughout southwest North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. In this capacity, he sampled caramel rolls in most of the regional dining establishments. He also hand crafted 44 signs from railroad ties for various area ranches, most of which can be seen while traveling north of Beach on Highway 16. He retired completely in 2018.

Despite never playing high school or college sports, he was very active in amateur sports. He played and sponsored or coached amateur softball, basketball, football, sand volleyball, team penning, "c' boy polo," a row-ride-run event, and broomball. At age 50, he took up ice hockey. He enjoyed downhill, cross-country and waterskiing. He also played some golf and tennis. Despite only playing a very leaky, soldered, rented baritone for one year and being proudly unable to read music, he organized and played bass drum in the Golva-Beach Precision All Clown Marching Band. They marched in parades in Beach, Golva and the State Finance Convention in Medora. At the Beach 75th reunion, they marched and played a concert in Railroad Park. He was also a founding member, along with Kent Olson and Bernie and Melissa Schillo, of the Beaver Creek Dance Band. They played on weekends for several years. Jerry played drums, stand-up bass, electric bass and trash can bass. He also played with a spin-off band, Alkali Flats. They played at

weddings, anniversaries, reunions and summer weekends on the patio at Buffalo Gap Guest Ranch west of Medora.

Jerry died peacefully, at home, October 24, 2025. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ede (Olson) Houle, his daughter Cathy (Todd) Shirek of Hettinger, North Dakota and their children Michael and Emily, and his son Mike (Sona) Houle of Bismarck, North Dakota and their children Megan, Hannah, and Davis. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, in-laws and a wide circle of friends.

And the “drugstore c’ boy” rode away.

Silha Funeral Home of Beach has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 8. 10:30 AM (MT)

Beach Community Center
153 Main Street
Beach, ND 58621

Tribute Wall

JK

“ Justin and Kiffin Kohanes lit a candle in memory of Gerald Houle



Justin and Kiffin Kohanes - November 07, 2025 at 11:37 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Gerald Francis Houle.



November 06, 2025 at 10:27 PM

DA

“ Dan, Suzi, Jon, Jeb, Ashley purchased the Count ry Basket Blooms for the family of Gerald Francis Houle.



Dan, Suzi, Jon, Jeb, Ashley - November 06, 2025 at 10:06 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald Francis Houle.



November 06, 2025 at 09:46 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gerald Francis Houle.*



November 03, 2025 at 10:23 AM



“ *Kymberley Allen lit a candle in memory of Gerald Houle*



Kymberley Allen - November 03, 2025 at 05:14 AM



“ *Eyes on Bismarck purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Gerald Francis Houle.*



Eyes on Bismarck - November 01, 2025 at 05:58 PM



“ *Dr.Houle and family, so sorry to read of your dads passing, u r all in our prayers*

Larry and Kathy Steiner - November 01, 2025 at 05:10 PM

MF

“ Mike and Julie McIntee family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Gerald Francis Houle.



Mike and Julie McIntee family - October 31, 2025 at 05:13 PM

TJ

“ Robin and I are sending our condolences, we were so sad to hear of Jerry's passing. We both have so so many memories of Jerry. He was such an asset to the Beach community. I do think that when Jerry stopped joining in on all the activities our town of Beach definitely wasn't as fun anymore , He just was such a character in everything he did. I'm sure there are lots of stories to be told. Rest in peace now Jerry, he's telling his stories in heaven now 🙏

Toni Jandt - October 29, 2025 at 06:35 PM

DO

The sadness of learning of Jerry moving on to the next show was so quickly replaced with smiles and chuckles, remembering the the fun and energy he infused into all he came in contact with. Imagining Heaven is laughing more with Jerry's arrival. What a great soul, and truly one of a kind.
Darin Ordahl

Darin Ordahl - November 08, 2025 at 11:12 PM

JA

“ Dr. Houle and family - you have my deepest sympathy on the loss of you dad. Treasure your memories as they will help you through the days ahead. Hugs!!! Juanita Aase

Juanita Aase - October 29, 2025 at 05:38 PM

RL

“ Rob and Kara Lund lit a candle in memory of Gerald Houle



Rob and Kara Lund - October 29, 2025 at 01:43 PM

ML

“ To the family of Gerald Houle you have my sincere sympathy
May he Rest In Peace

maurice Lardy - October 28, 2025 at 06:22 PM

LB

“ Our thoughts & prayers go out to you all! I have so many fond memories of Jerry, flipping pancakes on the chuck wagon, team penning, Halloween costumes, branding, trail drive through Sentinel Butte, working on the Ponderosa with so many people who have gone before us, Houle's City Drug, pouring concrete in my backyard (Houle told Ede that I talk to my dogs like they were people! LOL), the many stories & all of the visits throughout the years. Years ago when I rolled my Dad's four wheeler & ended up in the hospital Houle told me that I should have stuck to horses! The memories of Jerry are too many to list.
Jerry has left behind a beautiful family & our thoughts and prayers for healing go out to them!

Lori Brown - October 28, 2025 at 08:01 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald Francis Houle.*



October 28, 2025 at 01:44 AM



“ *Dawn and Mark Egan lit a candle in memory of Gerald Houle*



Dawn and Mark Egan - October 27, 2025 at 10:02 PM



“ *We have too many memories to share on here. Can't pick out a favorite because they are all priceless. Drug store, Parades, chuck wagons, moving the cabin twice. Jerry was a busy guy who could get anyone to help with his dreams and the stories that followed were the best. He has the sweetest family that had to shake their heads many times. Sending our love and prayers to all!*

Janel Ordahl - October 27, 2025 at 03:09 PM



“ *Janel Ordahl lit a candle in memory of Gerald Houle*



Janel Ordahl - October 27, 2025 at 02:59 PM

MA

“ *Marian A. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald Francis Houle.*

Marian A. - October 27, 2025 at 01:26 PM

SD

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Houle family especially Edie whose caring and compassion knows no bounds. May our Good Lord grant you peace.*

Sharon Dietz - October 26, 2025 at 02:05 PM