



Gerald Dean Birkelbach

May 7, 1955 - February 18, 2021

Funeral services for Gerald Birkelbach, 65 of Giddings, are scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2021 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings with Rev. Robert Tiner officiating. The service will be livestreamed on the church's website www.ilgtx.com or the church's Facebook page. Burial will follow in the Giddings City Cemetery. Due to the current COVID 19 pandemic, wearing of masks and social distancing is recommended. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Monday, February 22, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. The family will be present for visitation Sunday evening from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Gerald Dean Birkelbach was born on May 7, 1955 in La Grange, Texas to Edwin Birkelbach Jr. and Gladys Pauline (Polasek) Birkelbach. He was baptized when he was a few weeks old at the Lutheran Church in Holman, Texas by Rev. Adolph Janda and confirmed on March 30, 1969 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings by Rev. Emil Kruegler. His confirmation verse was Luke 11:28, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." Gerald attended Immanuel Lutheran School in Giddings and graduated from Giddings High School in 1973. He was united in marriage to Sharon (Schatte) Lehmann on June 24, 1995 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Round Top, Texas by Rev. Wilburn Michalk.

While still in high school, Gerald began working for Hershel Doyle at the City Meat Market in Giddings. In 1982, Gerald bought the City Meat Market as well as the Doyle Processing Plant and continued to own and operate it for over 40 years up until his death. City Meat Market was his life's passion. Beginning at 3:00 every morning, he gave everything he had to build it into what it is today. Known not only for his state and national award winning barbeque, he will be remembered for his caring nature, constant smile, the way he knew most of his customers by name, how he thought of his employees more like family, and his generous and giving spirit. Nearly every area church, civic organization, and volunteer fire department has benefited from his giving nature. When time allowed, he and Sharon enjoyed traveling and attending concerts. Always a country boy at heart, he loved the outdoors and hunting, usually from his back porch. A loving husband and devoted father and grandfather (Pops), Gerald loved being with his family on his little "ranch" and taking the grandkids fishing, swimming, and riding the ATV.

"You always made my troubles feel so small.
And you were always there to catch me when I'd fall
In a world where heroes come and go, well God just took the only one I
know..."

Gerald passed away unexpectedly the morning of Thursday, February 18, 2021 at St. Mark's Medical Center in La Grange after suffering a massive heart attack at his home.

"I didn't know today would be our last. Or that I'd have to say goodbye to you
so fast
I'm so numb, I can't feel anymore. Prayin' you'd just walk back through that
door
And tell me that I was only dreamin'. You're not really gone as long as I
believe."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin Jr. & Gladys Birkelbach and his parents-in-law, Louis Sr. & Thelma Schatte.

Gerald is survived by his wife, Sharon Birkelbach of Giddings; four children, Justin Birkelbach of Giddings, Brooke Kovar & her husband, Chris of Giddings, Jared Lehmann & his wife, Ashley of Kerrville and Jonathan Lehmann & his wife, Jordan of Cedar Park; eight grandchildren, Avery Davis, Andrew Davis & Whit Kovar all of Giddings, Jacynn Lehmann, Jacey Lehmann & Jordyn Lehmann all of Cedar Park and Zoe Saldana & Brandon Lehmann both of Kerrville; two sisters, Brenda Bethke & her husband, Johnny of Magnolia and Connie Tomaszewski & her husband, Richard of Hockley as well as several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Justin Birkelbach, J.W. Bethke, Jared Lehmann, Jonathan Lehmann, Chris Kovar, Louis Schatte Jr. and Joseph Tomaszewski. Honorary pallbearers will be Ricky Schueler, Izea East, Manuel Roberson, Kendrick Robinson, Ken Arldt, Mark Goodson, Ernie Voight, Terry Floyd, Mike Maass, Gary Pietsch, Tootsie Tomanetz, Roy Lee Gentry, Reese Goebel, Amy "Doc" Kasprisin, Mario Rodea, Frank Rodea, Jimbo Gentry, Aron V. Marek, Ken Schatte, Ben Schatte, Tom Schatte, David Schatte, and Fritz Kieschnick.

"God must need another angel, Around the throne tonight
Your love lives on inside of me, And I will hold on tight
It's not my place to question, Only God knows why
I'm just jealous of the angels, Around the throne tonight."

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings or to the charity of one's choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 21. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings
3950 East Austin St.
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-3113
phillipsluckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Family Present for Visitation

FEB 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings
3950 East Austin St.
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-3113
phillipsluckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Visitation

FEB 22. 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings
3950 East Austin St.
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-3113
phillipsluckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Tribute Wall

PB

“ For over 30 years, whenever I was traveling through with friends and family; first from Houston, and later years visiting from metro NY, we would always stop at the City Market for lunch. Not only to enjoy the great food but the warm friendly atmosphere....and God bless Gerald - he always remembered us (even as we aged over 30 years!) with a genuinely warm smile and a personal hello. He brought joy to so many....near and far; what a wonderful and priceless legacy. I will say Kaddish for his kind and loving soul.

Peter Bertash - April 06, 2021 at 02:22 PM

RW

“ I remember Gerald as a genuinely friendly man with a wholehearted laugh. When I would stay with my grandparents, Lilly & Hershel Doyle, they would always drop by the Meat Market to get bread and cold cuts, and Gerald would make a point to come out to say hello. He was always behind the counter when we would go to pick up hot guts and brisket as far back as I can remember in the early 90s, and all the way through the last few years when I would stop in on my way through town. Gerald was a good man who always had a big smile and a warm greeting, and he personified the Giddings community.

Robert Wilson - March 04, 2021 at 11:18 AM

PM

“ So sorry for your loss. Gerald was always friendly. He and my husband would joke and laugh every time we would go to the meat market for BBQ.



Peggy Morrison - February 28, 2021 at 06:23 AM

Janice
Becker

“ *Janice Becker lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Janice Becker - February 24, 2021 at 09:07 PM

DB

“ *Gerald was a delightful person in high school and adult life. I enjoyed talking with him when returning home to visit. He was always kind and thoughtful to my parents, prior to there passing. His passing will be a huge loss to his family, friends, and the Lee County community.* 🙏🙏🙏

Debra Dibble Boone - February 24, 2021 at 01:38 AM

MS

“ *Marilyn Schautschick lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Marilyn Schautschick - February 22, 2021 at 11:40 PM

CS

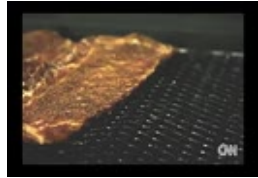
“ *Cheryl Sanders lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Cheryl Sanders - February 22, 2021 at 09:32 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dan Carter - February 22, 2021 at 03:23 PM

DC

Remember when Gerald was featured by CNN not all that long ago? City Meat Market of Giddings, Texas! He was a friend to so many. Thanks for all the hometown hospitality shown by Gerald, Sharon, Justin, Brooke, Jonathan, Jared, and the entire family over the years. Rest in Peace...

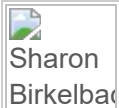
Dan Carter & Suzanna Schatte Carter"

Dan Carter - February 22, 2021 at 05:06 PM

KS

Truth! Hadn't seen that video before - when was it aired? And thanks for sharing.

Kenneth Schatte - February 24, 2021 at 06:33 AM



Thank you Dan Carter

Sharon Birkelbach - March 06, 2021 at 10:37 AM



“ *Darlene Hosea Oltmann sent a virtual gift in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Darlene Hosea Oltmann - February 22, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 22, 2021 at 02:50 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*



Brandy Gunter - February 22, 2021 at 01:37 PM



“ *The market crew from years back will be rejoicing and welcoming Gerald to heaven. There have been so many friendly people who worked at City Meat Market and Gerald carried on the tradition with his dedication to the job and service to the community. He will be missed but not forgotten. His family and all his friends are blessed to have known him. There will be many happy stories to tell about the adventures at City Meat Market. I hope the good memories bring peace and comfort to everyone who has known Gerald.*



Barbara Doyle Wilson - February 22, 2021 at 11:30 AM

SW

“ Our deepest sympathy. Sheila and Charles Wadlington (Breadman)



Sheila Wadlington - February 21, 2021 at 11:49 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.



February 21, 2021 at 10:46 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.



February 21, 2021 at 10:08 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.



February 21, 2021 at 07:54 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 21, 2021 at 07:04 PM



“ *Michelle M Schuetz lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Michelle M Schuetz - February 21, 2021 at 05:02 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - February 21, 2021 at 04:32 PM



Thanks to both Kenneth Schatte and Phillips & Luckey for this great collaboration in memory of Gerald. Much appreciated!

Dan Carter - February 23, 2021 at 09:13 AM

RC

“ I have been going to that meat market since I was a little girl in the 50's when the Doyle's owned it. Gerald Birkelbach did a great job in continuing to keep it going and making that wonderful bbq. My last time there was in January on my way to Houston when I stopped and ate some of his wonderful ribs. He stopped briefly at my table to ask if everything was OK. When my sister was living, she would drive from Houston to buy his bbq chicken to take back to Houston for her Easter dinner.

I'm glad he was able to see the neat mural on the side of the building.

The entire community has suffered a huge loss.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Ruth Graeter Crouch

Bulverde, Texas

Ruth Crouch - February 21, 2021 at 04:13 PM

PH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - February 21, 2021 at 03:22 PM

EW

“ Dear Sharon,
So sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.
Edith Wieder

Edith M Wieder - February 21, 2021 at 01:34 PM

HS

“ We have lost a part of Giddings with this loss. I pray everyone can step back and see that Gerald was the kind of person we should all strive to be as we walk this life. His memory will live on by that example as so many of us didn't even know him personally. We are lifting this family up in prayer as we know the pain is great. Hugs to all.
Hope and Heath Siegmund.

Hope Siegmund - February 21, 2021 at 10:28 AM

CM

“ Our hearts and prayers go out to Gerald's family. We will never forget how much love he showed to everyone in our community. For some reason I just love remembering him saying my name. I appreciated how he made me feel and admired him so much for his hard hard work and wonderfully delicious BBQ. We will all miss him so much!

Christie Mitschke - February 21, 2021 at 03:34 AM

TM

“ Troy And Christie Mitschke lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach



Troy and Christie Mitschke - February 21, 2021 at 03:28 AM

BK

“ Our Deepest Sympathy.

Billie and Deloris Koehl - February 20, 2021 at 10:32 PM

SN

“ *Sheila Nunes lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Sheila Nunes - February 20, 2021 at 09:30 PM



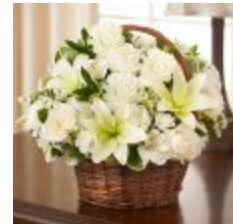
“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 20, 2021 at 07:49 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 20, 2021 at 05:29 PM

JF

“ *Gerald has always been such a great business man. I always called and ordered cheese, he always managed to get it in time. Of course, there was always a joke when you would ask about your order, like the delivery didn't make it. He will be greatly missed.*

Jerry and Carolyn Faske and family from - February 20, 2021 at 04:17 PM

VF

“ Violet Frosch lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach



Violet Frosch - February 20, 2021 at 04:17 PM

RR

“ He was always very helpful to the Ledbetter VFD. He will be missed by many of the Ledbetter VFD. always a great place to have lunch in Giddings, TX.

Our prays go out to Family and Friends.

Rodney R. Read - February 20, 2021 at 03:24 PM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.



February 20, 2021 at 01:35 PM

BG

“ Barbara Schkade Gomez lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach



Barbara Schkade Gomez - February 20, 2021 at 12:54 PM

JD

“ Sharon. Our deepest sympathy to you on the loss of Gerald. May God Bless you and be with you and comfort you at this time.

Jerrell & Oranell Dunk - February 20, 2021 at 12:14 PM

RS

“ Rebecca Sherrill lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach



Rebecca Sherrill - February 20, 2021 at 10:04 AM



“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.



February 20, 2021 at 09:59 AM

GH

“ My sympathy to the family

*Gloria Hickey
Round Top*

Gloria Hickey - February 20, 2021 at 08:54 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 20, 2021 at 07:48 AM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 20, 2021 at 03:23 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jennifer P Gault - February 19, 2021 at 11:28 PM



“ *Dale&Lisa Belmont&Family lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Dale&Lisa Belmont&Family - February 19, 2021 at 11:08 PM

DN

“ *Our sincere condolences for your loss, the family is in our thoughts and prayers.*

Darrel & Vickie Neutzler - February 19, 2021 at 09:10 PM

WD

“ *Walter Dube lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Walter Dube - February 19, 2021 at 07:38 PM

BF

“ *Our sincere condolences to Mr. Birkelbach's family. Only knew him through getting our hogs processed and their unique & delicious sausage BBQ, never found any sausage like that anywhere else. Pray for peace, comfort & strength for his family and may he rest in the peace & comfort of our Lord & Savior in heaven*

Bradley Loehr Family - February 19, 2021 at 06:53 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 19, 2021 at 06:37 PM

BP

“ Your friends from the McDade Watermelon Festival Association send our sympathy to Gerald’s family & friends on your tremendous loss of him.
Gerald was very helpful in many ways for our Festival food needs.
We will miss him too.

Betty Pohler - February 19, 2021 at 05:42 PM

RF

“ Rocky Rhodes & Carlos Garcia Families purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.



Rocky Rhodes & Carlos Garcia Families - February 19, 2021 at 05:10 PM



“ Healing Tears - Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.



February 19, 2021 at 04:26 PM

JP

“ I’m shocked to discover Gerald’s passing. I’ll miss him and our banter whenever I came by for his super BBQ. My condolences to his family.

John Pieratt - February 19, 2021 at 03:17 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 19, 2021 at 03:10 PM



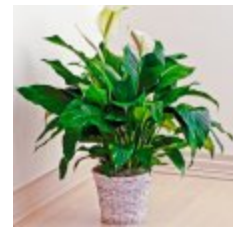
“ *Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 19, 2021 at 02:34 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 19, 2021 at 02:09 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I always looked forward to seeing him on my periodic visits to the City Meat Market in Giddings. Members of his family have my deepest sympathies.*

Dan Beto - February 19, 2021 at 01:19 PM

JW

“ We will always remember Gerald for so many reasons. Sense of humor being one of the best memories. His way of saying “aw Red” and we would have a good laugh about it. His help with anything our town needed. The donations he made to the different service groups in town always willing to help. Our condolences to Sharon, Justin, Brooke, sisters and other family member and of course Joyce. Go rest high Gerald. You deserve a rest with our Lord and Savior love to all. Janis “Red” and Quatie Wolfshohl

Janis and Quatie Wolfshohl - February 19, 2021 at 01:09 PM

HR

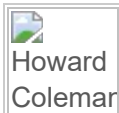
I've been a patron/customer of The City Meat Market for 50 plus years...When anyone would say anything about Giddings, Texas His Famous City Meat Market...His Remarkably Delicious Barbecue and The kind hospitality shown to all who came...and He was the driving force of the Spirit of Giddings Texas...He will be missed...not forgotten....

Homer R.Thompson - February 19, 2021 at 02:29 PM

CR

*We were sorry to hear about Gerald. We loved going there and talking and kidding with him. He will be missed by everyone.
Love ya man.
Calvin and Lil Robertson*

calvin and lil robertson - February 19, 2021 at 04:02 PM



Howard
Colemar

We will miss Gerald. He was friendly & had great barbecue skills!

Howard Coleman - February 20, 2021 at 03:59 AM

CM

“ Prayers for family of GERALD. So sorry to hear this! My whole family thought a lot of Gerald. Many prayers.



cotton & suzanna medack - February 19, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.



February 19, 2021 at 11:20 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss.
Love,
David, Carol and Christopher Schulz



Carol Schulz - February 19, 2021 at 11:18 AM

CC

“ Gerald will always have a special place in my heart & memories. When I moved to Giddings in my freshman year of high school, he was one of the first people to volunteer to show me around. He always had a smile and kind word for everyone. May God shine his light upon you and help you through the days ahead. CC



Cyndi Cheney - February 19, 2021 at 10:34 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 19, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ *Sandra Harzke lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Sandra Harzke - February 19, 2021 at 09:45 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald Dean Birkelbach.*



February 19, 2021 at 09:36 AM



“ *Gerald, you were a strong and stoic man, a great brother-in-law, a good husband to my sister, and had the best barbeque in Lee County and beyond! You and your shop were, and will remain, legendary. Until we meet again, you will be greatly missed.*
--Kenneth and Constance Schatte

Kenneth Constance Schatte - February 19, 2021 at 08:25 AM

AS

“ Sharon and family, our hearts are saddened for you at your sudden loss. We are praying for you all during this difficult time.



Alan and Crystal Smith - February 19, 2021 at 12:34 AM

PM

“ Peggy Morrison lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach

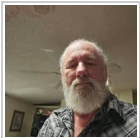


Peggy Morrison - February 18, 2021 at 11:56 PM

SB

“ I am so sorry to hear about Gerald. He was such a nice person and always had a smile and a word for you anytime you seen him.

shelia billig - February 18, 2021 at 11:50 PM



“ Gerald took me under his wing, I learned the trade. He was a friend, a man who helped me for as long as he could. He will always be on my mind as he always has been. To the Birkelbach family my condolences and prayers, you are in my heart.

Dwayne Colley - February 18, 2021 at 11:07 PM

MS

“ Gerald was a great man, my condolences to the family.



Marilyn Schautschick - February 18, 2021 at 10:39 PM

KP

“ Ken Debbie Perry lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach



Ken Debbie Perry - February 18, 2021 at 07:34 PM

RS

“ Sharon...I'm so sorry regarding Gerald's passing. I don't have the words. I know your heart is broken in two, as is mine just not to the same degree I'm sure. Since I found out just not even a 1/2 hour ago I'm heart broken. I can't imagine your sorrow. God bless you as I'm sure your strong faith will see you through. Sharon...I Love you...
Richard and Lori Kay

Richard Wieder Sr. - February 18, 2021 at 07:23 PM

SB

A good man and a good friend to everyone.

Sandy Brown - February 19, 2021 at 09:35 AM

GM

We were sorry to hear of Gerald's passing. Please know that our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this difficult time. We will miss Gerald greatly when we go into City Meat Market. He was always so upbeat and friendly.

George and Patty Miller - February 19, 2021 at 11:32 PM

GK

“ Gerald was a good man and a meat and Bar B Q legend in Texas. Blessings to the family.

Glen Kokel - February 18, 2021 at 07:22 PM

FD

“ So sorry for your loss. He made the best sausage I ever ate

Freddie & Vickie Driver - February 18, 2021 at 07:21 PM

CW

“ I am so sorry to hear of Gerald's passing. He was such an awesome person. I pray God will wrap you in his arms and give you peace and comfort now and in the days ahead.



Connie Ward - February 18, 2021 at 06:45 PM

KN

“ Sharon, I am so sorry for yours and your family's loss! Gerald was in my class! He was such a nice person! May the Holy Spirit comfort you and God Bless you!



Kathy and Robert Neal - February 18, 2021 at 06:23 PM

GJ

“ Our deepest condolences to the family.

Gina & Ewaldt Knobloch, Jr.

Gina & Ewaldt Knobloch, Jr. - February 18, 2021 at 06:22 PM

VB

“ *Gerald became a huge part of our family back before we were in our 20's! Vernon and I spent many happy weekends with he and Joyce and we have the best memories! The first time they took us to Airline Hall we were hooked! Gerald, go rest high and save me a dance and Vernon a cold one!*

Vernon and Lisa Baker - February 18, 2021 at 05:59 PM

JC

“ *Gerald and coworkers always were top notch. I came in more when I worked for the rr. I noticed early on the new guys on the rr got more to help them. Y'all knew we were broke getting started. A full loaf of bread for 2 sausages. I would come in and Gerald made me feel like the mayor. Always called me by name no matter how busy they were. I am going to miss you. It's kinda nice knowing that people appreciate you coming to shop. And I will end this there is no one that can beat the pork steak beans and sausage and sauce..ever. RIP Mr. Gerald, thank you for being y'all*

Jay campbell - February 18, 2021 at 05:56 PM

LC

“ *Linda Cook lit a candle in memory of Gerald Dean Birkelbach*



Linda Cook - February 18, 2021 at 05:31 PM