



## Jerry Anthony Albonetti

March 1, 1955 - July 27, 2025

Jerry Anthony Albonetti, 70, of Memphis, died peacefully surrounded by family at his home on Sunday, July 27, 2025, after a long illness.

Jerry graduated from Memphis Catholic High in 1973 along with his twin brother James.

As a young boy, Jerry could be seen at Blues Stadium with James catching foul balls. Jerry was a talented baseball catcher and outfielder for Memphis Catholic. Not only was Jerry competitive in baseball, but also in family table tennis and football games.

In 1980, he became the owner of his dad's fruit business (Alex Fruit Stand) located downtown at Third St. and Court, where Jerry worked as a child into adulthood. In 1991, Jerry moved to a new location on Poplar due to the shift of office workers from downtown to East Memphis. Jerry provided fruit baskets to 30-odd florists who rated his baskets as the best in town. In 1991, the Commercial Appeal interviewed Jerry about the closing of his store. "Nobody can beat us," said Jerry, who noted that in 1962 his father came up with the idea for the baskets that are now the mainstay of the business.

Jerry also worked for his brother, Louie, in the electrical business. Louie thought he could convince Jerry to be an electrician and an electrical

estimator. Instead of pursuing a career as an electrician, Jerry's passion for continuing his dad's legacy in the fruit business led him to create an online business, Albonetti's Gift Baskets.

His last employment was working for Kroger in the Produce Department. Customers were always asking him for his opinion about the best piece of fruit to buy. He was always willing to assist because customer service was number one with Jerry. He retired from Kroger in 2021.

One of his favorite pastimes was playing bocce at the Italian Bocce Club, where he was a member for several years. You knew when Jerry was at the Italian Fest held at Marquette Park because you could see him wearing his Italian cap while measuring the distance from the pallino (small target ball) to his bocce ball or strategizing his next move, usually speaking Italian.

Family was very important to Jerry. One of Jerry's favorite adventures with Michael, his son, was exploring Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. After Jerry met Lisa in the late 90s, another family trip was planned to Chattanooga to explore Rock City and Ruby Falls.

One of Jerry's favorite television shows was The Andy Griffith Show. Jerry always wanted to see what mischief Barney was up to and what lesson Opie learned from his father, Andy. Jerry would share the lesson learned with Michael, usually relating it to a story from his own childhood.

Jerry also loved building anything. He passed on his woodworking skills to Michael.

Before his illness, you would often see Jerry and his wife, Lisa, walking their dog, Nicklous, at Sea Isle Park.

Jerry was a communicant of St. Anne Catholic Church on Highland since childhood, where he served as an Altar Boy. In adulthood, Jerry was a lecturer for many years. After Mass, people would thank him for reading the passages with such clarity and expression.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Alexander and Ruth Albonetti. He is survived by his wife, Lisa, of 26 years, his son, Michael (Kristy), and Lisa's son, Wesley Smith (Bethany). He also leaves 5 siblings, Louie (Kathy), Celesta, Alexander Jr., Anita and James, seven nieces and nephews, Haley, Chris (Megan), Joe, Phillip (Any), Michelle (Andy Walker), Anthony (Lauren), and Anna (Patrick Meehan) and ten great nieces and nephews, Abby, Andrew, Elizabeth, Luke, Jack, Nadia, Hannah, Coletta, Oliver and Alex.

Visitation will be held at St. Anne Catholic Church, 706 South Highland St., at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 12, 2025, followed by a Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment will be in the Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery. 1663 Elvis Presley Blvd., Memphis, TN

# Tribute Wall



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