

**Gerald (Jerry) Runnakko, age 84, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family after a devastating stroke on April 28, 2024. Jerry is survived by his two children, Kris Runnakko and Jeri (Jim) Essig, four grandchildren, Ryan (Jodi), Mariah (John), Espree, and Kyle as well as two great grandchildren, Isaac (15), and Margot (1). Jerry lived most of his life in Chisholm, MN in the same house he was born and raised in. Living independently and happily up until his final days. He was known for his witty humor, intelligence, strong mathematical mind, acute memory, and his love for his family, of which he kept detailed and organized notes, never missing a birthday nor an event.**

**Jerry was an avid marksman, accumulating numerous awards throughout his lifetime. For 36 years he served as the president of the Hibbing Rifle and Pistol club, a legacy to his efforts and leadership. After 37 years Jerry retired as a draftsman at Arthur G Mckee Engineering (later Noramco Engineering) in Hibbing where he was best known for his work on conveyor belt systems used in the mines and up and down the north shore. He was also a fervent reader, curating a modest yet ever-evolving collection of books and magazines that adorned his house between photos of his grandchildren and great grandchildren.**

**A casual remembrance and celebration for Jerry will be held at Rupp Funeral Home in Chisholm on Saturday, May 11 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. No flowers are necessary, thank you in advance.**