



John T. Gorka

October 19, 1944 - August 31, 2017

John T. Gorka, 72 year old resident of Sobieski, MN passed away August 31, 2017 at the Little Falls Care Center in Little Falls, MN. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Sobieski, MN with Father Jimmy Joseph officiating. Burial will take place in the St. Edward's Parish Cemetery in Elmdale, MN. A visitation will be held from 4-8 P.M. on Tuesday and from 10-11 A.M. on Wednesday at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Sobieski. Funeral arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

John was born on October 19, 1944 in Little Falls, MN to the late Ed and Barbara (Kopka) Gorka. He grew up in Little Falls and attended school, graduating with the Class of 1962. He was united in marriage to Joyce Goebel on October 19, 1963 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Little Falls, MN. John and Joyce resided in Sobieski, Minnesota. He worked at the Sobieski Creamery for several years and later managed the Elmdale Creamery. While John was at the Elmdale Creamery he won several awards for his butter making abilities. In 1976, John and Joyce together bought the Swanville Locker, where they later started their well-known Gorka's Catering Service with their famous fried chicken and BBQ turkey. In 1987, they purchased Herbie's Bar in Sobieski, where they also started their annual Bear Ass Pig Feed. John was a people person, everyone loved visiting with him, listening to his many stories as well as his many jokes which some of which

only he could get away with. He was also an excellent cook, butcher and smokehouse tender. He was well known for his ability to prepare hams, chicken, sausages and soups. John was a one of kind man that was loved by all, his legacy will be carried on by his loving family and the many great memories he made will be cherished by many.

John is survived by sons, Dan Gorka of Sobieski, MN, James (Tammy) Gorka of Flensburg, MN, David (Missy) Gorka of Burtrum, MN and Jason (Cary Blechinger) Gorka of Little Falls, MN; daughter, Donna Lukasavitz; siblings, Darlyne (Alphonse) Schlichting of New Brighton, MN, Roselyn Brezinka of Apple Valley, MN and Phillip (Aileen) Gorka of North Branch, MN: 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

John was preceded in death by parents, Ed and Barbara Gorka; loving wife of 50 years, Joyce Gorka and sister, Janet Janey.

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Cemetery Details

St. Edward's Catholic Cemetery

Elmdale, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 5. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church - Sobieski
9406 Church Cir
Little Falls, MN 56345

Visitation

SEP 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church - Sobieski
9406 Church Cir
Little Falls, MN 56345

Service

SEP 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church - Sobieski
9406 Church Cir
Little Falls, MN 56345

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of John T. Gorka*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - September 05, 2017 at 10:03 AM



Thoughts and prayers from the Lehner family.

Pammy Bollin- Lehner - September 05, 2017 at 04:35 PM

DA

We will always have so many wonderful memories of this great, amazing, lovable man.

Dave - September 05, 2017 at 08:19 PM



“ *John T. Gorka*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM

MP

“ *Many Blessings to the family at your great loss. So many memories of John and Joyce back in the 60's when we were all running around and partying. Will regret always that we lost touch over the years. Thanks John and Joyce for the fun times.*
Marcy and Jerry Podraza
Andover, Mn.

Marcy and Jerry Podraza - September 07, 2017 at 07:59 PM

LG

“ *Lynn Gallagher lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Lynn Gallagher - September 06, 2017 at 01:43 PM

LK

“ *John was a man beyond words. He always knew how to make a person laugh. My greatest memory of him is when I was pregnant with my son. I didn't know the sex of the baby at the time but he told me he had a way of knowing but....he had to touch my baby belly in order to tell me. He grabbed my belly and gave it a little shake. He told me it was a boy. When I asked how he knew that, he said "I could hear his nuts rattle." My son is in his 30's and I have still yet to forget that. Please know you all have my deepest sympathy. John (and Joyce) will both be deeply missed.*

Lisa Knopik - September 06, 2017 at 07:22 AM

JD

“ *Jessie Dunn lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



jessie dunn - September 05, 2017 at 09:22 PM

DZ

“ *Dave & Laure Zimmermann lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Dave & Laure Zimmermann - September 05, 2017 at 08:16 PM

JR

“ *"Your dad always made ya feel so welcome....and the beer taste better" Janie Radziej*

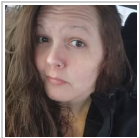
janie radziej - September 05, 2017 at 04:30 PM

CN

“ *Carol Nelson lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Carol Nelson - September 05, 2017 at 04:12 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.
Amanda, Jeremy and Donald Yanta*



Amanda Kaping - September 05, 2017 at 03:07 PM

MC

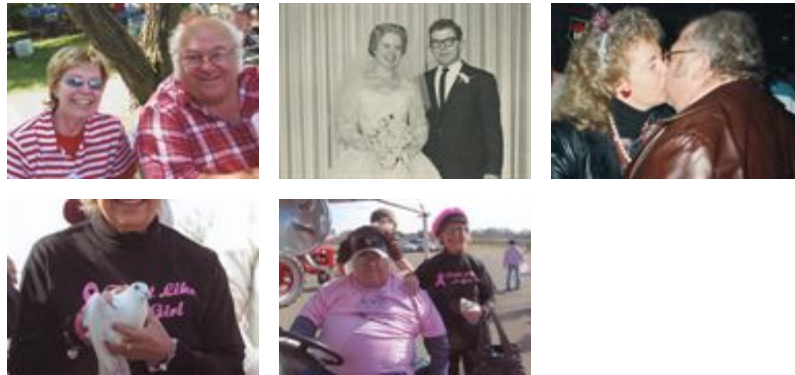
“ Michelle Carlil lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Michelle Carlil - September 05, 2017 at 10:25 AM



“ 73 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lemieux Funeral Homes - September 05, 2017 at 08:46 AM

AK

“ Anne & Bob Kalis lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Anne & Bob Kalis - September 04, 2017 at 10:41 PM

KB

“ John was such a special, unique, person, I just can't imagine Sobieski without him. John and Joyce were the heart of Sobieski and Herbies was the soul. They were loved by all. Such hard working, generous and fun loving people. When Joyce and John were first married and lived above Pauly's Store (later Stanek's), I lived across the street and was the first babysitter for Danny and Donna. Over the years they always reminded me of that and we laughed about those special memories. They had a way of making everyone they came in contact with feel special. The only way John's passing can be justified is that he is now with his beloved Joyce. Such a love story. It warms my heart to think of the two of them together again.

The Gorka family is in my thoughts and prayers. Thanks for sharing your Mom and Dad with us all these years! Blessings to all of you.

Karen Beghly - September 04, 2017 at 05:44 PM

KB

“ Karen Beghly lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Karen Beghly - September 04, 2017 at 05:13 PM

HB

“ Heather Barthel lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



heather barthel - September 04, 2017 at 04:56 PM

KM

“ *Kathy Marty lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



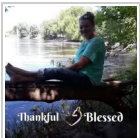
Kathy Marty - September 04, 2017 at 11:33 AM

SS

“ *Steve And Donna Slettom lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



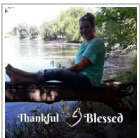
Steve and Donna Slettom - September 03, 2017 at 07:12 PM



“ *Hoffman family*



Kim Hoffman - September 03, 2017 at 12:41 PM



“ *Kim Hoffman lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Kim Hoffman - September 03, 2017 at 12:40 PM



“ Going to work will no longer be the same. I loved going in your room and talking about any and everything. You were more than a resident I cared for, you were an amazing friend and a father figure that I could always go to. My dear friend John I love you and you will always be in my heart.
God bless you

Kim Hoffman - September 03, 2017 at 12:40 PM

DW

“ Duane Snipe Witucki lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Duane Snipe Witucki - September 02, 2017 at 09:08 PM

KB

“ Kim Barnes lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Kim Barnes - September 02, 2017 at 08:16 PM

CS

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to his kids and their families. John and Joyce I did not know personally but got to know what great people they were through my dad Alphonse (Joker) Schneider. He loved both of them...not only for employing him through bar tending for them at Herbie's and working the Bear Ass Pig Feed as a volunteer...he truly always had good things to say about them. What a loving tribute to them...just shows you, you do not necessarily have to know a person just to know that they were great human beings in this life! Peace to them both...and I'm sure my Dad was there greeting them with a beer--who said there was NO BEER IN HEAVEN lol!

Connie Horsch Schneider - September 02, 2017 at 03:47 PM

DD

“ Duane And Jeanette Donahue lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Duane and Jeanette Donahue - September 02, 2017 at 03:12 PM

DD

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Duane and Jeanette Donahue - September 02, 2017 at 03:15 PM

RH

“ Robert And Jennifer Holtz lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Robert and Jennifer Holtz - September 02, 2017 at 01:54 PM

DM

“ John was a H.S. classmate whom I looked forward to enjoying his very happy greetings when I came back to Sobieski from CA. It will not be the same without John and Herbies when I come back 9/14. John was a very personable guy and we have lost him much too early. I am coming back for our 55th H.S. reunion and it makes me appreciate that we need to enjoy our time together. Cheers, John!
Don Marnach

Don Marnach - September 02, 2017 at 01:17 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John T. Gorka.



September 02, 2017 at 01:08 PM

SW

“ Stan Dee Wielinski lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Stan Dee Wielinski - September 02, 2017 at 12:25 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers for the family!!!



Paula Haider - September 02, 2017 at 10:41 AM

AB

“ Amanda Boyer lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Amanda Boyer - September 02, 2017 at 10:31 AM

TH

“ Tim And Chris Hall lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka




tim and chris hall - September 02, 2017 at 01:21 AM

TH

OH the memories!! Our thoughts and hearts go out to you all. Thanks for the laughs and great times Johnny!!

tim and chris hall - September 02, 2017 at 01:23 AM

 Brenda Williamsen-Czech

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family



Brenda Williamsen-Czech - September 02, 2017 at 12:10 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John T. Gorka.*



September 01, 2017 at 10:52 PM



“ *Joyce Bauers lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Joyce Bauers - September 01, 2017 at 10:39 PM



“ *Roger & Susan Pekula lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Roger & Susan Pekula - September 01, 2017 at 09:54 PM



“ *Bill And Mary Tautges lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Bill and Mary Tautges - September 01, 2017 at 09:19 PM

CL

“ To the entire Gorka family...
We are so very sorry for your loss
Sympathy and prayers
Charlie and Dianne Ledbetter



Charlie and Dianne Ledbetter - September 01, 2017 at 09:10 PM

KB

“ Kevin And Cari Barker lit a candle in memory
of John T. Gorka



Kevin and Cari Barker - September 01, 2017 at 08:40 PM

JF

“ Jim And Phyllis Fox lit a candle in memory of
John T. Gorka



Jim and Phyllis fox - September 01, 2017 at 08:07 PM



“ Christine Larson lit a candle in memory of
John T. Gorka



Christine Larson - September 01, 2017 at 07:36 PM

JL

“ *Jim And Carol Larson lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Jim and Carol Larson - September 01, 2017 at 06:42 PM

JL

Our deepest Sympathy goes out to the Gorka families. Thoughts and Prayers are certainly with all of you. There are many memories of my family and the Gorka's. He will be missed by so many..He has gone Home to His Joyce. So much love there. RIP John..

Jim and Carol Larson - September 01, 2017 at 06:47 PM

LS

My mother is living at the Little Falls Care Center and John always checked in with her when he was in the dining room or when out surveying the construction or just out for a cruise. He affectionately called her "Ma" in that booming voice of his. He made those moments special for her and it warmed all of our hearts. I can only imagine how many people had similar stories to share about John. John was a big man in so many ways. He spoke so affectionately about his family - especially his late wife. My sympathy goes out to your family.

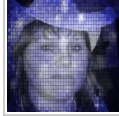
Lavonne Solem - September 02, 2017 at 08:25 AM



“ *Brenda Baum lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Brenda Baum - September 01, 2017 at 06:04 PM



My thoughts and prayers are with the family, your dad was truly a good man that touched a lot of hearts. RIP John you may be gone but you will never be forgotten!

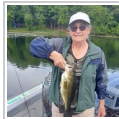
Brenda Baum - September 01, 2017 at 06:09 PM



“ *Jayne Vanheel lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Jayne Vanheel - September 01, 2017 at 05:04 PM



HEAVEN has once again taken a good man home. I will never be called Janice by anyone again,you two were the best. RIP NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN.

Jayne Vanheel - September 01, 2017 at 05:07 PM



“ *So Sorry for your loss... But he is finally re united with his beloved Joyce:) I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*



Shannon Kehrer - September 01, 2017 at 04:35 PM



“ *John will be missed by many. Who's gonna say, "Weezey, my Weezey , how is my Weezey?" Louise Frank*

Louise Frank - September 01, 2017 at 04:34 PM

ND

Well he is home with mama. Both happy

Nancy doucette - September 01, 2017 at 07:58 PM

RF

“RLouise And Mike Frank lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



rLouise and Mike Frank - September 01, 2017 at 04:25 PM

JT

“John & Gayl Tschida lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



John & Gayl Tschida - September 01, 2017 at 04:07 PM

PL

“Pooder And Kim Lashinski lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Pooder and Kim Lashinski - September 01, 2017 at 03:31 PM

JT

“Dear Gorka Family,
We are so sorry for your loss. John is with his beloved Joyce once again - let the good times roll!

Jeff & Deb Tschida - September 01, 2017 at 03:29 PM

Melinda
Spieker

“ *Melinda Spieker lit a candle in memory of
John T. Gorka*



Melinda Spieker - September 01, 2017 at 03:27 PM

Jennifer
Schweisth

“ *Jennifer Schweisthal lit a candle in memory of
John T. Gorka*



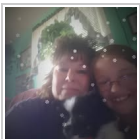
Jennifer Schweisthal - September 01, 2017 at 03:10 PM

DH

“ *Donna Hilmerson lit a candle in memory of
John T. Gorka*



Donna Hilmerson - September 01, 2017 at 01:51 PM



“ *Lori Krebs lit a candle in memory of John T.
Gorka*



Lori Krebs - September 01, 2017 at 12:05 PM

FT

“ Fred & Judy Tabatt lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Fred & Judy Tabatt - September 01, 2017 at 11:41 AM

KK

“ Sorry for your loss



Ken and Kathy Kloss - September 01, 2017 at 11:24 AM

JW

“ Jim & Marlene Wolbeck lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Jim & Marlene Wolbeck - September 01, 2017 at 11:13 AM

DA

“ Dore' (Schneider) Arnold lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Dore' (Schneider) Arnold - September 01, 2017 at 09:30 AM

DJ

“ So sorry for the loss of your dad, I will always remember the fun we shared at the Morrison county fairs helping John & Joyce out an seeing them at Herbie's, their together again. Tom Yasgar



Dianne Johnson - September 01, 2017 at 09:08 AM



“ Jacquelyne Elliott lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Jacquelyne Elliott - September 01, 2017 at 03:09 AM



“ Jennifer Theyson lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Jennifer Theyson - September 01, 2017 at 12:26 AM

JH

“ Jim & Linda Hilmerson lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka



Jim & Linda Hilmerson - August 31, 2017 at 11:41 PM

BK

“ *Ben & Donna Kuklock lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Ben & Donna Kuklock - August 31, 2017 at 11:27 PM

DH

“ *Denise Hegna lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Denise Hegna - August 31, 2017 at 11:11 PM

AY

“ *Audrey Yourczek lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Audrey Yourczek - August 31, 2017 at 10:12 PM

AY

John you are going to be missed by all--you are at peace and with your beloved Joyce!!

Audrey Yourczek - August 31, 2017 at 10:14 PM

SK

John's boys and Donna, Your Dad was the best. He always stopped to visit with you no matter how busy he was. He was loved by everyone and will be deeply missed. I got to see him at the Swanville Carnival. He seemed very content. I'm sure he is happier now that he is with your Mom. Our sympathy goes out to you and your families. Sandie and Glenn Klimmek

Sandie Klimmek - September 02, 2017 at 09:56 AM

CS

“ *Chuck & Shirley Soltis lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Chuck & Shirley Soltis - August 31, 2017 at 08:43 PM

AM

“ *Arnie And Carol Molus lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Arnie and Carol Molus - August 31, 2017 at 08:42 PM

DL

“ *Doug & Rita LeMieur lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Doug & Rita LeMieur - August 31, 2017 at 06:47 PM

JE

“ *Jeba lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Jeba - August 31, 2017 at 06:26 PM

JS

“ *Jon Strandberg lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



jon strandberg - August 31, 2017 at 05:40 PM

GR

“ *Gene & Janet Retka lit a candle in memory of John T. Gorka*



Gene & Janet Retka - August 31, 2017 at 05:38 PM