



## Walter J. Kolodzinski Jr.

December 28, 1942 - March 16, 2026

Walter J. Kolodzinski Jr. 83, of Florence, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 16, 2026, while napping in his recliner. His departure was sudden, but gentle and free from suffering.

Walter was born in Northampton on December 28, 1942, to the late Walter Sr. and Anna (Kumiega) Kolodzinski. He remained a lifelong resident of Northampton, where he developed deep connections within his community. After graduating from Northampton High School in 1960, where he was active in both track and basketball, he went on to serve his country in the US Army, spending most of his service in Europe.

In his early working years, Walter was trained and employed as a draftsman; but later transitioned to teaching at Smith Vocational High School, where he was affectionately known as the "Drill Sargeant." For many years, he taught in the drafting department and, after his department closed, he progressed to substitute teaching until his retirement.

Walter lived a vibrant life. He loved his polka music and was proud of his Polish heritage. He was an accomplished marathoner, snowshoe racer and trail runner, having spent many years involved in the local Northampton cross country running community. Walter found great joy in spending time outdoors, especially hunting and fishing with family and friends. He also enjoyed gardening and maintaining his physical fitness; passions that allowed him to spend many active years with his children and grandchildren. Walt's retirement also provided him ample time to socialize with family and friends,

especially where Walt would routinely “hold court” with friends stopping by his home on Florence Road to chat and share beers.

He leaves behind his children, Elizabeth (Michael) Quinn of Uxbridge, MA and Jay (Sheila) Kolodzinski of Woodstock GA; his grandchildren, Megan Wingfield, Taylor Quinn, and is affectionally remembered as “Dziadzu” by Anna, Noah, Grace, Gabriel, Xavier, Jude, and Faith Kolodzinski; as well as beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. In addition to his parents, Walter was predeceased by his brothers, Paul, Edwin, and Stephen Kolodzinski, as well as his granddaughter, Olivia Kolodzinski. Walter also passed away on the one-year anniversary of the death of his former wife and friend, Kathy Furlani, a poignant coincidence for those who knew them both. Calling hours will be Monday March 30, 2026, from 4-6 PM at DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME, 120 DAMON RD., NORTHAMPTON. Family will receive friends and family, Tuesday March 31, 2026, at the funeral home at 11:30 AM, a Prayer Service will begin at 12:30 PM. Burial will immediately follow with Military Honors at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

For additional information or to offer personal condolences to the family, please visit [Drozdalfuneralhome.com](http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

MAR **30**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Drozdal Funeral Home  
120 Damon Rd.  
Northampton, MA 01060  
drozdalfh@aol.com  
<http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com>

## Prayer Service

MAR **31**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Drozdal Funeral Home  
120 Damon Rd  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413) 584-5306  
<https://drozdalfuneralhome.com/>

## Burial

MAR **31**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
1390 Main St.  
Agawam, MA 01001

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ Walter was one of the first people to introduce themselves when I moved into my home across the street, and from that onward he was nothing but a good neighbor, and eventually a person whom I would call my friend. I'll miss those impromptu chats by the mailbox. Rest well my friend. You will be missed.

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**Richard H. Wheeler** - March 31 at 09:01 AM

LI

“ I remember Walt from high school. We were classmates. So sorry for your loss!

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**Linda** - March 24 at 03:34 PM

BF

“ Walt was a friend . He would stop over to chat. He loved to talk about his grandchildren, it was always a long story. I will miss his sense of humor and his company. So sorry for your loss Jay and Beth Barbara Fungaroli

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**Barbara Fungaroli** - March 23 at 07:50 AM

MW

“ I got to know Walter through my best friend Kathy. We would stop in Northampton on the way to snowshoe races in western MA and VT and pick up Walter. Then on the way home we'd stop for coffee. Walter was an avid trail runner and snowshoer. He and Kathy both had a competitive streak and were fun to be around. RIP Walter. You will be missed. My condolences to Jay and his family and Beth and her family and Walter's extended family.  
MaryLou White

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**MaryLou White** - March 22 at 11:48 PM

MK

“ *Walter my friend, what a way to go, resting in your chair. We had lots of laughs at SVAHS, and even made fun each other. May you rest in peace and run a marathon in heaven. Thank you also for your service to our country.*

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**Mary K** - March 22 at 02:01 PM

JY

“ *He was a good friend in hunting,visit him all the time talked about politics lol a great deal.miss my friend a lot.*

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**Joe yeskie** - March 22 at 11:22 AM

NI

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked with Walter at SVAHS years ago and admired his kindness and incredible sense of humor. He was such a great guy who everyone loved. Prayers to his family and friends.*

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**Nicole** - March 22 at 11:07 AM

JW

“ *Jon and Dianna Widerstrom purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Walter J. Kolodzinski Jr..*



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**Jon and Dianna Widerstrom** - March 22 at 09:12 AM