



Terrell Ray Oetzel

JUL 31, 1940 - SEP 18, 2025



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Terrell Ray Oetzel

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Terrell Ray Oetzel, an internationally respected real estate appraiser and beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully on Sept. 18, 2025. He was 85.

Terry learned his work ethic from his parents, Ransom Stewart and Anna Margaret Yahl Oetzel, and joined his dad at age 7 working on farms in Ohio. His passion shifted to appraising, which he practiced up until a week before he passed. His expertise was sought on projects around the world.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years, Beverly; his daughter, Jennifer Prewitt, and her husband, Edward, of Fayetteville, Arkansas; his brother, Rodger Oetzel, and his wife, Janette, of Albuquerque, New Mexico; grandson, Fletcher Ransom Prewitt; and his niece and nephews Suzanne, Stephen, and Scott. He is also survived by cousins, Tom and Dan Oetzel, and their wives and children.

Terry received an undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University in 1962 and a master's degree from Michigan State University two years later. Terry and Beverly settled in East Lansing, where he started his professional career as an industrial real estate appraiser with his long-time partner and friend, Don Whipp.

He held numerous leadership positions in real estate, culminating with his becoming national president of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers in 1988. At the time he was the youngest president in the history of the organization. Outside of his family, being a part of the Appraisal Institute and mentoring young appraisers was one of his greatest joys. In 2021 he was awarded their highest honor; the J. Scott Robinson Lifetime Achievement Award.

Terry was an avid fan of OSU and MSU sports. He cheered for "whatever team would beat Michigan!" He and Beverly attended every MSU football and basketball game they could. He enjoyed Diet Cokes from McDonald's and could tell you the different price of a McDonald's drink in any town between Michigan, Arkansas and Florida.



Obituary

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He loved walking on Crescent Beach in Siesta Key, Florida, where he and Beverly spent the winter months in retirement.

Terry's top priority was his family. He loved exploring the world with Beverly and supporting her fondness of a gift shop! He was so proud of Jennifer and everything she did in life and became especially close to her husband, Edward. He loved attending Jennifer's events when she was growing up and did the same with Fletcher when he and Beverly would visit Fayetteville before moving there in 2022.

Terry was a great friend and mentor and was incredibly generous. He and Beverly contributed to many local charities and his alma maters. He was a gentleman, and he treated people with kindness.

A graveside service will be held for family on Oct. 18, 2025, at Woodland Cemetery in Van Wert, Ohio. A celebration of his life will be held at the Harrison Road House in East Lansing on Oct. 19 at noon. All are welcome. Arrangements are under the direction of Moore's Chapel in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Willard Walker Hospice Home, 325 E. Longview St., Fayetteville, AR 72703.


To place an online tribute, please visit <https://www.bernafuneralhomes.com>





Events

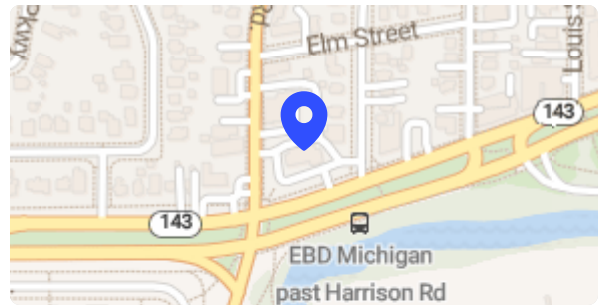
Terrell Ray Oetzel
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Celebration of Life


 **Sunday**, October 19, 2025

 12:00 PM ET

 **Harrison Roadhouse**
720 East Michigan Avenue , East Lansing MI
48823



Cemetery Details

 **Woodland Cemetery**
Van Wert OH



Tribute Wall

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DM

Doug Main lit a candle in honor of Terrell.

Terry you will be missed. SGA Members fondly remember how Terry's face lit up when talking about golf. Terry was a good friend, a mentor, and a consummate professional and gentleman. The SGA members celebrate his life, and his many contributions. We wish Beverly, Jennifer, Edward, Rodger, Janette and the entire extended family the very best. Rest in peace.



October 15 at 12:48 PM

RL

Roger Luksik posted:

Terry's obituary mentioned that one of his greatest joys was mentoring young appraisers and I can attest to that fact. Forty-five years ago, as an MAI candidate, I was encouraged by his leadership and quest for improving the professionalism of commercial real estate appraisal. He was honest to the core, and I thoroughly enjoyed working with him during my career in real estate lending and investment. Rest easy and may God bless his wife and family.--Roger Luksik--

October 3 at 3:42 PM



Patricia W posted:

To Beverly, Jennifer, Edward, and Fletcher - Terry was a rare gem of a boss that I had the privilege of working for and with for 25 years. He and Beverly took an avid interest in my daughters and my lives; as they got older and went to college and then moved out on their own, Terry would remember where they went to college, which one moved to Chicago or to Oregon or Grand Rapids and would ask about them often. When I started to care for my dad and then my mom, he was very supportive of the struggles I faced working full time and caring for them. My daughter, Elise, has a favorite story that she always like to share about Terry - when my mother passed away in 2020, we had a memorial service in my parents' garden. Terry attended and my daughters went up to greet him (Beverly was under the weather and unable to attend). Terry sat next to Elise during the service and while the string quartet was playing, he nudged Elise and said, "Nice touch!" My daughters and I loved Terry and Beverly like family. I will miss sharing updates of my life in retirement with him.

October 1 at 9:53 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Terrell by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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