



Christopher A. Kurek

November 14, 1984 - March 31, 2026

Christopher Kurek, 41, of Dixon, Illinois, passed away on March 31, 2026 in Schaumburg, Illinois.

Chris was born on November 14th, 1984, in Phoenix, Arizona, to Elizabeth Ruckman and David Kurek. He had a personality that was truly unlike anyone else - calm, steady, and unshakable, with a sense of humor that was uniquely his own. He was deeply loved by his family and they were loved by him.

Chris honorably served his country in the United States Navy, and also served overseas in Operation Enduring Freedom, a commitment he carried out with pride, discipline, and integrity. As a lifelong member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), he embraced the challenges of service and the opportunity to experience the world beyond home. In his professional life, he was highly skilled in computers and technology, working as a computer programmer. He had a deep love for the outdoors and enjoyed hiking, biking, snowboarding, and spending time in nature. Chris also loved traveling on his scooter, always drawn to new places and experiences.

Chris is survived by his mother, Elizabeth Ruckman; his father, David Kurek; and his stepfather, Dan Ruckman. He is also survived by his sisters, Mindy (Cory) Poff and Katie (Keegan) Shaw; his niece, Dianna Poff; his grandmother, Jane Roth, and step-grandfather, Larry Roth; his grandfather, Jay Kennedy, and step-grandmother, Prudy Kennedy; his step-grandmother, Joyce Bennet; and many dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Margaret and Frank Kurek.

Services will be held at Jones Funeral Home, 204 South Ottawa, Dixon, Illinois 61021, on April 7, 2026. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m., with the funeral service to follow at 11:00 a.m. Burial services will take place immediately afterward.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Chris's memory to Shriners Hospital for Children. <https://donate.shrinerschildrens.org/give/619498/#!/donation/checkout>

Cemetery Details

Oakwood

416 S Dement Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon
204 South Ottawa
Dixon, IL 61021
Ph: 815-288-2241
info@thejonesfh.com
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

Service

APR 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

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204 South Ottawa
Dixon, IL 61021
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Tribute Wall

JA

“ Chris was probably my best friend, I am utterly destroyed at his no longer being on this planet to rant with, to go camping, to go see music only someone like him would fully be able to appreciate. I don't even know what to say or how to feel. Life is infinitely more empty without him in it. Our daily talks, rants, vents, debates, and plans are just suddenly gone.

He stuck with me through some of the worst and most stressful moments of my life and never judged me or hurt me like so many humans can. and a true seeker of nuance.

He was willing to explore the doom and gloom, or play devils advocate for a good discussion getting deep into the weeds, ever the contrarian, I wouldn't have him any other way. We even had plans to go to a concert that happened just this last Thursday, I wish any of this made sense to me, I guess it ultimately never will. I blame his damn doctor for dealing with his recent medical issues in the worst way possible, but that might be my problem. I miss you every day Chris. Love you brother. I have no idea what my life is supposed to be like without you in it.



Jason - April 18 at 02:25 AM

LA

“ Lina A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher A. Kurek.

Lina A. - April 15 at 09:10 PM

LA

“ I only recently became friends with Chris, but am so glad to have known him. We shared many tasty meals together and I enjoyed hearing about his gardening and motorcycle adventures. He was a kind and gentle soul, and will be greatly missed.

Lina Alvino - April 15 at 09:06 PM

JP

“ Jim Foss & Taylor Larson & Jinal Patel purchased the In Heaven's Arms Bouquet for the family of Christopher A. Kurek.



Jim Foss & Taylor Larson & Jinal Patel - April 06 at 03:57 PM

WS

“ Wes, Kerry, Liam, Alison Shaw purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Christopher A. Kurek.



Wes, Kerry, Liam, Alison Shaw - April 06 at 02:45 PM

DM

“ David C. Kurek, Tom & Judy Jarvis and Mike & Christine McCammon purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Christopher A. Kurek.



David C. Kurek, Tom & Judy Jarvis and Mike & Christine McCammon - April 06 at 12:12 PM

DP

“ Derrick & Donna Poff purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Christopher A. Kurek.



Derrick & Donna Poff - April 06 at 12:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Christopher A. Kurek.

April 06 at 09:03 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christopher A. Kurek.



April 04 at 10:52 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Christopher A. Kurek.

April 04 at 10:52 PM



“ Jonathan and Sandra Zuk purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Christopher A. Kurek.



Jonathan and Sandra Zuk - April 04 at 06:36 PM



“ The Compton Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Christopher A. Kurek.



The Compton Family - April 04 at 09:00 AM



“ Sara C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher A. Kurek.

Sara C. - April 03 at 02:53 PM

TL

“ I was completely blindsided by the sudden passing of Chris. As his manager, I had the privilege of working closely with him and getting to know him both professionally and personally.

Chris was smart, thoughtful, reliable, and incredibly patient—unless the topic involved IT governance processes or open client limitations, which always led to him and me venting over inefficient corporate nonsense. I was fortunate to spend time with him beyond work as well. We ate lunch together most days (I even tried his disgusting durian gummies), and on occasion went out for drinks after work. Those conversations, stories, and laughter are how I will most remember Chris.

My thoughts are with his family and friends. Chris will be truly missed and fondly remembered.

Taylor Larson - April 03 at 02:37 PM