



Greg J. Urbanek

December 16, 1960 - January 12, 2017

Gregory Urbanek, 56
Shelton resident

Gregory Urbanek, 56 of Shelton, he entered heavenly home Thursday, January 12, 2017 after he passed away at Good Samaritan Hospital following a short battle with undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma.

Funeral Services will be 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at Kearney New Life Church. The Chaplain Bobby Payne will officiate. The family will receive friends 5:00 to 7:30 pm Monday at the Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Gregory Joseph Urbanek was born in David City Nebraska on December 16, 1960 to Cyril and Agnes (Purtek) Urbanek. He graduated from David City Aquinas High School in 1979. He attended Chardon State College where in participated on the football and wrestling teams.

Greg was a police officer for the City of Kearney for 31 years achieving the rank of Sergeant. He graduated from the Northwestern University Command Staff School. During his career he was an investigator and volunteered his

services to the Foster Care Review Board for over 20 years. In 2003 Greg, along with other officers who worked the Anne Sluti kidnapping case were awarded the Advancing Justice and Cooperation in Law Enforcement Award presented by the United States Department of Justice. Greg devoted his career to being a community guardian. Sgt. Urbanek exemplified the mantra of “do the right thing for the right reasons in the right way”. He was awarded 2 meritorious Duty Awards during his career.

On November 30, 1991, Greg was united in marriage with Brenda Gonnerman. To this marriage, twin daughters, Emma Caroline and Maggie Elizabeth were born. Greg’s greatest joy was being with his family, and watching his daughters participate in their activities. Greg was a deeply spiritual man who relied on his faith through all obstacles and all joyous occasions. He was known far and wide as an avid fisherman whose greatest joy in fishing was not catching the biggest fish, but teaching others how to enjoy fishing. He shared his knowledge and experience of hunting and fishing with so many people.

Greg was also an outstanding cook. His fish fries, Italian walleye, cream can dinners and Christmas soup were epic. Greg always enjoyed feeding other people, making sure they had a cold beer and that they were enjoying themselves.

Greg is survived by his wife Brenda, daughters Emma of Lincoln, Maggie of Kearney, sisters Jayne Urban of Albuquerque, NM, Marcia Bohuslavsky of Brainard, Deb Arends of Lincoln, Judy (Lon) Dyer of Lincoln, brother Jerome (Teri) Urbanek of Ulysses, mother-in-law Norma Gonnerman of Gresham, brother-in-law Kevin and his wife Beth Gonnerman of Omaha, numerous nieces and nephews, and special “brother” Captain Mike Kirkwood.

Greg was preceded in death by his parents, Agnes and Cyril Urbanek, his

sister Jeanette Koch, brother-in-law Dick Arends, father-in-law Robert Gonnerman.

In-lieu of flowers family requests memorials made to Orphan Grain Train or for family designation.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Memorial Service

JAN 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

New Life Church
2715 W. 39th St.
Kearney, NE

Tribute Wall



“ *Greg J. Urbanek*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Brenda, I just now learned of Greg's passing and want to express to you and your entire family how sorry I am for your tremendous loss. Even though I haven't seen Greg since 1987, I have many great memories of him. I remember his single days when Greg and his "partner in crime" (you know who) shared a house in south Kearney. The pit cook-outs they hosted and the great times everyone had there. Greg was a pioneer of the SUV concept by driving a Isuzu Trooper long before there were Soccer Moms. I still have a mental chuckle when I think of the story Greg told, of how in his younger days he bought a cowboy outfit during a trip to Lincoln; a purchase he really regretted the next day. Greg was a true credit to the Police Department and a great person all around. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Kevin Farnsworth - January 23, 2017 at 11:03 AM



“ *Greg was a very wonderful person. He was on the C.I.S.M. and was always willing to help me with debriefings when I needed him. His neat manner and caring ways will be missed by many. He was so young and we needed him but GOD must have needed him more. He will be MISSED.. by so many. Rest in peace Dear Friend..You will come to mind many times..and i will smile..*

*Kaye Tomlinson
St. Paul, Nebraska.*

Kaye Tomlinson - January 22, 2017 at 04:39 PM

CR

“ Brenda, Maggie & Em, Many, many thoughts and prayers to You and other Family Members and Friends. At this time, it's hard to reflect & put into a short number of Words & Sentences on how Greg influenced our High School, our Class of '80 @ Aquinas and myself. Thank you, Greg, for being a great Upper Class-man, Family Man & Citizen. Thank you Brenda for loving that Man - you were good for each other. Thank you Maggie & Em for being all that you can possibly be - your Dad was that way & was very, very proud of you. Chris Riha



chris riha - January 17, 2017 at 09:53 PM

HA

“ Herb Angell lit a candle in memory of Greg J. Urbanek



Herb Angell - January 17, 2017 at 09:31 AM

FG

“ FOP 24 GIPD lit a candle in memory of Greg J. Urbanek



FOP 24 GIPD - January 17, 2017 at 08:08 AM

GH

“ Greg and I went through the 88th Basic in 1986. At the time the TV cop show TJ Hooker was on TV. Greg was our basic's 'TJ Hooker', he wore the mirrored shades, loved to drive fast, shot the straightest and quickest, he was the man!

Over the years we stayed in touch, he was someone you could count on, someone you could not see for a year or two and pick up right where you left off.

I talked to Greg on Monday 1/9/2017 at 16:44 pm. We spoke for about 20 minutes, he was ready for chemo, ready to do all he could to get every day he could with his new reality. He was as I expected him to be, at peace with whatever came his way. He told me 'we all know as cops that death comes to all of us, I now know it's coming for me and I get to live each day to the fullest now'.

I was in a good place when I ended my conversation with him. I knew he was as we say 'good to go'. I was suprised and sad when I heard the news that he passed just just 33 hours after we spoke. I think Greg's only regret was that he didn't have more time here... I wish he had more time...

I'll miss you Greg, my condolences to Brenda, his daughters, Greg's extended family and to the Kearney Police department especially my other 88 Basic mate Mike Kirkwood.

Gus Hitz

gus hitz - January 17, 2017 at 07:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Greg J. Urbanek.



January 16, 2017 at 06:09 PM

RB

“ Thinking of you and wishing you peace and comfort as you remember Greg. My sincere thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Rosie Bridge - January 16, 2017 at 10:11 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Greg J. Urbanek.



January 15, 2017 at 10:59 PM

KP

“ Kearney PFLAG purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Greg J. Urbanek.



Kearney PFLAG - January 15, 2017 at 09:51 PM

MZ

“ Brenda, we are so saddened to hear of Greg's passing. We have so many great memories with Greg and will always remember all the laughter and good times we shared when you were all working together. Greg had a huge heart and was always fun to be around, we were blessed to have shared in his life.

Please know that we are keeping you and your girls in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Dan & Mary Zalesky

Mary Zalesky - January 15, 2017 at 09:10 PM

BU

Mary Those were some awesome times together! Thank Dan for teh phone call yesterday, it was great to hear from him. We love you all

Brenda L Urbanek - January 20, 2017 at 06:40 AM

EK

“ *My sympathy to all the Urbanek family. Thoughts and prayers are with you all. Just can't believe it. From a former Ulysses neighbor.*
Elaine Kratochvil

Elaine Kratochvil - January 14, 2017 at 04:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Greg J. Urbanek.*



January 14, 2017 at 01:09 PM

LO

“ *To the Urbanek family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I have been a neighbor of the Urbanekfamily all my life. Remember when Greg he was born. God's Blessings to Brenda and daughters.*
Lynn and Elizabeth Glock Ostermeier



Lynn and Elizabeth Glock Ostermeier - January 14, 2017 at 12:52 PM

CH

“ So sorry to hear that Greg has passed away. I was one of his coaches and teachers at Aquinas. We hit it off from day one an he always made sure I had a place to hunt ducks!!! We shared a few beers an stories over the years. He was Aquinas Wrestlings first state finalists!!! The man knew how to roast a hog an have a good time. He was good to his core an will be missed by all of us.
H. Cecil Hinshaw an Family

Cecil Hinshaw - January 14, 2017 at 11:57 AM

BU

Thank you Cecil. He was sooooo proud of the Aquinas wrestling program and to have been a part of it. State wrestling was ALWAYS on at the house. Thank you for your presence in his life.

Brenda L Urbanek - January 20, 2017 at 06:41 AM

KC

“ *Kim Ehnes & Family Of Julesburg, CO lit a candle in memory of Greg J. Urbanek*



Kim Ehnes & Family of Julesburg, CO - January 14, 2017 at 11:34 AM

DS

“ *Our prayers and sympathy to the Urbanek family. He was a class-mate of our son, Mark, he spent many days after school at our house on game days, since he lived in the country.*

Don & Dorothy Schaecher



Dorothy Schaecher - January 14, 2017 at 10:25 AM

DS

“ Our thoughts and prayers to Greg's family. He was a class mate with Mark, our son, in High School and he spent many times at our house before games since he lived in the country. We were friends with his parents too.



Don & Dorothy Schaecher

Dorothy Schaecher - January 14, 2017 at 08:06 AM



“ Brenda,
It was so hard for me to believe that Greg had passed away. My heart goes to you and your daughters. I will always remember, how I was so pleased to have him go out on a case with me as he was so genuine and helpful to all.
Many memories from the "good o'le days" . Thinking of you.
Jill Stump



Jill Stump - January 13, 2017 at 10:24 PM

BU

Yes, Jill those were some good times in some awful situations. I know we both enjoyed working with you and Faye. Thank you for the thoughts

Brenda L Urbanek - January 20, 2017 at 06:42 AM

DL

“ To all the Urbanek Family: Knowing Greg throughout our high school years was a great experience for all of us in the crew that went out hunting pheasants or "anything that would move" in the Garrison & Ulysses area on Saturday mornings after playing in our Friday night football games. Dove season, farm pond or Blue River ducks, coyotes & his "Yota" car-hunting school vehicle were all good times of fun & laughter that we now recollect on his passing. He will be missed by all whoever he came in contact with over his lifetime. His smile will be seen by all as he watches over his family & friends from above..

Dan Lyons-Aquinas Alum-1978.

Dan Lyons - January 13, 2017 at 08:20 PM

AH

“ Brenda and family, I am so sorry to learn of the passing of Greg. Keep your memories close and know that Jesus has His arms wrapped around you. Hugs! Anne (Lux) Heath

Anne Heath - January 13, 2017 at 06:29 PM

BF

“ Greg was a great friend and family man. Loved sharing stories of his daughters which showed how proud he and Brenda were of them. Kearney Police Department, Kearney, and Shelton have lost someone who was always ready to help in anyway he could. It was a pleasure to work with him.

Barbara Fitzgerald - January 13, 2017 at 04:03 PM

YH

“ Your friends at Hoegemeyer Hybrids purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Greg J. Urbanek.



Your friends at Hoegemeyer Hybrids - January 13, 2017 at 03:00 PM

KJ

“ Kristi Jochum lit a candle in memory of Greg J. Urbanek



Kristi Jochum - January 13, 2017 at 02:13 PM

K#

“ Greg was a Great Friend and Mentor. I will miss him and his passion that he had for fishing and hunting. We bragged to each other and shared pictures of the fish our kids caught over the years. I know from now on whenever I am fishing or hunting I will always have a piece of him with me. To my Brother in Blue, I Love You and You will be missed.



KPD #202

KPD #202 - January 13, 2017 at 01:40 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Greg J. Urbanek.*



January 13, 2017 at 01:01 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Greg J. Urbanek.*



January 13, 2017 at 12:18 PM



“ *Christie Tofflemire Stratman lit a candle in memory of Greg J. Urbanek*



Christie Tofflemire Stratman - January 13, 2017 at 10:47 AM



“ *Kris Straatmann Schneider lit a candle in memory of Greg J. Urbanek*



Kris Straatmann Schneider - January 13, 2017 at 10:12 AM

AA

“ Dear Urbanek Family,
We were so saddened to hear of your loss.
Please know that your whole family is in our
thoughts and prayers. The news of Greg's
passing traveled quickly through the Aquinas
community and left everyone who knew him,
grieving his loss. ~The Aquinas Alumni Association



Aquinas Alumni - January 13, 2017 at 10:10 AM

JW

“ Julie Warren lit a candle in memory of Greg J.
Urbanek



Julie Warren - January 13, 2017 at 09:28 AM

SW

“ Shawn Winqest lit a candle in memory of
Greg J. Urbanek



Shawn Winqest - January 12, 2017 at 11:06 PM

LL

*I regret I am at a loss for words. I can't imagine your loss. And that he
is with Winslow....yikes!*

Lonnie R. Larsen - January 16, 2017 at 04:26 PM

JP

My deepest condolences to Greg's family and friends. We were classmates at Aquinas and knowing Greg's family and by what I read, he walked with God every step of the way. His legacy will live on through his two daughters and everyone who was blessed to know him. May he now walk in peace with the angels and watch over those that need him most. Peace be with you Greg, and may God's blessings give your family comfort.

Jan Petrzilka-Riemer - January 17, 2017 at 01:41 PM