



## Anthony James Kovarik

August 21, 1962 - March 22, 2024

Anthony James Kovarik

8/21/1962 - 3/22/2024

Tony Kovarik could tell a joke like no one else. You may have heard that joke before, but there was something about the way Tony told it. He made the joke into a story.

He put you into the story;

He put your dog into the story;

and by the time the punchline came, he invariably put a smile on your face.

On March 22, 2024, Anthony James Kovarik passed away in his new home by the Flambeau River.

Tony was born on August 21, 1962, to Bohumil and Teckla Kovarik of Eisenstein WI. Throughout his 61 years, Tony loved, respected, and imitated his parents. Even after he lost them both to death, he lived their life lessons. Those lessons on the importance of family, work, especially farm work, treasuring the land around us, and kindness to others defined Tony's character.

Tony was one of seven children whom he precedes in death. His siblings are Patricia (Ronald) Callaway of Rockford IL, Teckla (Dave Caputo) Kovarik of

Black River Falls WI, Thomas (Donna) Kovarik of Butternut WI, Albert (Darla) Kovarik of Eisenstein WI, Frank (Kate) Kovarik of Eisenstein, and Therese (Ted) Fleming of Fifield WI.

Tony graduated in 1980 from Park Falls High School. He was known as Kovar by the FUN crowd.

In 1987, Tony got into an accident in his van that required a hip replacement and a long period of recuperation. This did not diminish his love of life and brought him closer to his family who cared for him. Tony is sadly preceded in death by his nephew Noah Kovarik, his aunts and uncles, especially his Aunt and Godmother, Anne Gehring (Oswald) and uncle Arnie Oswald. He is survived by one maternal Aunt, Agnes Oswald.

In 2004, Tony married Cheryl/Skeeter (nee Bucheger) his long-time friend. Although still close they did not remain married. What remained was their unconventional friendship, his love for Cheryl's children Troy Danielson and Bethany (Stephan) Kornacki, how he cherished the grandchildren Deklan and Everly, and his closeness with his in-laws on Cheryl's side. Tony gained another set of beloved parents with Bud and Luana Bucheger, who preceded him in death.

In 1998, Tony purchased a Wood-mizer portable sawmill with the help of his brother, Al. This machine allowed him to appreciate nature in a unique way as he saw the variety of wood in Northern Wisconsin and observed the rich character of its grain. No one knew the 12, 15, and 16 multiplication tables like Tony, as he was always calculating board feet for the cutting jobs he fulfilled for many customers in our area.

Tony had many roles in his life, son, brother, student, partier, wood cutter, meat cutter, husband, step-dad, grandpa, factory worker, retiree, but there

was one role I believe he especially excelled at: UNCLE. Tony was a proud uncle. Tony was a fun uncle. Tony was an uncle who always had a joke. Tony was an uncle who always had serious and straightforward advice. Tony was an uncle who always had your back.

Tony was a loyal and loving uncle of Jennie Callaway, Susie Callaway, Eddie (Stacia) Callaway, Ryan (former wife Kari) Kovarik, Noah, Mindy, Bo Kovarik, Jillian (Derek) Lotts, Darius (Linda) Torres, Wesley Kovarik, Rachel (Connor) Livingston, and Mari (Jeff) Rominske. He became the great-uncle for Dakota (Jadin), Sammantha, Allison, Elijah, Gabriel Callaway, Jessica (Charlie) Hill, Addison, Kinsley, Alex Kovarik, Fawn, and Nova Lotts, and great-great uncle for his great-nieces' and nephews' precious children. Tony welcomed the spouses of his nieces and nephews with the initial required suspicion: 'were they right for his niece or nephew?' and once that was out of the way, then with his characteristic warmth and humor.

He will be deeply missed by all the listed family, as well as his numerous cousins and their families, and many friends and neighbors.

There will be less joy in our lives without Tony's jokes, stories, and songs, but may all those who knew Tony find comfort and a smile in remembering those good times. Tony would not want us to cry over his death but remember the memories. If you do cry, though, there is no shame, Tony is worth the tears.

A celebration of life will be held on Friday April 5, 2024 at the Park Falls American Legion Post from 4:00pm until 7:00pm with a Memorial Service at 6:00pm. Deacon Robert Schienebeck will officiate.

Birch Street Funeral Service is assisting the family.

[www.birchstreetfuneralservice.com](http://www.birchstreetfuneralservice.com)



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Park Falls American Legion Hall  
274 North 3rd Avenue  
Park Falls, WI 54552

## Memorial Service

APR 5. 6:00 PM (CT)

Park Falls American Legion Hall  
274 North 3rd Avenue  
Park Falls, WI 54552

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ *Kristi L Dassow lit a candle in memory of Anthony James Kovarik*



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**kristi l dassow** - April 05, 2024 at 04:32 PM

KD

*Ron & I extend our heartfelt condolences to everyone, as we are saddened to hear of Tony's passing. We pray the love for Tony is forever carried in your memory. May the loving memories bring you much peace, comfort and strenght during this difficult time.*

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**kristi l dassow** - April 05, 2024 at 04:44 PM

SS

“ *My condolences to the entire Kovarik family. I have chatted with Tony many times over the years, and they were all good conversations, many of them very joyful. I feel as though I grew up with your family.*

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**Sue Seidl** - April 01, 2024 at 06:57 PM

NB

“ *My Dearest Cousin,  
Even though we all grow up and scatter in  
different directions, I still picture you with a big  
smile on your face and those happy laughing  
eyes. Tony... just like you to lead the way for  
the rest of us; I'm sure grinning all the way.*

*My deepest sympathy to your family and close . . . but when you're  
sad please remember that Tony is at peace and is now visiting with  
those of us who have gone before him, probably telling them stories  
and jokes.*

*My deepest sympathy. 😞*

*Nancy Black (Oswald)*



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**Nancy B.** - March 30, 2024 at 07:16 AM

TO

“ *My deep sympathy to the family and friends of Tony. I've known  
Tony for 20+ years. He was a customer when I had Annie's Bar, but  
more than that, I considered him a friend. The last time I saw him I  
knew he was in pain, but he still had that infectious smile and sense  
of humor. He will be greatly missed. Terri Ostrander*

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**Terri Ostrander** - March 29, 2024 at 12:34 PM

LH

“ *Tony, it was great to have you as a friend! So happy that you are  
now free of the pain that you battled with after your last surgery.  
Even then you always had that great smile to share with us. We'll  
miss you.*

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**Leslie Haney** - March 27, 2024 at 12:50 PM

BL

“ *Brett Larson lit a candle in memory of Anthony James Kovarik*



**Brett Larson** - March 27, 2024 at 09:21 AM

CL

“ *Cindy Larson lit a candle in memory of Anthony James Kovarik*



**Cindy Larson** - March 27, 2024 at 09:15 AM

CS

“ *Kovar and myself at the hunting shack. A great friend always. 1982ish*



**Chris Schmidt** - March 27, 2024 at 01:15 AM

CS

“ *A lifelong friend. I'll miss ya big guy.*

**chris schmidt** - March 26, 2024 at 09:15 PM

KK

“ Tony. 🙏



Karen Kilger - March 26, 2024 at 09:12 PM



“ Cindy K lit a candle in memory of Anthony James Kovarik



Cindy K - March 26, 2024 at 08:12 PM

BZ

“ Bonnie Zoesch lit a candle in memory of Anthony James Kovarik



Bonnie Zoesch - March 26, 2024 at 04:36 PM



“ Karen Dums lit a candle in memory of Anthony James Kovarik



Karen Dums - March 26, 2024 at 03:33 PM