



Dennis W. Jankowski

January 15, 1946 - May 8, 2021

Dennis W. Jankowski, 75, of Hampshire, formerly of Crystal Lake passed away Saturday afternoon, May 8, 2021, at NW Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield.

He was born January 15, 1946, in Chicago, the son of Walter and Mae (Petrucek) Jankowski. Dennis grew up in Crystal Lake and graduated from Crystal Lake Central High School. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany during the Vietnam War. Dennis has worked in the trucking equipment and supply business for many years, most recently as the owner and operator of Crane Sales Inc. He has lived in the Hampshire area for the past 12 years and took much enjoyment piloting his T6 Grumman Aircraft.

Surviving is his son, Jason (Nicole) Jankowski of Dacula, Georgia; granddaughter, Alexandria Jankowski; and grandson, Tyler Jankowski.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Fred and James Jankowski.

Visitation will be held on Friday, May 14, from 4 to 7 PM at Fredrick Funeral Home, 284 Park St. in Hampshire.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 14. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fredrick Funeral Home

284 Park St.

Hampshire, IL 60140

(847) 683-2711

<https://www.fredrickfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

SU

“Hearing about Dennis was quite a jolt. He’s one of those people you think will always be there. In high school when we would do the cheer to announce members of the basketball team at the beginning of games, I’d always choose Dennis to announce because we were both “skis.”

Lost touch with him until several years later, when my dad kept his ultra light at Dennis’ air strip hangar in Marengo. Dad and Dennis became really good buddies and spent a lot of time together. Whenever I’d visit Dad, he would never fail to suggest “Let’s go see Dennis!” One absolutely outstanding day, I was lucky enough to fly with Dennis in his AT6 Trainer. We flew over our home in Crystal Lake, up to Lake Geneva, then back to Marengo. It was an unbelievably beautiful experience!

In 2000 on Dad’s 80th birthday, Dennis (& his then-wife Debbie) hosted a surprise party for him. More happy memories Dennis went out of his way to create. Unfortunately, five years later, we lost Dad. At his service, we played the old Paul Petersen version of “My Dad.” Right after that, the funeral director asked if anyone would like to say a few words. Dennis was the first to step up. The first thing he said was...“He was my dad, too.” Thinking back on that brings tears to my eyes, and I think of it often. The following day, seeing my grandson sitting alone and looking a little lost, Dennis asked for permission to invite him along for the fly-over he had planned when we gathered at the cemetery. Dennis’ fly-over was such a touching tribute. Dad would have loved it.

We didn’t see Dennis as often after that, but he would drop by at least once every summer while I was in Crystal Lake and we’d visit for a few minutes. My brother Art and he would catch up on the phone every now and then. Weird, but Art and I would bump into him most unexpectedly...once at Red’s Pizza in Harvard, and the last time, at Mr. A’s! How thankful I am now that we had that last opportunity to spend a little time with Dennis sharing a meal and talking about, among other things, the good old days.

Yes, he was a gentle giant...a big, kind, generous, thoughtful, sensitive gentle giant, and he will be sorely missed.

Heartfelt condolences and prayers to Jason and all of his family. God bless...

Sue Stackowski

Susan - May 14, 2021 at 07:13 PM

DG

I used to also keep an airplane at Dennis's place in Marengo. On occasion we would fly formation together in the area. Denny was a very conscientious, careful pilot. Denny and I were on opposite sides of the political spectrum which always made for interesting conversations at our Tuesday Cottage med meetings. I would bring my disabled son Chris to the meetings and Denny always insisted on paying for Chris's hot dog.

As you indicated he was a big man and a gentle soul. Any guy who would drive all the way to Texas to visit his former wife just so he could visit with their little dog, is a good man. I will miss the sound of his T-6 airplane flying over my house on the lake almost every weekend. Yes he was a Gentle Giant and will be missed by all that knew him. As we say in the Navy to a fallen shipmate, "Fair winds and following seas Denny."

David Graham - May 15, 2021 at 09:17 AM

DM

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. I remember chatting with him at our HS 10 year reunion. I never made it to later reunions. I remember him being the tall guy with brown hair with a bit of a curl. I remember visiting him with his first wife Cathy when their son Jason was just a few months old. He was a very proud parent. Years later, I remember hearing that he had learned to fly -- and I could only imagine his son was excited about that.

Donna Foley McGladdery - May 13, 2021 at 05:15 PM

SH

“ Sterile Processing Department Huntley Hospital purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dennis W. Jankowski.



Sterile Processing Department Huntley Hospital - May 12, 2021 at 06:14 PM

FB

“ Fascan International; Stan Thornton and Bernie purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dennis W. Jankowski.



Fascan International; Stan Thornton and Bernie - May 12, 2021 at 04:16 PM

ST

“ On behalf of Fascan International and myself our deepest thoughts, prayers and condolences to the Jankowski family and friends. Having done business with Dennis for years we knew him well- What a character; loved his happy go lucky demeanor and personality and he made doing crane business always interesting to say the least!

Just a big teddy bear and always interested in others, their families and always asked with sincerity about all- I really loved his personal touch on the relationship side. It was a honor to have know and worked with Dennis and memories of trade shows, dinners out and phone antics will always be cherished.

To have known him is to always remember him, moved to his own drum beat....a tad quirky at times but that was Dennis.

Big D is flying now where it counts. Keep her level my friend.

v best

Stan Thornton

Stanley Thornton - May 12, 2021 at 04:01 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dennis W. Jankowski.



May 12, 2021 at 02:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dennis W. Jankowski.



May 12, 2021 at 06:43 AM

PU

“ Palfinger USA purchased the My Soul Lives On Blanket for the family of Dennis W. Jankowski.



Palfinger USA - May 11, 2021 at 10:49 AM