



Kenneth J. Novak

December 5, 1947 - July 18, 2021

Kenneth J. Novak, of Dixon, aka “Krazy Ken the Farmer’s Friend,” died fighting stage III esophageal cancer at the age of 73 on Sun. July 18, 2021 at KSB Hospital in Dixon. He was born on Dec. 5, 1947 in Lorain, Ohio, the son of John and Margaret (Dugovich) Novak.

Everywhere he went, he made people laugh, often in yellow pants. From his days in Lorain, Ohio as part of the “Snakes,” to Dayton University where he was nicknamed, “Pigpen,” to Amboy, Illinois where he led the Lion’s Club and the Depot Days Parade, to the streets of Dixon, where he danced front and center in a Flash Mob, Ken was full of fun.

He lived life to its fullest, valuing education, hard work, and giving to the underdog. He graduated from the University of Dayton (Go Flyers!) with his Bachelor’s degree and from Northern Illinois University with his Master’s Degree.

In 1971, he moved from Ohio to work at Nachusa Lutheran Home. He then went to work at Allied Locke where he learned he could “sell like Hell!” In 1986, he decided to make a career change to be his own boss. Ken owned and operated C&N Supply in Dixon since 1986 and FarmChains.com since 2008. He would not have been so successful without the help of Jane Swinton, who put up with him at work for 21 years.

Ken was a dedicated husband and father. He and his wife, Carol, were married on April 20th, 1978. In their 39 years together, they were foster parents, raised five children, and traveled the world. He was preceded in

death by Carol in 2017, and his parents.

Ken was generous with his time and money and enjoyed taking his family out for a meal, to a waterpark, or cooking out on his Big Green Egg. He is survived by his children Michele (Chris) Podkulski of Sterling, Christine (Bill) Wengelewski of Rochelle, Amanda (Doug) Hicks of Dixon, Carissa Novak of Dixon, and Clarence Novak of Aurora. Kenneth is also survived by 9 grandchildren, Nicole (Josh), Megan, Brian, Ben, Liam, Austin, Abby, Lily and Andrew; and one brother Rick (Elaine) Novak of Mansfield OH.

Ken was a faithful member of the Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren, where he served as Moderator and made delicious pancakes. He was president of the Amboy Lions Club and received the Lions Club Humanitarian International Award. Kenny will be dearly missed by his downtown Dixon friends including those from Shop Talk, Rosbrook Studios, and the Crystal Cork where he was always the life of the party.

Visitation will be held on Thursday July 22, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon, IL. Funeral Services will be on Friday July 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM at the Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren. Burial will follow at Emmert Cemetery in Dixon. A memorial will be established to Dixon Park District and Dixon Main Street.

Cemetery Details

Emmert Cemetery

1380 IL Rte 38
Franklin Grove, IL 61310

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **22.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

JUL **23.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Church of the Brethren
121 West North Street
Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth J. Novak*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Kenneth J. Novak*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Ken and I golfed together from time to time over the years. One particular time Ken had hit a really good shot. He was fired up and ran to his ball, excited to hit the next shot. Unknown to him I drove the cart ahead of him and exchanged his ball for an exploding one. Needless to say when Ken struck the ball it turned into a cloud of white dust. Ken's eyes were as big as saucers. For a moment i am certain Ken thought he had hit the ball that hard. One of best laughs we enjoyed over the years.*

Greg Kotecki - July 23, 2021 at 11:04 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies to the family of Ken Novak. Ken was one of my dearest friends/ business acquaintances. He was a self -made man much like my own father. It was a n honor to have known him. He was so supportive of myself in my own hard times. And others who I worked with. I will miss but hope to follow his great example of living life to the fullest! Rest In peace Ken Novak you have done a lifetime of good deeds!*

Greg Kotecki - July 23, 2021 at 10:51 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth J. Novak.*



July 22, 2021 at 12:19 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Kenneth J. Novak.*



July 21, 2021 at 10:09 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth J. Novak.*



July 21, 2021 at 04:38 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Kenneth J. Novak.*



July 21, 2021 at 02:13 PM

CG

“ Ken Novak and truly amazing person and man, I am so thankful for his kindness, forgiveness and caring and most his compassion. You will truly be missed by all who knew you. RIP Ken
Colleen Garza



colleen garza - July 21, 2021 at 12:04 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kenneth J. Novak.



July 21, 2021 at 09:19 AM

MS

“ Thank you Ken for supporting culture in our community. You made a lot of wonderful things possible. Sorry you didn't remember much about Woodstock but I'm glad you were there. You were the coolest.
Mark Stach and family

Mark Stach - July 20, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Kenneth J. Novak.



July 20, 2021 at 06:54 PM



“ I met Kenny some time ago, as he was a neighbor, and was a devoted walker. "Gotta my steps in" was his opening after every greeting. He was always upbeat and enthusiastic about the latest goings on in his life, and had a way of sharing, as to spread his joy and enthusiasm to me. I always felt better after chatting with him. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and my heart goes out to his loved ones. He will always be remembered. Always.

April Spencer - July 20, 2021 at 05:29 PM



“ April Spencer lit a candle in memory of Kenneth J. Novak



April Spencer - July 20, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ Sorry for your loss prayers God bless Debra jay

debra jay - July 20, 2021 at 04:51 PM

SL

“ *What can I say about Kenneth He was such a wonderful man when infectious smile and bright eyes so loving and caring to everyone We had the opportunity to visit with him and family a few times from birthdays and etc.*

Enjoyed watching him travel around the world and always contacted him on messenger to where he was and where was he going next and he always looks so happy just to be out there in God's country. We sent our deepest condolences to the entire family. Hang on to all your memories treasure all those days and know that he's in a beautiful place with his beautiful wife. Love the land family



Susan LAND - July 20, 2021 at 03:58 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth J. Novak.*



July 20, 2021 at 03:27 PM



“ Ken was part of the heart of our community, and Dixon won't be the same without him. I will miss him at meetings downtown, his cookouts, and just seeing him and running into him everywhere. His smirk of a smile lingers in my heart and persistence of character in my memory. He will be missed.



- Rev. Joseph O'Donnell (St. Paul Lutheran and member of the Downtown Dixon Alliance)

Joseph O'Donnell - July 20, 2021 at 09:14 AM

CW

Thank you for the kind words.

Christine Wengelewski - July 20, 2021 at 11:26 PM

CS

“ Krazy Ken wasn't just the Farmer's Friend, he was everyone's friend. And when he was your friend, you were family. I will miss him dearly, as a friend and a neighbor. My heart aches for his family and the community that loved him back as much as loved them. Prayers to all who loved him. I am blessed to have known him. Love, Carolyn (the one with the nice dog, and the not so nice dog...who may be barking at you in heaven now..)

Carolyn Sweeney - July 19, 2021 at 09:51 PM

CS

“ Carolyn Sweeney lit a candle in memory of Kenneth J. Novak



Carolyn Sweeney - July 19, 2021 at 09:47 PM

PV

“ *Pastor Diana Verhulst lit a candle in memory of Kenneth J. Novak*



Pastor Diana Verhulst - July 19, 2021 at 07:43 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth J. Novak.*



July 19, 2021 at 05:18 PM