



Gerald Eugene Kollman

May 19, 1941 - February 24, 2026

Gerald (Jerry) Eugene Kollman passed away in East Norriton PA, after a long illness. Born in Charles City IA on May 19, 1941, he was the son of Melvin and Sara Kollman.

Jerry grew up on a farm in Rockford Iowa. He graduated from Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock High School in 1959 before earning a degree in Pharmacology from the University of Iowa in the early 1960s. After graduation he married Hazel Kathleen (Katie) Ward with whom he had two children. They were married for twenty-five years.

After getting married and working in a small-town pharmacy for a short time, Jerry went back to graduate school at Iowa State University where he earned his PhD in Botany. Although he moved away from Iowa after graduate school, Jerry was a lifelong, proud Iowan.

Jerry worked for the Rohm & Haas company as a research scientist for almost 30 years. He travelled widely as a part of his job including living in Nairobi Kenya for three years with his family in the 1980s—a time he described as the most interesting of his life—and moving to London for two years in the early 1990s. Jerry settled in the Philadelphia suburbs after returning from London and remained in the area until his death.

After he retired in early 2000s Jerry and his partner, Karen, lived an active life travelling, kayaking, cross-country skiing, snorkelling, and going to concerts and music festivals. Keeping up with him during these years was a challenge.

Jerry's German-Iowan upbringing instilled him with a certain amount of stubbornness and frugality which were mixed with generosity and a warm sense of humor. He will be greatly missed for all these attributes (although perhaps not all in equal measure). He was known by many titles, but perhaps most fondly as "the silly grandpa who walks backwards".

Jerry is survived by his son, Craig; daughter, Kelly; his partner, Karen Skumanich; his two grandchildren, Riley and Emma and two nephews, Christopher and Mark. He was preceded in death by his father, Melvin; his mother, Sara and his brother Ron.

As per Jerry's wishes there will not be a funeral. We hope this written memorial helps those who knew him to remember him fondly and to share their own memories of him.

Tribute Wall



“ I knew Jerry briefly back in the mid 80’s and remember that he was as generous and kind as the day is long. His was a life well lived and my faith tells that he was received with open arms as he began the next journey he so richly deserved. Gary Grove, Richland, WA

Gary Grove - April 06 at 06:35 PM

RB

“ I just learned of of Jerry's passing today. He was good classmate and a better friend! I enjoyed knowing him. Richard Baird. Class of 1959

Richard Baird - April 06 at 04:34 PM

PC

“ Here is a photo of Jerry and his long term partner, Karen. He loved that shirt. He and Karen were enjoying listening to the local musicians at the Collingswood farmer’s market. They really enjoyed going to local music concerts in the area and traveling.



Phil and Connie - March 16 at 05:18 AM

GC

“Gerry and I were co-workers at Rohm and Haas for about 20 years and good friends for about 40. At work, Gerry played a key role in the development of many Rohm and Haas products. He was a great guy to work with. As friends, we shared many common interests: tennis, hiking, biking, canoeing, good food, and an occasional beer or two. I and my wife Kathy will miss him very much.

GLENN CARLSON - March 11 at 11:54 AM

KC

*He was a good guy. We will miss him.
Kathryn Carlson*

Kathryn G Carlson - March 11 at 09:07 PM

MC

“I worked on and off with Gerry for most of my career with Rohm and Haas. Wonderful dedicated and diligent scientist. In his last assignment he did critical research on a wonderful technology that was also my last assignment.

Michael Castagner - March 08 at 09:22 PM

DS

“I had the pleasure of working with Gerry at Rohm and Haas. He was always intelligent and fun and a scientist, who followed the data to make practical recommendations. BLAZER and BASAGRAN herbicides combined with 10-34-0 (a common fertilizer) was a wonderful combination Gerry developed for Midwestern soybean growers that provided them with an economical and effective treatment. My deepest condolences. David Sutton

David Sutton - March 08 at 07:25 PM

KW

“ Jerry was great to spend time with. He was a ‘doer’, often on the move after other people had worn out, and was biking and kayaking into his 80s. Jerry was interested in and curious about people and the world – music, travel, books, films, history and politics and was a great person to have a conversation with about any and all of those things. He was smart and unpretentious which I suspect is a Kollman family combination. My memory is that he and I almost always agreed about politics and of course I thought he had real insight.

Jerry was generous and made possible some amazing family trips to the Scottish Highlands, the Shenandoah mountains and Amish areas in Pennsylvania that I was very pleased to be a part of. I always looked forward to Christmas at his place, including the family disputes about the proper way to cook various parts of Christmas dinner – and his creative approaches to food storage afterwards. I will miss him.

Karen W (partner of Kelly)

Karen Wright - March 08 at 04:49 PM

RK

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Riley Kollman - March 07 at 07:14 PM

CK

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Craig Kollman - March 07 at 03:31 PM

CK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Craig Kollman - March 07 at 03:00 PM

CK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Craig Kollman - March 07 at 02:56 PM

KK

“ My condolences to Jerry's family. He was an energetic traveler and led a long and interesting life. His time in Africa with his family was an adventurous never to be forgotten experience for all. I will miss him.

Katie Kollman

Katie Kollman - March 07 at 12:57 PM

KW

“ Remembering and celebrating so many fun times with Jerry and the family! One of our favorites was sharing his specialty - Fried Dill Pickles! We extend our sympathies to Craig, Kelly, Karen, Riley, Emma, Nichole and the family and friends who will miss his energetic presence.



Kathelen Fox Weinberg - March 07 at 09:12 AM

CP

“ I have known Jerry for over 20 years thru my friendship of his partner, Karen. Jerry was a warm , smart , engaging, thoughtful person. We enjoyed sharing time with him and Karen at the local farmer's market and music events. Always enjoyed hearing about his travels around the world and kayaking locally. He will be missed. ☐💙



Connie and Phil - March 06 at 08:41 PM

CK

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Craig Kollman - March 06 at 06:48 PM

CK

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Craig Kollman - March 06 at 04:37 PM

CK

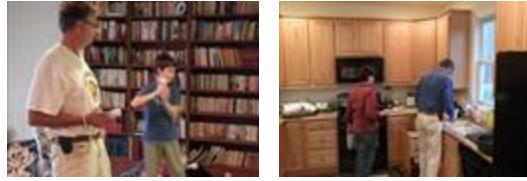
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Craig Kollman - March 06 at 04:30 PM

CK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Craig Kollman - March 06 at 04:24 PM

CK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Craig Kollman - March 06 at 04:22 PM

CK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Craig Kollman - March 06 at 04:17 PM

CK

“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



Craig Kollman - March 06 at 04:12 PM

CK

“ 4 files added to the album jerry



Craig Kollman - March 06 at 04:01 PM