



Gerald Eugene (Jerry) Clayworth, Jr.
July 1, 1966-September 5, 2020

Our beloved son, brother, uncle and friend, Gerald Eugene (Jerry) Clayworth, Jr. passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, September 5, 2020 at the age of 54. Jerry was very proud to have been born at the Nix Hospital downtown and remained a lifelong resident of San Antonio.

Jerry was a big kid and he'd be the first to admit it. He loved wrestling, music, toys, collectibles, ephemera of all varieties, and animals of every sort. He spent his life collecting treasures that meant the world to him; not for bragging rights, but for sheer joy. He'd make a quick study of new friends, and through casual conversation, find out their favorite cartoon character, sitcom actor or recording artist. Then without a second thought, Jerry would pull something from his personal collection and surprise them with a poster, postcard, guitar pick, action figure or jelly glass, all to the absolute delight of the recipient.

He loved to tell stories and impersonate the real-life characters who inhabited them. To Jerry, seemingly ordinary experiences turned into stories worth telling, and hearing. He could be stunningly spot-on with the impersonations and could recall conversations from five years or a decade ago in detail that others couldn't muster about a phone call they took yesterday.

But far beyond collections and stories were Jerry's passion and loyalty for music. He loved music and musicians with his whole heart, championing them on their way up, and on their way down. He often worked with all-female and female fronted acts, something many promoters shy away from when dealing with unknown quantities. Jerry worked with musicians of all colors and ages, because all he saw was the music.

He was a tireless promoter with an encyclopedic-class knowledge of genres including blues, zydeco, garage rock, surf, punk, rockabilly and roots. When Jerry loved a band, he would go to the mat for them and take no prisoners. He conducted interviews, wrote articles, photographed shows, promoted acts, and even released records on his own private label. At the end of the night, Jerry would step up with indignation in defense of the artist if he felt things weren't handled fairly or an agreement wasn't maintained. Without a second thought, he'd reach into his own pocket to make it right. Jerry would say, "Ya' know when I saw the people dancing and smiling, and the band taking it up a notch, that was enough reward for me." And that was his truth. The music and the musicians always came first.

Jerry was without a doubt San Antonio's best and most prolific show poster designer of the past three decades, having made hundreds of posters for locals and nationals in his trademark updated "blues revue" style. He also had the honor of being hired to design the poster for the Austin Music Awards from 2008-2012.

He gave it all in terms of time and resources and expected nothing in return, staging innumerable benefits for musicians, their families, his friends and on at least a few occasions, relative strangers. Jerry raised thousands of dollars annually over the past two decades by throwing shows, designing and selling posters, making buttons, wooden nickels, or whatever he could come up with in order to offset the unexpected financial burdens of others.

His music friends would agree, he wouldn't want you dwelling on his death. Sure - he would want to be remembered, like any of us. But he'd much rather see you support a local musician, listen to a favorite song as if it were the first time, or help someone in need according to your means and ability- even if it's "only" kind words and encouragement.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Wyatt and Velma Clayworth and Lillie and Victor Appelt and his aunt, Patricia Clayworth.

He is survived by his parents, Emma and Gerald Clayworth; sister, Sherri (Milton) Wiebush; brother, Frank (Lara) Clayworth; and nieces, Emma, Kaitlynn and Madison Wiebush.

We want to give special thanks to David Ray for his generous gift of life during Jerry's time of need. David's selfless gift gave us all many additional years of life, friendships, love, and laughs with Jerry. We also wish to thank University Transplant Center for their excellent care. Jerry was an enthusiastic advocate for organ donation and believed everyone had something to give. 'Don't take your organs to Heaven; Heaven knows we need them here'!

The family plans no immediate services in light of the current Covid-19 pandemic. We hope to have a celebration of life, Jerry style at a later date. The greatest tribute to Jerry would be to sign up as an organ donor.

