



Joseph E. Zavorka

September 22, 1931 - January 17, 2022

"He knew no Strangers"

Joseph Emil Zavorka was born September 22, 1931 in Valparaiso, Nebraska to Louis Zavorka and Antonie Pavlica. He was a first-generation Czech, spoke fluent Czech and was extremely proud of his heritage. He passed away peacefully in his home on January 17, 2022. Funeral Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Friday, January 21st, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Rose Catholic Church with Father Ray Moss officiating. A Rosary will be recited Thursday, January 20th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Colyer Funeral Home Chapel. A reception will be held at the St. Rose Catholic Church Parish Hall after burial and everyone is welcome. Arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and friends may send condolences to the family at www.colyerfuneralhome.com.

Early in life he moved with his family to Goshen County, Wyoming. He went to school at Hawk Springs, Yoder, and Torrington. He quit school in the tenth grade because he was needed at home to farm because his brothers were away in WWII.

He married his life partner and the love of his life Marjorie Ellen Joy on June 29, 1952. They were the second couple to be married in the St. Rose Catholic Church in Torrington and they would have been married 70 years this year. They raised four children, Joseph (Joey) Rodney Zavorka (Sharon) of Torrington, Geraldine (Geri) Ellen Zeimens (George) of Torrington, Steven Leroy Zavorka of Wheatland and Ronald (Ron) James Zavorka (Doreen) of

Yoder.

Together Joe & Marj farmed in Torrington, Huntley and finally settled in the Hawk Springs/Yoder area. They worked very hard and were extremely proud of the farm that they built. In 1996 they left the farm and moved to Torrington. Joe continued to go to the farm almost daily for several years to help his son Ron and daughter-in-law Doreen. He was a charter member of the Knights of Columbus in Torrington, the Farmers Union organization where he and Marj shared the award "Farm Family of the Year 2011" with his youngest brother Charlie Zavorka and sister-in-law Dorothy. Joe belonged to the Rex Young Rock Club, Goshen County Historical Society and Sunrise Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Society (SHAPPS). He supported the Hawk Springs Community Building projects. He had a passion for obtaining farm equity and attended several rallies which included a farmer's demonstration at the United States Capitol. He believed that farm life was the best life to raise a family. Wherever Joe went he would introduce himself to people he did not know and strike up a conversation; he knew no strangers. Joe and Marj enjoyed polka music and they would attend dances as often as possible. Joe was always concerned about his family and friends and would frequently give them a call to make sure they were doing okay. He loved a bargain and would seek it out even if he had to drive a few miles. He kept lots of "things" around "just in case they were needed". Later in life he got interested in local history and rock collecting.

Joe is survived by his wife Marjorie (Marj) and his children; six grandchildren, Ryan Zavorka of Castle Rock, CO, Christopher Zavorka (Shannon) of Cheyenne, Megan (York) Thomas of Columbus, Ohio, Molly Brock (Lane) of Kaycee, WY, Tessa Mayor (Jimmy) of Dacano, CO, Emily Zavorka of Yoder and seven great grandchildren; siblings, Frank Zavorka of AZ, Mary Rutar of Nebraska, Ann Votova of Iowa, and Charlie (Dorothy) Zavorka of Torrington; sisters-in-law, Maxine Caster of Sheridan, Nancy Maupin of Yoder, Shirley Joy of South Dakota; brothers-in-law, Paul (Mardell) Joy of Lingle, Glenn (Carla) Joy of Sheridan and several cousins, nieces, nephews and lots of friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter-in-law, Laurel (Laurie) Zavorka, brothers and their spouses, Wencil and Louis (June and Evelyn) Zavorka; sisters, Louise (George) Urbanek and Antonie (Johnny) Donbraska; sisters-in-law, Abby (Beth) Keller and Ruth Zavorka; brothers-in-law, Wendell Caster, Ron Maupin, Jim Votova, Johnny Rutar, and Howard Joy.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be given to Sunrise Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Society (SHAPPS) P.O. Box 30, Hartville, WY 82215 or Hawk Springs Community Building c/o Lou Hubbs 5947 Rd 32, Hawk Springs, WY 82217.

Cemetery Details

Valley View Cemetery

30th Avenue
Torrington, WY 82240

Previous Events

Rosary

JAN 20. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Colyer Funeral Home
PO Box 20 / 2935 Main
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-2320
colyerfuneralhome@gmail.com

Service

JAN 21. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

St. Rose Catholic Church
605 E. 22nd Avenue
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-5556

Tribute Wall

TD

“ *Tammy Derr lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. Zavorka*



Tammy Derr - January 25, 2022 at 10:45 AM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Joseph was such a kind and friendly soul. He will be greatly missed. Sincerely, Neal and Kathryn Kelly*

Kathryn Kelly - January 22, 2022 at 12:05 PM

BG

“ *Bobbi Kay Giles lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. Zavorka*



Bobbi Kay Giles - January 22, 2022 at 07:35 AM

CT

“ *Aunt Marji and family, I am praying for your hearts as you grieve the loss of Uncle Joe. His memory will always be warm and happy with all of us. I'm sorry I can't make it up but I'll see you soon. Love you! Rodney and Candi (Joy) Thompson*

Candi Thompson - January 20, 2022 at 11:19 PM

BO

“ *Marge, we will all miss Joe. He was such a friendly person. Sorry for your loss.* ”



Bob Otero - January 20, 2022 at 10:34 PM

DC

“ *Diana Cuthbert lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. Zavorka* ”



Diana Cuthbert - January 20, 2022 at 05:56 PM

JB

“ *Sorry for your loss my thoughts and prayers are with you may God bless you all. Hugs and love sent you way Uncle Joe will be missed. Janet Broers* ”

Janet Broers - January 20, 2022 at 05:39 PM

KW

“ *Kristy Weglin lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. Zavorka* ”



Kristy Weglin - January 20, 2022 at 04:08 PM

KM

“ Geri and Marge and family, words can't describe my sadness at your loss. Joe was quite a guy. It was fun bargaining with him at yard sales
Kenny and Merrijane Morgheim

Kenny and Merrijane Morgheim - January 20, 2022 at 03:41 PM

SD

“ Lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. Zavorka



Sue Davis - January 20, 2022 at 09:46 AM

CB

“ Carolyn and Ron Bock purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joseph E. Zavorka.



Carolyn and Ron Bock - January 20, 2022 at 07:10 AM

LM

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Uncle Joe. He was a good uncle to all of us kids!! He will be greatly missed. Sending my thoughts and prayers 🙏💜
Love, Lynne Maben (Votava)



Lynne (Votava) Maben - January 20, 2022 at 06:40 AM

PB

“ *Patricia Brown lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. Zavorka*



Patricia Brown - January 20, 2022 at 12:16 AM

PB

“ *PAMELA BROWN lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. Zavorka*



PAMELA BROWN - January 20, 2022 at 12:14 AM

DH

“ *Uncle Joe Zavorka was always just "Joe" to me. He was, and is, a fabulous giant of a man. Everybody knew Joe Zavorka; Everybody loved him, even the few who didn't see eye to eye with him. We all have stories, loving and adventuresome stories, of Joe. The story of his life, and his ideals, will be carried on by many. And most certainly by his kids and grandkids! The world is a better place because Joe Zavorka was, and is, in it, in so many ways. I celebrate having had him in my life.*

David Haines - January 19, 2022 at 11:34 PM

PB

“ Patricia Brown lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. Zavorka



Patricia Brown - January 19, 2022 at 09:51 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph E. Zavorka.



January 19, 2022 at 07:38 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph E. Zavorka.



January 19, 2022 at 05:54 PM

KJ

“ May Uncle Joe rest in peace! Thank you for all the polka dances!
Keri (Urbanek) Jurjovec



Keri Jurjovec - January 19, 2022 at 02:29 PM

TM

“ Sorry for the loss of our Uncle Joe, who will be missed. Lots of good memories, he was a rock of an uncle he always had advice and love for all of us. He always made sure we did not forget our heritage and language. No more cane and now can polka all he wants. Theresa L. (urbanek) Madsen



Theresa (urbanek) Madsen - January 19, 2022 at 01:13 PM

RN

“ Royce & Carolyn Nelson lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. Zavorka



Royce & Carolyn Nelson - January 19, 2022 at 12:40 PM