

Mr. Dennis John Wojcik

August 25, 1950 - May 8, 2024

UTICA – Mr. Dennis John Wojcik, age 73, went home to his Lord when he passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. At the time of his passing, his loved ones were by his side.

Born in Utica on August 25, 1950, Dennis was the son of the late Stanley and Anna (Chelada) Wojcik. He was a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1968 and was proud to be a life-long Utican.

On May 14, 1977, Dennis wed the former Colleen Walker with whom he shared nearly 47 years of mutual love and devotion. He was the most wonderful husband Colleen could have ever asked for. The two spent much of their alone time together taking long walks with their dog, Toby. They also enjoyed their time spent with each other at the shooting range.

Dennis was employed with the United States Postal Service as a carrier for 45 years prior to his retirement in 2014. He spent nearly a decade of those years working 6 days week to allow Colleen to stay at home and commit her time to raising their three children. Dennis enjoyed the camaraderie he shared with his customers and co-workers who would later become his dearest friends. He was a proud member of the National Association of Letter Carriers for 50 years.

Dennis was extremely dedicated to every facet of his life, from his family to his career, to sports, and even to his Utica Club memorabilia collection. He would often venture to thrift stores looking to purchase vinyl records of which he was a master seller on his own eBay store. Above all, time spent with his loved ones was of utmost importance to him. He sacrificed his personal desires to allow his children the opportunity to attend Catholic schools. For many years he continuously drove an old Dodge Omni, which was quite difficult for him to get in and out of; this made for humorous memories for his friends and family and was just another example of his self-sacrifice.

Known as “Pooh Man” to his daughters, Dennis had an extreme “father bear” personality and was very protective of his little girls. For his son, on the other hand, the rules were a little more lenient. No matter what, he loved them all the same. He still provided for his children until the very end. For nearly 40 years, the entire family enjoyed yearly trips to both Cape Cod and Niagara Falls. Dennis relished being the grandfather of his three grandsons and spending as much time with them as possible.

In his spare time, Dennis enjoyed shooting different types of pistols and rifles and was a proud member of the National Rifle Association. Dennis and his son looked forward to attending any type of Syracuse sports game possible. He also found enjoyment in participating in a Pitch league on Monday nights.

A faithful Catholic, Dennis was a communicant of Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus, where he served as a Eucharistic Minister. At one time, he was fortunate to take an inspiring trip to the Holy Land. His faith and prayers sustained him and helped him through his battle with cancer.

Dennis is survived by his beloved wife, Colleen; son and daughter-in-law, Martin and Mary Wojcik; daughters and sons-in-law, Kerrie and Dennis Philipson, and Caitlyn and Marc Massoud; grandchildren, Matthew Wojcik;

Maxwell Massoud; and Devin Philipson who was born only 9 months ago and was so fortunate to meet his Papa; sister, Christine Wojcik; many nieces, especially Carly Horvath who accompanied them on family vacations every year; nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; and in-laws, Maureen and Edward Horvath, Katherine and Gerry Scott, Dr. Kathleen Walker, Michael and Debbie Walker, and Loreen Walker. He also leaves his best friend and canine companion, his cocker spaniel Toby, and he fondly remembered his four cocker spaniels who preceded him. Dennis shared close friendships with Vinny and Patti LaPaglia, Artie and Kathy Trozzi, and Eddie Washburn. He was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Martin and Helen Walker; brothers-in-law, James Walker, Robert "Joe" Walker, and Kevin Walker; and niece, Kara Horvath with whom he shared a special bond.

The family extends their sincere gratitude to Dr. Dhabhar, Dr. Butala, Dr. Goel, Dr. Kaul, Dr. Eldredge, and Dr. Mian for their years of meticulous dedication to Dennis' care. Thanks as well to the many nurses at the Wynn Hospital ICU for their compassion.

Visitation will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Memorial contributions in Dennis' honor may be made to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on behalf of Team Dennis online at <https://tinyurl.com/4ej6mpz4>; or by mail to Team Dennis, MSABC of Utica, American Cancer Society, Attn.: Making Strides of Utica – AZ9LNZ, P.O. Box 10727, Rochester, NY 14610; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Dennis' Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus, 2222 Genesee St. Interment will follow in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Holy Trinity Cemetery

Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 13. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Funeral Service

MAY 14. 12:00 PM (ET)

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus
2222 Genesee St.
Utica, NY 13502
<https://www.motherofoursavior.org/CatholicChurch.php>

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Colleen and family I am so very sorry for the loss of Dennis, your best friend, father. I know he was a bright light in this world. I hope eventually you will be able to heal your broken hearts and take comfort in loving memories of him.

Cheryl Osborne Miller

Cheryl - May 14, 2024 at 03:29 PM

JP

“ Colleen, I am so sorry for the loss of your husband! Please take care and accept my deepest sympathy!

Janet Paparella

Janet Paparella - May 14, 2024 at 10:41 AM

JW

“ I've known Dennis for close to fifty years. I met him through mutual friend Ed Washburn. We had many great times going to ball games in Boston as well as out on the golf course. He was always a fun loving upbeat guy and I was blessed to have his friendship. We didn't see much of each other in recent years but when we did cross paths it was like I saw him yesterday. I will miss him always. My deep condolences to Colleen and the family.

John Wnuk - May 13, 2024 at 10:20 AM

EW

You, me, Dennis & Kurt....What a riot the 4 us were !!

Ed Washburn - May 14, 2024 at 10:24 AM

TC

“ *Todd, Courtney, Ashton & Rhys Cafarelli purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mr. Dennis John Wojcik.*



Todd, Courtney, Ashton & Rhys Cafarelli - May 12, 2024 at 05:03 PM

DK

“ *Dear Colleen and Family,
We are very very sorry for your loss of Dennis.
I had the pleasure of knowing him years ago when I was in college. We had a mutual friend Bob Hamoy. We would get together and play cards. We offer our deepest condolences, sympathy and prayers.
May His Memory Be Eternal !!!
Deacon Dan and Cindy Klockowski and Family*



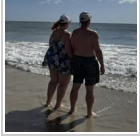
Deacon Daniel A Klockowski A Klockowski - May 11, 2024 at 04:07 PM

BT

“ *Brian, Jessica, Liam and Emma Taylor purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Mr. Dennis John Wojcik.*



Brian, Jessica, Liam and Emma Taylor - May 11, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ *Colleen and family I was very sad to learn of Dennis' passing. One of my fondest memories of my big cousin was that he was always willing to play with me when we visited their camp at White Lake. He would play cards or board games with me. As adults, we always made sure we said hello when running into each other. You are in my prayers and thoughts.*

Marcia Jeck - May 11, 2024 at 11:46 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Dennis John Wojcik.*



May 10, 2024 at 02:26 PM



“ *We lost a great guy in Pooh Man. He was an awesome father-in-law —kind, generous, and loving. I'll always remember him for his love of pistachios, Syracuse Football/Basketball, TS Steakhouse, and his favorite, Utica Club Beer. He always said "Breaking Bad" and "Married with Children" were the best shows on TV. He passed down the tradition of watching "Heavy Weights," and just hearing him giggle made it even more fun. He was always up to date with the latest Android phone and famously made countless stops home to check eBay during his mail routes. He will be truly missed. Love Dennis, Devin & Mason*

Dennis Philipson - May 10, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mr. Dennis John Wojcik.



May 10, 2024 at 12:52 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories*



Dennis Philipson - May 10, 2024 at 12:31 PM

“ I send my utmost sincere condolences to Colleen and the entire Wojcik family.

I am so sad and heartbroken over the passing of my great friend. Dennis was more than a friend; he was my brother. We traveled extensively together for 25 years and whenever we met someone new, they always thought we were brothers. We were very close. Some people can finish other people's sentences. We could start each other's sentences because we knew precisely what the other was about to say. We liked all the same things, we thought alike, especially baseball, except he was a Yankee fan, and I was a Red Sox fan (just like Dennis's father). In the early 70's we started something new that is commonplace today. We started collecting all the major league baseball parks. Every summer we would travel either in my famous Ford Van, by train, and/or airplane to different ball parks around the country. We collected every ballpark east of the Mississippi River and only five west of it. We never made it to the west coast. The encounters we shared meeting people, the hotels, the train rides and our van travel were an experience of a lifetime. For 25+ years Dennis and I were inseparable before work, at work, after work and on our days off. We were always doing something together. When our wives were pregnant, we had a private New Year's Party at my house with just the four of us (well six actually). It was 5AM and Dennis wouldn't leave because we were having such a good time downstairs while the wives were asleep upstairs. Bryan was born later that month followed by Marty soon after.

Dennis if you can hear this: I will always remember our epic travels together, the hilarious stories we told, the places we visited, the people we met, the countless trips to Boston, and oh my God THE LAUGHTER!! You and I had more fun and laughter than any two people should be allowed to have in two lifetimes. One last thing, your name will be spoken for as long as I am alive. You are one of a kind and you will never be forgotten. God speed my friend.

Ed Washburn - May 10, 2024 at 11:32 AM

KW

The biggest fan of all his family and all his friends, cheering them on in life and now in heaven.

So, so proud of being a life long son of Utica.

Keep smiling and shinning down on us all Dennis. We miss you.

Kathleen Walker - May 10, 2024 at 12:39 PM

GA

Dennis: As much as I was going to bring your senior high school year book picture to the union meetings that all the boys wanted to see and you didn't want me to, I will honor your wishes and not bring it.....Rest in peace my friend. Gene Avella (the professor)

Gene Avella - May 10, 2024 at 06:59 PM

KN

things will not be the same on Sunday mornings when Dennis walked into Our Lady of Lourdes with a bright smile and a friendly good morning

KEVIN T NEEJER - May 13, 2024 at 02:33 PM