



Robert J. Nowakowski

August 15, 2022

Passed away peacefully on Monday, August 15, 2022 surrounded by his family after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer at the age of 78 years. He was born to Chester and Helen (nee Talaga) Nowakowski in August of 1943. As a child he was involved in dancing with the PNA of Milwaukee, WI. He attended Pulaski High School Milwaukee where he was a gymnast. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he obtained his BS in Mechanical Engineering followed by an MBA and obtained his PE. He was also a member of ROTC while in college. He married the love of his life Mary C. Berdes on August 13, 1966 and had 3 children. He served in Vietnam in 1967-68 and remained in the reserves for several years after returning home. His professional life started as a Mechanical Engineer at Louis Allis Co. in Milwaukee, WI. Then, he transitioned to Orion Corporation in Grafton, WI. He completed his career as President and COO after 35 years of service. He loved to travel with family and friends all over the world. He especially loved traveling to Italy and Poland. He was also a scuba diver and went on multiple adventures with his wife which included ice diving, cave diving and ship wreck diving. He loved to hunt and fish and especially enjoyed time at his cottage with family and friends. He was a mentor to so many, both family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Helen (nee Talaga) Nowakowski. He is survived by his wife, Mary (nee Berdes) Nowakowski, children Katherine (Larry) Treankler, Rose (David) Ziats and Kurt (Cass Kurth) Nowakowski. His grandchildren, Helen, Kaitlynn, Kaia, Layne (Jeremy) & Lance (Jordan). Great Grandchildren Bryce, Hailey and Landon. He is also survived by his brother Thomas (Jeanette) Nowakowski, Aunt Veronica Kress, brother-in-law Roman (Barbara) Berdes, sisters-in-law Marguerite (Dennis) Rygiewicz, Judy (Henry) Petrovs and Bernadette (James Lillie) Berdes and many other nieces and nephews.

His involvement with the St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation was important to him. The family asks that any memorials be made to the St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation in his honor.

Visitation Thursday, August 25 at the ROZGA FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES - LINCOLN VILLAGE CHAPEL from 4:00 – 8:00 PM with a Vigil Service at 6:00 PM and additional Visitation Friday, August 26 from 9:30-10:30 AM. Funeral Friday at 10:30 AM from the Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 11:00 AM at the BASILICA OF ST. JOSAPHAT, 601 W. Lincoln Ave. Entombment St. Adalbert Cemetery.

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services

Lincoln Village Chapel

703 West Lincoln Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53215

Cemetery Details

St. Adalbert Cemetery

3801 S. 6th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **25**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Lincoln Village Chapel
703 W Lincoln Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 671-5200
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

Vigil Service

AUG **25**. 6:00 PM (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Lincoln Village Chapel
703 W Lincoln Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 671-5200
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

Additional Visitation

AUG **26**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Lincoln Village Chapel
703 W Lincoln Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 671-5200
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Basilica of St. Josaphat
601 W. Lincoln Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Entombment

AUG **26**. 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Adalbert Cemetery
3801 S. 6th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert J. Nowakowski.



August 24, 2022 at 02:39 PM

GB

“ Green Bay Women's Basketball purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert J. Nowakowski.



Green Bay Women's Basketball - August 24, 2022 at 01:21 PM

GK

“ Mary
I wish I could be there for Bob but I have a conflict. I worked with Bob at the best job ever because of the feeling of "family" which Bob was a huge part of inspiring. He was a great mentor to me and others both about the job and about life. He will truly be missed.
May GOD Bless you and your family in this troubling time.
Very sorry for your loss.
George Krueger
Orion Corp.
Retired.

George Krueger - August 24, 2022 at 09:37 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert J. Nowakowski.



August 23, 2022 at 12:49 PM

TL

“ *The Indoor Football League purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Robert J. Nowakowski.*



The Indoor Football League - August 23, 2022 at 09:44 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert J. Nowakowski.*



August 22, 2022 at 11:12 PM

AK

“ *Rose-I'm so sorry on the loss of your Dad. You shared some great golfing and fishing stories you had with him over the years 'up north'. My prayers are with you my friend. -Amy*

Amy Klapper - August 22, 2022 at 07:33 PM

RZ

Thanks Amy!!!❤️

Rose Ziats - August 23, 2022 at 05:29 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Robert J. Nowakowski.*



August 22, 2022 at 07:24 PM

AD

“ *We have had some of the most fun times with Bob and Mary. We'll always cherish the memories of our trip to Poland, years ago. It was an adventure like no other! Castles, mountains, lakes and rivers. Beautiful history all around, with someone who knew how to appreciate it. Bob was also a gracious and generous host. It was so easy to make him laugh, too! We will miss him.*

Adrian and Majka Drewitz - August 22, 2022 at 07:12 PM

RZ

My dad loved you both ❤️!!!

Rose Ziats - August 23, 2022 at 05:30 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Robert J. Nowakowski.*



August 22, 2022 at 09:42 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Robert J. Nowakowski.*



August 21, 2022 at 09:46 PM

TM

“ *Very memorable time flying across the lake up north with Uncle Bob at 90MPH. Uncle Bob will be missed!*

TIM MCLAUGHLIN - August 21, 2022 at 09:38 PM

RZ

He loved taking people for rides in that boat!!!

Rose Ziats - August 23, 2022 at 05:36 PM

BA

“ *My deepest sympathy to Mary, Kathy, Rose and Kurt. Also to Bob's other close family members. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you! Bob will always have a special place in my heart. We spent several years bow hunting together, and I truly loved spending time with him. Bob was a great guy and he will be missed.*

Brian L. Abitz - August 21, 2022 at 07:17 AM

RZ

Brian thank you. I know my dad loved hunting with you & hanging out with you as well. ❤️

Rose Ziats - August 22, 2022 at 05:32 PM

TM

“ 2 of Bob's favorite things. Beer and fishing! He will be missed but never forgotten. He will live on in all of us!



Tim McKeown - August 20, 2022 at 03:38 PM

RZ

Timmy that pic is awesome!!! Thank you. Ice fishing weekend will continue. I guess I have to put up the princess hut by myself. Who will drill the holes for me? ❤️

Rose Ziats - August 20, 2022 at 05:08 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Robert J. Nowakowski.



August 19, 2022 at 09:15 AM