



Jerold "Jerry" Boblenz

December 25, 1943 - January 14, 2026

Jerold "Jerry" Boblenz., age 82, of West Des Moines, IA, formerly of Moravia, IA, passed away on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at Edgewater Retirement Community in West Des Moines, IA.

Jerry was born on Christmas Day, 1943, in Chariton, IA, to Herbert and Doris Marie (Pennington) Boblenz. He lived on the family farm in Melrose until 1947 when the family moved to a farm south of Moravia. He grew up attending school in Moravia, graduating from Moravia High School. Following high school, Jerry spent a year working at Yellowstone before returning home. He attended Indian Hills Community College for 2 years before furthering his education at Iowa State University, earning his Bachelor of Science in Vocational Agriculture. After completing his degree, Jerry served his country in the United States Army. On July 28, 1968, he was united in marriage to Virginia Coulter in Laurel, IA.

Upon returning from the service, Jerry worked as an Ag instructor for the Moravia School District for 2 years. In 1972, he went to work at Moravia Farm Service, transferring to Quad County Farm Service in 1976, and lastly transferring to NEOWA Farm Service in Oelwein where he worked until his retirement in 2006. Following retirement, Jerry purchased the family farm with his nephew and began farming.

Jerry was a member of the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church as a child and later the Grace United Methodist Church in Moravia. In his youth, Jerry was active in 4-H and FFA, winning many awards at the state and local level. Jerry was also a member of the Moravia Ruritans. Jerry had a long and dedicated career in fire service, beginning in 1972 with the Moravia Fire Department. Jerry also served on the Emmetsburg and Oelwein Fire Departments, holding roles including Captain, Assistant Chief, and Safety Officer, as well as earning the Firefighter of the Year Award in 1986 and again in 2004.

Jerry was exceptionally talented and had a gift for problem-solving. He enjoyed woodworking throughout his life, creating plaques, crafting Christmas ornaments for the church, and building cabinetry—including the bathroom cabinets in his home. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Jerry was instrumental in starting a Parkinson's support group in Centerville in 2012.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Virginia (Coulter); sons, David (Jennifer) of Iowa City and Stephen (Sarah) of Des Moines; grandchildren, Evean, Adam, Alec, Will, Cora, Rebecca and Luke; as well as sisters, Nancy Friday of West Des Moines and Connie (Gary) Belzer of Albia.

Jerry is preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Doris Boblenz; an infant son, Paul Thomas; and brothers-in-law, John Kirstein and Noel Friday.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026, at the Moravia Grace Church in Moravia, IA. Military honors provided by the American Legion of Unionville Post #407 will follow services with lunch to follow at the Fellowship Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to APDA-Iowa chapter, Moravia Fire and First Responders, or a charitable organization of your choosing.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Moravia Grace Church
101 E North St.
Moravia, IA 52571

Tribute Wall

MF

“ Dear Ginny, David, Steve and families.
I want to extend my deepest sympathy to you all. Many years ago,
in Oelwein I used to cut your hair Ginny. Please take care.
Mischelle Fink

Mischelle Fink - February 07 at 07:08 PM

JK

“ Jerry was a good, good man. He was also a kind man. He let me
cut firewood on his property. Thank you Jerry. 🙏

Jimmy Kaster - January 26 at 11:15 AM

IS

“ IC VA Inpatient Pharmacy Staff purchased the Si
mply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of
Jerold "Jerry" Boblenz.



IC VA Inpatient Pharmacy Staff - January 25 at 04:53 PM

DC

“ Jerry was a good man. Back in the 1980s Jerry hired me as a
mechanic at the Hazelton plant. Was one of the best boss's I ever
had. He was always to the point and would listen to what you had to
say. If he knew you were right in a bad situation, he always had your
back. Sorry for your loss.

Dick Chapman

Dick Chapman - January 25 at 02:42 PM

MW

“ Jerry was a great guy that will be missed by anyone who got the privilege to interact with him! Jerry had a vast knowledge that helped train our crew and also be a mentor on the Oelwein Fire Department. That is something that is still appreciated to this day. My sincere condolences to all of the family.

Matt Weber - January 22 at 09:03 AM

GI

Thank you for the kind words

Ginny - January 25 at 09:58 AM

RL

“ Our sympathy to the family. Jerry was always first class and did things the right way. Enjoyed my time with him on the Oelwein FD

Ron Luckerth - January 21 at 10:05 AM

GI

Ass did he with you. Thank you, Ron

Ginny - January 25 at 10:00 AM

JP

“ My sincere apology to Nancy, Herb and Doris raised three great human beings!. Nancy always stopped by to visit when she was in Moravia. Again Nancy. I'm truly sorry for your loss and my oversight!

JERRY POWER - January 17 at 09:27 AM

JP

“ Our family was very fortunate to have the opportunity to know and love the Boblenz family! Herb and Doris produced two great children, and Jerry joined them. Jerry had a great part in selling us the land on their farm for which we will always be grateful. Our sincere condolences to Jenny and Connie and their entire families. Jerry and Jenny were great neighbors and always were caretakers of the farm as well as making sure their crops didn't interfere with us, their neighbors. Jerry touched a multitude of lives as evidenced by his great obituary. The world would be a much better place if it were full of people just like Jerry! May he REST IN PEACE!!!

JERRY POWER - January 17 at 08:57 AM

GI

Thank you to a good neighbor.

Ginny - January 25 at 10:01 AM