



Dennis Frank Polega

October 24, 1952 - January 24, 2022

Dennis Frank Polega, 69 of Kinde, Michigan passed away suddenly at his home on Monday, January 24, 2022.

Dennis and Laurie (Craig-Buchkowski) were friends for many years and had a serendipitous meeting in 1995 which led to their marriage in Caseville, Michigan, on September 28, 1996. They were pleased to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in 2021.

Dennis was born in Bad Axe, Michigan on October 24, 1952. He spent his childhood on the family farm of his parents, Irvin Frank and MaryAnn (Talaski) Polega. He attended Jericho Country School and graduated from Harbor Beach Community High School in 1971.

Dennis worked for many years at the former Active Industries in Elkton, Michigan, until he got the urge for a change and went to work for NutriSweet in Harbor Beach. He worked there throughout their various renditions and retired from Dow AgroScience in 2018 after over 35 years of service. Dennis had a servant's heart and could not refuse a request for help. He enjoyed carpentry, old engine shows, trains, flea markets and trips to the casino. He had a deep love for his family.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Laurie and his four children; Cheryl (Michael)

Scott, Ida, Michigan, Amy (Kenneth) Anderson, Moncks Corner, SC, Jason Polega, Bad Axe, Michigan, Sara (Chad) Santos, Brighton, Michigan and two stepchildren; John (Lynn) Buchkowski, Lawton, Michigan, Jami (Joshua) Shea, Wellston, Michigan; 11 grandchildren; 3 step-grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by three brothers; Bernard (Lili) Polega, Grand Saline, Texas, Ronald Polega, Caseville, Michigan, Melvin (Sandi) Polega, Allegan, Michigan, and four sisters; Patricia (Ronald) Carpenter, Davisburg, Michigan, Linda (Robert) Kozfkay, Lexington, Michigan, Joyce Messing, Tacoma, Washington, and Irene (David) Muehlfeld, Caseville, Michigan. Also survived by his mother-in-law, Lorraine Craig, Bad Axe, Michigan; 6 brothers-in-law; Gregory (Julie) Craig, Bad Axe, Michigan, Rodney/Joe Craig, Caseville, Michigan, Brian (Jeanne) Craig, Potterville, Michigan, Barry Craig, Northville, Michigan, Mark (Patti) Craig Schoolcraft, Michigan, Randy (Anne) Craig, Crosswell, Michigan; 3 sisters-in-law, Diane Bergey, Imlay City, Michigan, Donna (Thomas) Walsh, Sebawaing, Michigan and Melissa Craig, Bad Axe, Michigan and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Irvin and MaryAnn, his father-in-law, John J. Craig, sister-in-law, Carol Polega and brother-in-law, Art Bergey

Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 11 am at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe. Burial will be in St. Roch Catholic Cemetery in Caseville. Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2022 from 2 – 8 pm or Friday from 10 am until the service time at 11 am at the Kaufman Funeral Home.

Memorials may be offered to the Scheurer Health Foundation.

Cemetery Details

St. Roch's Cemetery

Caseville, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.
84 Westland Dr
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-3000
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

JAN 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.
84 Westland Dr
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-3000
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

Service

JAN 28. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.
84 Westland Dr
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-3000
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dennis Frank Polega*

January 28, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies to the family. I joined the Harbor Beach team after Dennis had retired, so I did not get the opportunity to work with him. However, I knew of him because of all the wonderful stories and memories everyone on site would share about him. It is obvious he was a wonderful person, co-worker, and friend. He had a significant and lasting impact, not only to the site, but to everyone that works there! My prayers to the family for strength during this very difficult time. Sincerely, Lisa Callender and family*

Lisa Callender - January 31, 2022 at 09:26 AM



“ *I lived a few miles from him and we rode the same school bus to Harbor Beach. I'm so sorry for your loss. Your family are in my prayers*

ann miller - January 29, 2022 at 07:44 PM



“ *Barry, Ben, Emily, Stuart and Kathy purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.*



Barry, Ben, Emily, Stuart and Kathy - January 27, 2022 at 12:42 PM

DR

“ Dear Lourie and family, Our heart breaks for you, Love and prayers,
Don and Denise Rice , Fillion

DENISE A RICE - January 27, 2022 at 12:06 PM

RG

“ Condolences to Dennis’s family. He was a good man. He was kind.
He was always willing to help anyone out. Would give you the shirt
off of his back if he thought it would help you out. Had the privilege
of working with him for 15 years. Rest in peace old friend

Robin Gray - January 27, 2022 at 10:11 AM

KG

“ My sympathies to all of Dennis’ family. I hope to make it down for
the service, but weather, plus my compromised health condition and
Covid exposure might not make it possible. I hope I can make it to
also renew old acquaintances with his siblings also all my cousins.
May he Rest In Peace! Ken Gorney, Charlevoix

Ken Gorney - January 26, 2022 at 07:00 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the
family of Dennis Frank Polega.



January 26, 2022 at 06:57 PM

EK

“ Uncle Dennis was always a gentle giant in my eyes. He was always there for my Dad on a project when in over his head. I was always impressed with his construction abilities. Love you Uncle Dennis. See you in the other side Eric

Eric Kozfkay - January 26, 2022 at 01:04 PM

LD

“ Love, Tom & Donna purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.



Love, Tom & Donna - January 26, 2022 at 12:31 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.



January 26, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.



January 26, 2022 at 11:44 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.*



January 26, 2022 at 10:04 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.*



January 26, 2022 at 08:18 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss
Ron & Deb Wruble*

Ron & Deb Wruble - January 26, 2022 at 02:47 AM



“ *My sincere condolence to all family members especially Dennis Brothers, Melvin and Ron. Also, special thoughts and Love to, Dennis nieces, Jenny Polega-Paff, Kelly Polega-Knoblock, Melonie Polega-Griffin and special Nephew, Tony Polega.*

Love,

Rita A. Ruth-Bacik 🍷💖💖💖🙏🌹🌹🌹

Rita A. Bacik - January 25, 2022 at 09:31 PM

MN

“ Laurie and family. So very sorry for your loss. Gone too soon. Ma he rest in peace.

Mary Beth Nimitz - January 25, 2022 at 06:40 PM

TM

“ Tim, Dena, Michael, and Kayla, McCormick purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.



Tim, Dena, Michael, and Kayla, McCormick - January 25, 2022 at 04:42 PM

KA

“ I had the privilege of knowing Dennis and having great fun bowling and sharing some laughs. Dennis was one of the most kind hearted people I have ever met. My sincere condolences go out to Laurie and the Family. My heart goes out to you. God Bless

Kathy - January 25, 2022 at 03:05 PM

KE

Dennis was one of my favorite cousins. He would tease me relentlessly when I stayed at the farm. I was lucky enough to run into him at a restaurant a few years ago and able to meet his wife and daughter. Sending hugs of strength to his whole family.

He

Karen Ekstrom - January 26, 2022 at 09:47 AM

DM

“ *What a golden good-hearted man he was for a neighbor. Always willing to lend a caring helping hand. A couple fond memories on his behalf and I'm sure many has a story like this to be told. My Tim, my Mike and Dennis, together, built our 3-car garage with a breezeway. We couldn't have done it without this man guiding and constructing the entire project. When I came home and seen the overhang partially done to the breezeway that Tim decided on, I asked what happened. Expecting to see the start of an overhang that covered the entire porch to keep the rain off of us and guest, Dennis speaks up and says you know Tim every time she comes in this door, she's not going to be happy. He said let's take it down and start over and make her happy. After we bought our property here, I had little Mike and little Kayla out in the corn field planning our row of trees and who shows up from next door, scoops Kayla up, carrying her so she doesn't trip, fall, and get hurt from the stubbed corn stalks. We didn't know him from the man on the moon. Thats just the kind of man he was. Your kindness, giving, concerning, personality, will be dearly missed. It won't be the same here without you. Rest in peace friend and may the Lord give comfort, strength, and peace, to his wife Lori, family, and friends.*



sincerely, Tim, Dena, Mike, and Kayla McCormick

Dena L McCormick - January 25, 2022 at 02:42 PM

JS

“ I had the pleasure to be able to work with Dennis when I started with Dow in 1998. He was a great person to work with and was so patient when it came to training (which with some of us, was no easy feat!). He was very kind and giving and caring and so nice to talk with. He cared deeply for his family, you could tell by how he spoke of them. I used to look forward to seeing him and his wife driving by my house on their antique tractors in the Port Hope 4th of July parade. :)

Dennis was quick to lend a hand to anyone who needed him and was a hard worker and dedicated employee. The company lost a "good one" when he retired. Rest in peace Dennis.

You will be greatly missed by so many...

Jan Schulz - January 25, 2022 at 02:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.



January 25, 2022 at 01:53 PM



Jonathan Jones

“ Dennis was super helpful when arrived in HB away from family and away from home. A new engineer fresh out of school, he didn't fault me for not always getting things right or having the right answers. He was a great guide during my time in Harbor Beach. May he Rest In Peace. My prayers and condolences to the family.

Jonathan Jones

Jonathan Jones - January 25, 2022 at 01:48 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.



January 25, 2022 at 01:46 PM



“ I worked with Dennis (the menace) Pollin'm-lega for many years. Dennis was willing to share his expertise and lend a hand (and hammer) anytime he was needed. I followed his advice when building my house and NEVER regretted it. Dennis left BIG shoes to fill when he retired, and he was sorely missed then and so much more painfully missed now.

*With all my love and sympathy to Dennis' family and friends
Margie Remsing*

Margie Remsing - January 25, 2022 at 12:56 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.



January 25, 2022 at 12:41 PM



“ *Love, Brian & Jeanne purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dennis Frank Polega.*



Love, Brian & Jeanne - January 25, 2022 at 12:06 PM