



## Wayland E. Vacek

April 28, 1977 - March 15, 2026

Wayland E. Vacek, 48, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, March 15, 2026 in Libertyville, IL. He was born April 28, 1977 in Omaha, NE and had been a longtime resident of Libertyville. Sometimes the strongest men leave the biggest holes in our hearts. The sudden loss of Wayland has left his beloved wife Kate and their boys Brayden and Ryder facing an unimaginable future without the husband and father who was the center of their world. Our hearts are broken by the sudden and unexpected loss of Wayland, a beloved husband, devoted father, loyal friend, and truly remarkable man.

Wayland had a presence that made everyone feel welcome. With his warm smile, gentle spirit, and larger than life kindness, no one was ever a stranger to him. He was the kind of person who showed up for others, always ready with encouragement, laughter, and genuine care. A proud former Bearcat football player, Wayland treasured the lifelong friendships he built with his football brothers. The bond, camaraderie, and loyalty he learned on the field carried through every part of his life. But above all, Wayland was deeply devoted to his wife and family. He loved cheering on his boys, supporting them in everything they did, and being present for every moment that mattered. His pride in them was unmistakable, and his love for Kate, Brayden, and Ryder were the center of his world. His passing is devastating and completely unexpected, leaving his family and everyone who knew him heartbroken.

Surviving is his wife, Kathleen "Kate" Mariani Vacek; 2 sons, Brayden & Ryder; father, Joseph Parizek; father & mother in-law, John & Marie Mariani; brothers, Thomas (Lisa) & Donn (Lisa) Vacek and by sister-in-law, Meghan (Matt) Potempa; brother-in-law, Andrew (Kate) Mariani; nephews and niece; Dominic and Benjamin Mariani, Olive and Ozzie Potempa As well as many extended family members and friends who love him dearly.

He was preceded in death by Barbara Vacek; maternal grandparents, Edward & Shirley "Red" Vacek and by a brother, Edward Vacek.

A visitation will be held at 10:00 a.m. followed by a mass at 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 20, 2026 at St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church, 22333 W. Erhart Rd in Mundelein. Arrangements by Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations would be appreciated to his family as an education fund has been established for his boys. This fundraiser has been created to help support Kate and the boys as they navigate this unimaginable loss. Fundraiser for Kate Mariani-Vacek by Sybil Chadwick : Rallying Around the Vacek Family, in Memory of Wayland. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/rallying-around-the-vacek-family-in-memory-of-wayland>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Annunciation  
22333 W. Erhart Raod  
Mundelein, IL 60060  
<http://stmaryfc.org>

## Memorial Mass

MAR **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Annunciation  
22333 W. Erhart Raod  
Mundelein, IL 60060  
<http://stmaryfc.org>

# Tribute Wall

BR

“ I had the honor to work with Wayland at Philips Healthcare. Always positive in his outlook on all things. He supported all team members and was a bright and hard working man. This world lost a good man but the heavens gained a new angel. Rest in Peace my friend !!

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**Bill Radaj** - March 24 at 07:07 PM

SB

“ I am very saddened by this news! I only knew Wayland professionally while he was at Canon. He was always respectful and easy to work with. We took time to share bits and pieces of our private lives by talking about upcoming weekend plans. His was always about his family. This is such sad news and my prayers are with his family, friends and coworkers. He will be missed by all.

*Sharon Bartley*

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**Sharon Bartley** - March 23 at 10:24 AM

SB

“ Wayland was such a genuine great guy! He always had a wide smile, was positive, and ready for a good time. He is unforgettable! I pray for comfort for Kate and their sons, family, and community. He will be missed. His memory will live on in everyone who knew him.

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**Shannon Becker** - March 20 at 03:05 PM

TW

“ I worked with Wayland at FujiFilm Medical Systems. Wayland along with Allen Glenn and Pete Capaletti were all tall handsome salesmen. I laughed and called them the 3 Superheroes that no potential customer could say no to. Wayland was so kind and he will be missed by all.

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**Tom Wolff** - March 19 at 07:37 PM

GM

“ I met and worked with Wayland at Philips, and am utterly saddened by his loss. One of the rare truly genuine humans I'm met along my journey to date, I was blessed to experience his humility, support, kindness to others and overall joy to spend time with.

*My sincerest thoughts and prayers to his wife, boys, family and friends, which I know he had many.*

*As said earlier by Jack, our loss here & now .. but heaven's gained one our very best!*

*Gavin*

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**Gavin Moravek** - March 19 at 05:54 PM

NF

“ Northwest Football purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Wayland E. Vacek.



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**Northwest Football** - March 19 at 11:18 AM

MR

“ Wayland was one of a kind. He took a red eye flight to Omaha when he heard my husband, his friend, passed away and loved on our kids. I am praying for his wife, children, family and friends. All the good ones gain their wings early.

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**Mandy Rody** - March 18 at 09:44 PM

JH

“ Wayland’s Aunt Jeanette and family are so saddened to hear of his passing. Our hearts and prayers are with Kate and the boys. Aunt Jeanette’s favorite memory of Wayland is when he took her to the CWS to see the Arkansas Razorbacks play baseball in 2015. At 86 years old she still talks about it with a huge smile on her face.



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**Judy and Mary Holst** - March 18 at 07:46 PM

JO

“ I am so sad to hear of Wayland's passing. I am Jack Oholendt ,Waylands High School Football Coach. My heart felt feelings and Prayers go out to his Wife Kate and their two sons Brayden and Ryder. I want his family to know that Wayland was a "One of a kind person" on and off the football Field. He was committed in his training discipline, his leadership ,and his loyalty for 4 years in the Omaha South High football program. Not only did excel on the football field but also in his academic achievement. Heaven has received an amazing person. God bless Kate,Brayden, and Ryder

*Jack Oholendt*

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**Jack Oholendt** - March 18 at 06:17 PM

HJ

*That's amazing Jack.*

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**Hjortshoj** - March 18 at 06:46 PM

JB

*Sending our love, prayers and deepest sympathy to Katie, her sons and all the family and friends. God bless your family.  
Jerry and Janie Baglien*

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**J/J Baglien** - March 19 at 09:57 AM

SL

*Coach O! I remember you from my days at Burke (1999-2003).  
Wayland, my cousin talked about his wonderful years at Omaha South and the amazing football program often.*

*God Bless,  
Sara Lee (Vacek)*

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**Sara Lee** - March 21 at 01:25 AM

HJ

*“ Much love Way. And much love to Kate and the boys. Wish I would've stayed in closer contact. Now it's too late but Way, just know that even though I was older than you, I always wanted to be like you. You will be missed severely.*

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**Hjortshoj** - March 18 at 05:36 PM

RF

*“ Such heartbreaking news, so sad for the loss of a friend and former coworker. He was such a great person and will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with him and all of his family and friends.*

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**Rob Fabrizio** - March 18 at 01:57 PM

JC

“ I am so sad to hear this. I met Wayland at NWMSU. He was my son’s roommate. He always had a smile and just an overall great person. I’m glad I knew him. He will be missed. Our condolences to his family.

jane Crowe - March 18 at 10:42 AM

MA

“ Waylan was my Manager at Philips Healthcare, and he was one of the best (if not the best) manager I’ve ever had. Always supportive, always uplifting, and someone who you knew had your back. Not to mention he was a great guy to be around. GOD bless his Family, he’ll be missed.

Mike Anderson - March 18 at 09:31 AM

RI

“ Wayland was an amazing friend from the first day I met him at practice. He would do anything for anyone. I had so many great experiences with him and wish we could have spent more time together. Love you Kate and am I so sorry this happened.

Rinehart - March 17 at 10:55 PM

AC

Mark you’re so right he was that guy would stop whatever he’s doing pick up our phone call,, the first words out of his mouth what’s up brother and It was the only and most appropriate thing to say as that’s how I felt about him , he. was always and will be like a brother if it was just a chat or advise to bounce something off him as he was a rockstar. He always had the right things to say He would calm me and and always get me back on track, he was an Amazing father, husband, friend, brother, warrior Too many amazing memories and shenanigans that I never wanna forget

Aaron Crowe - March 18 at 09:23 AM

TF

“ *The Marinca Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Wayland E. Vacek.*



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**The Marinca Family** - March 17 at 07:10 PM