



## Patrick A. Kowalski

October 7, 1963 - April 5, 2018

Patrick A. Kowalski, 54, of Kearney, died on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at home in Kearney. A Mass of Christian Burial will be on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney. Father Joe Hannappel will preside and burial will be at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be on Monday, April 9, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. followed by a Christian wake service at 6:00 p.m., all at the church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a memorial to St. James Catholic Church or to the family to establish an educational fund for Patrick's children. Online condolences may be submitted at [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com). Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney is in charge of arrangements.

Patrick was born on October 7, 1963 in Loup City, NE to Richard J. and Lillian M. (Gancos) Kowalski. He attended Kearney Catholic High School and graduated with the class of 1981. During his youth, Patrick was known around Kearney for his love of loud and fast cars. Patrick saved his money and purchased his first car, a Dunebuggy, and later, a Cutlass 442. Many more cars and pick ups followed. He attended Kearney State College (now University of Nebraska- Kearney) and earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Patrick was employed as the warehouse manager at Chesterman Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper in Kearney at the time of his death. He was a member of St. James Catholic Church in Kearney and also the Knights of Columbus St. James Council #1728. Patrick was an avid exerciser and

enjoyed golfing in several leagues throughout the years. He also enjoyed engaging in his children's various activities.

Patrick met the love of his life, Autumn (Warner) Kowalski, as she attended University of Nebraska-Kearney and worked part-time at Bob's Superstore. They were married August 10, 1996 in Kearney where they resided and built their life for 21 years. They have two beloved children, Faith, 19 years old, and Patrick Grant, 17 years old.

Patrick spent over 25 years working at Bob's Super Store. He loved serving others and was respected and known by many in Kearney and the surrounding communities. Patrick was diligent and loyal at his work.

He carried that same loyalty and work ethic with him to his next workplace, Chesterman Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper. Indicative of his desire to serve others, Patrick routinely arrived to work in the predawn hours to unload trucks for drivers eager to get home to their families. That kindness epitomized Patrick, a true disciple of the Lord.

Patrick's family was his joy. His siblings, parents, and many nieces and nephews meant the world to him. But his greatest blessing was his wife and children. He took pride in taking care of their needs. He adored his children and beamed with pride as he watched them grow.

Always humble, Patrick was purposeful and composed. For all who knew him, it was the highest honor to be part of his life. As a devout Catholic, Patrick was always Christ-like in his actions—

kindness and gentleness defined his temperament. These characteristics are apparent in his children.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Autumn Kowalski of Kearney; children Faith Kowalski and Patrick Grant Kowalski, both of Kearney; mother Lillian Kowalski of Kearney; siblings Terry (Judy) Kowalski of Kearney, Tami (Denis) Reese of Loomis, NE, Randy Kowalski of Kearney, Rick (Lynelle) Kowalski of Bellevue, NE, and Dan (Dawn Parris) Kowalski of Lincoln, NE; parents-in-law Randall and Paula Warner of Ord, NE; brother and sister-in-law Russ Warner of Ord, NE and Anne Elizabeth (Dave) Terry of St. Louis, MO; nieces and nephews Tyler (Paula) Kowalski of Kearney, Derek (Emily) Kowalski of Evans, CO, Brock Kowalski of Kearney, Aaron Reese of Omaha, NE, Lindsay (Brandon) Shafto of Amherst, NE, Grady (Olivia) Kowalski, Alec Kowalski, Janae Kowalski, all of Kearney, Haelee Kowalski, Jadyn Kowalski, Andrew Kowalski, all of Bellevue, NE, Rieley Kowalski, Kellen Kowalski, both of Lincoln, NE, and Spencer Terry of St. Louis, MO; several other aunts, uncles, and other extended family and numerous friends.

Patrick was preceded in death by his father, Richard, in 2008 and sister Mary Jean in infancy.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 9. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church  
3801 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847

## Christian Wake Service

APR 9. 6:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church  
3801 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR 10. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church  
3801 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847



# Tribute Wall



“ *Patrick A. Kowalski*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM




“ *Jane Carroll Falk lit a candle in memory of  
Patrick A. Kowalski*



**Jane Carroll Falk** - April 11, 2018 at 11:19 AM



“ *Prayers for strength and healing for your family.  
Our time and day only God knows.  
Our grocery days were never “short”, on height! : 1: *

**Richard Keck** - April 10, 2018 at 09:45 AM

DP

“ My condolences to the family of Pat. I had the privilege of getting to know Pat and working with him and his brothers Rick and Dan at Bob's Super Store for several years. Pat was a focused, reliable, dedicated, caring individual. Truly a man with a great work ethic. Although I did not know Pat prior to working at Bob's. I did know of him. I had the privilege of growing up not to far from his house. I too remember hearing and seeing Pat drive by in his dune buggy and his jacked up Cutlass. To this day I remember him driving down the street that was one block away in a low gear to keep the RPM's and the noise level up. He will be greatly missed. May God comfort all of those left to cherish him.



*Daren Pittman*

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**Daren Pittman** - April 10, 2018 at 07:31 AM

JK

“ I remember Pat from Northeast Elementary School, always so nice and tall!!  
I'm so very sorry!!  
*Jodi Hehnke Kreikemeier*

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**Jodi Kreikemeier** - April 09, 2018 at 10:15 PM

BB

“ So sorry to hear about your tragic loss. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

*Brady, Sherri, Nate, Grace, Emma, Haley, and Sara Bonsall*

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**Brady Bonsall** - April 09, 2018 at 09:44 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Patrick A. Kowalski.*



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April 09, 2018 at 02:07 PM



“ *Tammey Elliott Frick lit a candle in memory of Patrick A. Kowalski*



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**Tammey Elliott Frick** - April 09, 2018 at 01:33 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patrick A. Kowalski.*



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April 09, 2018 at 01:23 PM



“ *My condolences go to Pat's family. It is a true loss that he's no longer here. He was a friend to everyone. He was kind, sweet and never said an unkind word about anyone. I remember when he drove his dune buggy to school and how much fun he had with it.*

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**Janice Jones** - April 09, 2018 at 11:25 AM

DC

*Do you remember that Pat actually put that buggy together himself?  
Such a big smile the 1st day he drove up*

**Denise Colling** - April 09, 2018 at 01:22 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for  
the family of Patrick A. Kowalski.*



April 09, 2018 at 11:08 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Patrick A. Kowalski.*



April 09, 2018 at 10:07 AM

DC

“ *My sincerest condolences for your loss. Pat was a smart, sweet,  
guy in & out of high school. I never knew anyone who had an unkind  
word or thought about him. (D. Colling class of 81)*

**Denise Colling** - April 09, 2018 at 09:46 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Patrick A. Kowalski.*



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April 09, 2018 at 08:51 AM



“ *I have very fond memories of Pat at Kearney Catholic. Always sweet, kind and yes... definitely humble. Yet funny too! No one will ever forget Pat and his dune buggy. My Love and Prayers are with Pat's entire family. Heaven has definitely acquired a beautiful soul.*

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**Deb Jonas Sladky** - April 09, 2018 at 07:15 AM



“ *The Ronald and Patricia Benisek Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Patrick A. Kowalski.*



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**The Ronald and Patricia Benisek Family** - April 08, 2018 at 06:22 PM



“ *I will always remember intercepting a football at recess (at Northeast) that was intended for Pat..he didn't even mind too much! We always had a good time in Modern Problems --...condolences from all of our family..I will be at the funeral Tuesday.*

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**Susie Kelly** - April 08, 2018 at 03:29 PM

LF

“ Love, the Dennis Warner family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Patrick A. Kowalski.



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**Love, the Dennis Warner family** - April 06, 2018 at 08:26 PM