

In Memoriam

Eugene “Gene” R. Zirk

Eugene “Gene” R. Zirk, Kendall, Wis., 78, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on August 9, 2024.

He was born at home on November 23, 1945, to the late Milladore (Jones) and Edward Zirk Sr. He married Louise Knoll on February 4, 1967, in Kendall.

Gene was a family man, proud Registered Jersey dairy farmer and friend to the Jersey breed. He was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and bred registered Jerseys using the Royall prefix from the early 1970s through the mid-1990s. He also was a regular contributor to Project Equity.

He will be remembered for his one-liners, such as “Dedication, determination and drive,” “Don’t tell me; show me,” and “If you’re not willing to do it right, don’t do it at all.”

In addition to his wife of 57 years, Louise, he is survived by two children, Allen (Amy) Zirk and Angie (Dave) Rosga; four grandchildren; sister Deb Coldren; sister-in-law Pat Knoll; brother-in-law Mike (Chris) Knoll; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by brothers Eddie (Betty) Zirk Jr. and Wally (Shirley) Zirk, sister Beata Franke, brother-in-law Butch Coldren, and a nephew.

The family would like to thank their farm neighbors, friends and past farmhands for their friendships over the years. They also extend a thank you to the farm’s past and present cooperatives and employees of Preston and Hillsboro Equipment companies for their years of service and friendship. A special thank you is extended to St. Croix Hospice for their support to Gene and the family.

Charles “CJ” Jay Sachs III

Charles “CJ” Jay Sachs III, Eyota, Minn., 25, passed away unexpectedly on September 5, 2024, from the results of a traffic accident.

He was born on September 16, 1998, in Red Wing, Minn., to Charles and Carolyn (Angel) Sachs Jr. He graduated from Dover Eyota High School in 2017 and then earned an associate degree in dairy science from Northeast Iowa Community College.

A fifth-generation dairy farmer, his family moved from Farmington, Minn., to Eyota in 2002 when his parents purchased the current farm. CJ operated Orange Creek Dairy within the family’s Towerview Dairy, a 100-cow

herd of primarily Brown Swiss and several Jerseys and Holsteins. Some of the Jerseys were purchased from the Sues Pleasant Valley herd dispersal in 2019.

CJ was an Allis Chalmer tractor aficionado and loved his cattle. He also enjoyed talking about agriculture with anyone and was a proud patron of Plainview Milk Products Cooperative.

He was a big supporter of the FFA chapter in Langford, S.D., and a member of the Minnesota Brown Swiss Association. He was also a member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Eyota.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by two sisters, Allison Sachs of Bloomington and AnnaMarie Sachs of Groton, S.D.; maternal grandparents, Robert and Rita Angell of Hampton, Minn.; paternal grandparents, Charles J. Sachs Sr. and Berniece Sachs of Eyota; his significant other, Emily Siemer of Eyota; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who felt like family.