



Wolfram A. Kollacks

September 28, 1936 - November 14, 2023

Loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother Wolfram “Wolfie” Axel Kollacks passed away unexpectedly in Libertyville, IL on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, surrounded by his devoted family. He was born on September 28, 1936 in Seifhennersdorf, Germany, near the Czech and Polish borders. Facing starvation after WWII, he immigrated to the United States in 1949 with his family and became a naturalized citizen in 1956.

Wolfie was passionate about American democracy, politics, finances, and most of all, steam engines, having been a lifelong rail fan. Early family vacations involved chasing trains to capture memorable photos of them before they sped away. He was an avid reader, loved taking long walks, and worked hard to attain “The American Dream.”

After attending the University of Illinois, he became a successful chemical engineer and married the love of his life, Linda. For 15 years he worked at Corn Products Company in Argo, IL until being offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work in Brussels, Belgium. The family moved to Belgium in 1975, where he and his wife lived for 22 years.

Ten years after their last child returned to the U.S., Wolfie and Linda moved back to be with his elderly mother and the rest of the family. Up until the very end, he was caring for his family, even for his younger sister now suffering

from Alzheimer's. He will forever be remembered for his dedication to his family, for how little he asked for himself, and for how much he gave to them.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years Linda; their three daughters, Christina Famiglietti, Lisa Hanagan (Ted), Diana Wilson (Sean); sister Barbara Kollacks and sister-in-law Lila Carlson; and five grandchildren, Stephanie (Alex), Rebekah (Brady), Deborah, Christopher, and Bryce.

A memorial visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the time of Service at 12:00p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2023, at St. James Lutheran Church, 1380 N. Waukegan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

Memorials may be made to American Heart Association at www.heart.org or to St. James Lutheran Church (<https://www.stjameslutheran.org/giving>) at <https://securemyvanco.com/YJWQ/campaign/C-13MF4>.

Arrangements by Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, For Info: (847) 362-3009 or please share a memory or leave a condolence at www.burnettdane.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **27**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. James Lutheran Church
1380 N. Waukegan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Memorial Service

NOV **27**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. James Lutheran Church
1380 N. Waukegan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wolfram A. Kollacks.*



November 26, 2023 at 07:39 PM



“ *Love, the Condrons, Elevelds & Manzagas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wolfram A. Kollacks.*

Love, the Condrons, Elevelds & Manzagas - November 26, 2023 at 07:39 PM



“ *Rhonda Lambeck purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Wolfram A. Kollacks.*



Rhonda Lambeck - November 26, 2023 at 12:35 PM



“ *Rhonda Lambeck planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wolfram A. Kollacks.*

Rhonda Lambeck - November 26, 2023 at 12:35 PM



“ I knew how much Uncle Wolfy loved Trains - I found this poem & it reminded me of him.

One Way Ticket to Heaven

I've got a one-way ticket to Heaven

On the glory train

I'm taking a trip to the promised land

IM never coming back I made my resurrection Long Long Ago

So when the conductor says all aboard

I would be ready to go I sent in for my tickets away ahead of time

So when the train pulled out from the station

I wouldn't be left behind I won't take any luggage

But that will be all right

When I get to Heaven

I wear my robe of white I hear that train coming

I hear her whistle blow

I've got a one-way ticket to Heaven and I am ready to go.

Freda Lee Jackson

My thoughts and prayers are with you Linda, your family& friends.

Rhonda Lambeck

Rhonda Lambeck - November 26, 2023 at 12:08 PM

PP

“ Linda, I was so very sorry to hear of your beloved Wolfie's passing. I remember talking with you at the Centre Club about him and your wonderful life together. I pray that it comforts you to know that you are surrounded by loving thoughts. Paulette Peters

Paulette Peters - November 25, 2023 at 07:11 PM

LK

I am rereading your message. I was unable to respond at the time as I was totally overwhelmed with grief. This still continues, but the paperwork forced in widows is obscene. Anyway, thank you for your sweet message. He knew you from when you used tge rowing machine together. How I long for those days! Blessings to you and yours. Linda

Linda Kollacks - August 10, 2024 at 12:13 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Wolfram A. Kollacks.*



November 25, 2023 at 07:31 AM



“ *May your memories of Wolfram bring you joy despite the loss you feel at this time. I remember how excited my mom was when you all came to visit our family in Marengo. Family is so important and my mom was thrilled to have a chance to have you stay with us in the 1980's. I do not remember the exact year, but I'm guessing around 1982 or after. I send love and strength as you all grieve his loss. Blessings on this Thanksgiving as you mourn. All my love, Carole (Schirmer) Peters*

Carole Peters - November 23, 2023 at 05:30 PM

KE

“ *Every time I think of Wolfie I see his smile ... he was so warm and inviting. And he was ever supportive of you Linda. Your portrait paintings of Wolfie show all his loving characteristics. You both make me think of Europe too ... the gentle life of Belgium ... He never lost his European manner. At this Thanksgiving time, I am grateful for having shared a bit of good creative life with you both. Keep painting Linda ... your brush will call you ... +Kathleen Van Ella.....*

Kathleen Van Ella - November 22, 2023 at 01:17 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wolfram A. Kollacks.*



November 21, 2023 at 11:45 PM

BG

“ *Dear Linda,*

We are so sorry to hear of the passing of your husband. May his memory be a blessing for all who knew and loved him.

With deepest sympathy,

Barbara and Bill Greenfield

Barbara Greenfield - November 21, 2023 at 09:53 PM

SK

“ Dear Linda and Family,

Although words seem so inadequate at times like this, please know that my heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you.

Your love and devotion to each other have always been a wonderful example of what it means to be successful life-long partners, with a strong, supportive family.

May the concern and sympathy of your many friends help to ease your pain, and bring you some comfort during this sad time.

Blessings to you all,

Sally Keller

Sally Baker Keller - November 21, 2023 at 05:03 PM

JS

“ Jim Scheibel purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Wolfram A. Kollacks.



Jim Scheibel - November 21, 2023 at 11:37 AM

JS

“ Jim Scheibel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wolfram A. Kollacks.

Jim Scheibel - November 21, 2023 at 11:37 AM

TG

“ Dear Diana,

We are deeply saddened by the loss of your dad Wolfram that you and your family have encountered.

Please accept our sincere condolences.

May Lord give her a special place in heaven.

Finding the right words for the loss of a dear father can be extremely difficult.

It may seem like nothing can bring you comfort in this time of mourning and grief.

You were blessed to have a wonderful loving father like Wolfram so special and caring.

His memory will live forever in yours and ours hearts.

*Kaushambini & Gaurang TRIVEDI
family”*

Trivedi Gaurang - November 21, 2023 at 11:24 AM

JF

“ *Wolfie and Linda were always a peach of a pair. They were the first among my then-young friends to be married -- a tie that binds them evermore. After they returned to the USA from Belgium we renewed those ties of youth, enjoying many pizza dinners at the Windmill not far from their home. Wolfie and I travelled together on a number of rail photo adventures in both early and later life. He was always enjoyable as a traveling companion and brought the flexibility to make those travels delightful. Alas, the trip toward Heaven that he has now embarked upon will have to be made solo, but his faith in God will carry him home. May God continue to bless his family on this Earth. Very sincerely, your friend Jim Farrell*

Jim Farrell - November 21, 2023 at 08:26 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Wolfram A. Kollacks.*



November 20, 2023 at 09:45 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Wolfram A. Kollacks.*



November 20, 2023 at 08:32 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wolfram A. Kollacks.



November 17, 2023 at 06:19 PM



“ Your colleagues at Patrick Engineering planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wolfram A. Kollacks.

Your colleagues at Patrick Engineering - November 17, 2023 at 06:19 PM



“ Bob & Isabel Olsen purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Wolfram A. Kollacks.



Bob & Isabel Olsen - November 16, 2023 at 08:18 PM



“ Bob & Isabel Olsen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wolfram A. Kollacks.

Bob & Isabel Olsen - November 16, 2023 at 08:18 PM