



## Steven D. Koszalka

January 28, 2021

January 28, 2021 at the age of 67 years. Steve is survived by his wife of 42 years Peggy (nee Keyes).

Preceded in death by his parents Dave and Mary Koszalka and his in-laws Bill and Barbara Keyes, also his two brothers-in-law, Dennis Flemion and Gregg Wernsman, three nephews Ryan and Stephen Keyes and Sean O'Dell and three baby Angels, Katelyn, Stephen and Hannah Wernsman.

Survivors include sisters Janice Flemion and Elaine (David) Branback, brother Mike (Chris), four sisters-in-law Maureen (Ron Taylor) Keyes, Kathryn (Mike) O'Dell, Eileen Wernsman, Erin (Jay) Orlowski and three brothers-in-law, Michael (Janis), Kevin (Lisa) and the other "P" Patrick CossR. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews; from the Koszalka family Paul "Fishing Master", Sarah (Michael) Vanasse, Vanessa and Derek Braun and from the Keyes family, Eric (Crystal) Graff, Matthew (Jamita) Schotting, Patrick, David, Casey (Amy) and William (Samantha) O'Dell, Madeline and Daniel Wernsman, Meghan, Eamonn, Molly and Clarie Keyes, Nicholas, Haley and Michael Orlowski and great-nieces and nephews, many cousins and many, many buddies too numerous to mention.

Steve was a man of many talents, including a gifted artist and carpenter and a fishing extraordinaire. Memorials to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission would be

appreciated.

Visitation Friday, February 5 at the Rozga-Walloch Chapel (4309 S. 20th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221) from 4:00 - 6:00 PM with the Funeral Service at 6:00 PM. (Attire will be jeans and flannel shirts.). Interment Monday, Feb. 8 at 1:00 PM at Highland Memorial Park (14875 W. Greenfield Ave, New Berlin, WI 53151) (Please meet at the Cemetery entrance).

# Cemetery Details

## Highland Memorial Park

14875 W. Greenfield Ave.  
New Berlin, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Rozga-Walloch Chapel  
4309 South 20th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221  
(414) 281-7145  
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

## Funeral Service

FEB 5. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Rozga-Walloch Chapel  
4309 South 20th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221  
(414) 281-7145  
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

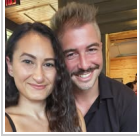
## Cemetery Committal Service

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FEB 8. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Highland Memorial Park  
14875 W. Greenfield Ave.  
New Berlin, WI

# Tribute Wall



“ Steve was an amazing Uncle and friend to me. He introduced to me to fishing and taught me so much about life. Patience, perseverance, and persistence through fishing and love through camaraderie. He showed me how to become in touch with my inner artist through his great works in so many areas. He mounted my first trophy fish for me and the art is beautiful.

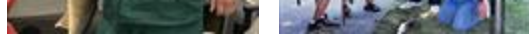
One time we were fishing in Manitowish waters on our favorite lake and we weren't catching anything. It was pouring rain and we were about to call it quits. All of a sudden Steve hooked into something big. After fighting for a few minutes he brought a 7+ pound walleye to the surface and the rain didn't matter, we were both stunned and rejoicing. He said "You know this might sound a little weird, but I was talking to your grandpa (in heaven) and saying how we used to catch so many walleye here and now nothin. He told me to just be patient." I told him that's not weird at all Steve. I'm sure they are having some good laughs together again.

Steve found me my first boat at age 17 and I still use it today. It was free from the side of the road. The deck was rotting and everything was out of sorts, but Steve fixed it all up for me and it was beautiful. I went out as many times as I could that summer.

I will forever carry on the legacy of the Koszalka family fishing trips to Manitowish waters. Steve showed me all of the spots, all of the secrets, and even the recipe to the fish fry. I will proudly share this with my children, family, and friends in the years to come.

Steve, I love you so much and I know you'll hear me when I talk to you. Maybe you'll even help me catch a trophy like grandpa did you that day. Your humor, love, and passion for life will be sorely missed. You're free now, say hi to grandpa, grandma, and dad for me. Love you always cameraman. "Grasshopper"





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**Paul Flemion** - February 05, 2021 at 05:02 PM

JF

“ Steve was my big brother and my first, true friend. I have memories of us playing together as toddlers. Growing up as kids, I happily embraced becoming a tomboy in order to tag along with him and his neighborhood buddies.

*As teenagers our bond was still strong. Steve taught me how to drive stick shift in his Volkswagen Beetle and trusted me enough to drive his beloved 1967 Ford Mustang. (Now THAT’S love! Lol)*

*Our lives naturally became separate as adults, but our bond was never broken. I always felt he was my “protector”. Steve never failed to offer me his support, good advice, and always, unconditional love.*

*My brother was a man of true convictions. He loved his family, appreciated traditions and was loyal and caring to those he loved.*

*Steve identified with the working man and fought for their rights. He not only “talked the talk”, he “walked the walk”—literally. The spirit of his beliefs and strength of his convictions have made a difference in this world. His generosity has touched so many people, in so many ways.*

*I will be eternally grateful for the influence he had on my children’s lives in his role as their loving uncle. Through his example, Steve taught them about patience, steadfast love, loyalty, the importance of family and so much more.*

*Steve was an artist to the core: sensitive, emotional and thoughtful. He brought beauty and truth into our lives through his many passions.*

*Steve was a serious, quiet man, but he also had a great sense of humor. I will cherish all the emails he sent me containing links that added laughter to my daily life.*

*—And Steve was also a bit of a prankster. It makes me smile when I*

*remember how he once pranked me:*

*I used to joke that I believed in fairies, so he bought a metal fairy statue and secretly hid it in my car under the seat. Then, he waited patiently for me to discover it. He never let on when I excitedly told him one day about my "miraculous find".*

*He subsequently hid more similar statues in my garden, (I have quite a collection), before finally confessing it had been him putting them there all along. His well devised practical joke just exemplifies the playful, spirited bond my brother and I shared.*

*Steve, I will miss you so very, very much. You were more than just a big brother to me, you were my true friend.*

*I love you always,*

*Jan*



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**Janice Flemion** - February 03, 2021 at 11:55 PM

Jl

“ *It's the friends you meet along your life that matter the most. It's those people you pick as your friends that make a difference. And it's the dash that really matters The dash between when you were born and the day you die. PLEASE look up the poem by Linda Ellis called The Dash.*

*Not good-bye my dear buddy but I'll meet you for breakfast. I'm so proud to have been, "one of the guys "*

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**Judy Ibe** - February 02, 2021 at 05:55 PM

MA

“ Steve was such a great guy. Humble and fun to be around. I am glad I knew him.

*Mike Adam*

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**Mike Adam** - February 02, 2021 at 09:14 AM

KH

“ It was a privilege to have known Steve, both as a neighbor and as a friend. Over the years he was always helping others---garden tips, snow blowing, good conversation etc.

*Steve was a modest man. I knew of his culinary and carpentry skills, but never knew he was a talented artist. I will cherish the good memories.*

*Rest in peace dear friend.*

*Kathy Van Handel*

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**Kathleen Van Handel** - February 01, 2021 at 03:53 PM

RW

“ Steve is now planting beautiful flowers in heaven like the gardens he planted at his home.

*Rest In Peace, dear Steve. Aunt Rose*

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**rose wiberg** - February 01, 2021 at 03:37 PM

MJ

“ I've known Steve all of his life. We were neighbors growing up, played kick the can in the alley, football in the street, we lived together with Gary, we played Risk with friends for years, Jean introduced Steve to Peggy, we have his artwork proudly displayed in our house. Such a great guy. Rest in Peace, our dear friend.

*Mike & Jean*

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**Mike & Jean** - February 01, 2021 at 01:11 PM

GK

*Steve was a good friend. So many good times fishing, playing football, basketball and those risk tournaments and concerts. Fun times on Bremen. RIP my Old Friend, Gary and Mary*

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**Gary Kau** - February 01, 2021 at 05:28 PM

EO

“ *Steve - a great Uncle. A quiet force...always there when needed! So good to my kids with a treat, a little monetary bonus or a compliment given ....*

*You were a talented guy - nothing you couldn't do! I feel fortunate to have been with you on your final journey...*

*Into the Mystic*

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**Erin Orlowski** - February 01, 2021 at 09:57 AM

MK

“ *I will miss you Steve. We shared so much: our political perspectives and support of workers' rights, a love of ZZ Top and a good party, the importance of quiet reflection amidst the Keyes clan's frenzy, the devotion for family and the breadth of loyalty. We differed in some ways like frugality, leading to another example of how Steve walked his talk. When finally at age 46, preparing to buy my first house, I encountered a few last minute obstacles. Ready to give up, he merely asked Peggy, "How much does she need?" Steve gave me a wonderful house-warming gift, an ink drawing. Steve was a man of enormous talent, From artist to architect, fisherman to botanist, culinary artiste to trusted buddy of many, Steve forever remains one helluva great guy. Thanks for loving my sister Peggy. Rest in peace now, we've got your back.*



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**Maureen Keyes** - January 31, 2021 at 12:23 PM

PK

“ Steve was a wonderful artist, great cook and incredible gardener. He loved my sister Peggy a great deal. I don't know if we can blame Rodgers for his death after Sunday's game but I am sure that it didn't help matters. I will miss you Steve but your memory will live on. May the Angels lead you to paradise where the fishing is great!  
Love, Patrick

Patrick Keyes - January 30, 2021 at 02:53 PM

EI

“ What a talented artist and craftsman Steve was. We had a spot in our bedroom which was just a bit too long for a standard bed. Thanks to Steve's skill, and talent, We have the best bed with plenty of storage space. It is made out of the finest wood and attention to the finest details. We will cherish forever. Thanks Steve for sharing your talents and mostly your love with my sister Peggy. Love Eileen

eileen - January 30, 2021 at 11:00 AM

KO

“ Love and prayers Peggy. Steve loved his Scooby!!



Kathryn O'Dell - January 30, 2021 at 10:25 AM

KO

“ I'll never forget how good Steve was to our Sean! When he was in Iraq, Sean loved the wonderful packages Steve would send him. I'm sure Steve is giving Sean heavenly fishing advice now. Rest In Peace, Steve! So grateful for all you did for your nephews!

Kathryn O'Dell - January 29, 2021 at 10:24 PM

MH

*Steve was a quiet man of many talents. The love & care he shared with others was wonderful. He loved Peggy with abandon. RIP!*

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**margaret hansen** - February 01, 2021 at 03:40 PM

CS

*My man Steveoo, one of the best. It was an honor and a blessing to have known you. Your legacy of many well wishes for others was clearly the spirit of "paying it forward". Rest In Peace, my Buddy*

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**charles staszewski** - February 05, 2021 at 09:00 PM