



William "Butch" Kolis

April 2, 2014

On April 2, 2014, after almost 91 nearly perfect years, the great manager of the universe decided it was time to relieve William Frank "Butch" Kolis from the game of life. Butch was loved and adored by Mary Jane Kolis, his batting-mate of 67 years, who supported him in all his activities. He had a large and wide ranging family who also looked to him for advice, comfort and most of all knowledge. Butch was one of the longest playing members of the Adams Industrial Softball League, pitching well into his 50's and always had Mary Jane and his children sitting in the stands while he worked magical games. He was also among a select group of friends who had secret places and times to find wild mushrooms in the woods that were known only by their polish names. He rarely ever purchased a device or hired anyone to fix something that he thought he could "make in the shop", and when he did buy something, the first thing he discarded were the instructions, as he knew he could always figure things out. He enjoyed teaching his children where, when and how to do the things that he enjoyed and he watched as they did the same with their children. He was held in the highest esteem by numerous friends both here and on the bench. As he was heading off the field in quiet dignity, Butch was last seen doffing his cap to the crowd.

Mr. William Frank "Butch" Kolis, 90, of 16 Haggerty St., Adams, died on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at North Adams Commons. He was born in Adams on May 15, 1923, a son of the late Matthew and Catherine (Strzepek) Kolis. He attended schools in Adams Mr. Kolis worked for 43 years as a Boiler

Fireman for the former W.R. Grace Co., Adams. Earlier he had worked in the Berkshire Mills, Adams. He was a communicant of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Adams. He was a member of the St. Stanislaus Kostka Society, the Stamford Vermont Country Club and the Adams Senior Citizens. While an avid bowler and golfer, he was best known for his softball pitching.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, the former Mary Jane Strauss, whom he married on October 26, 1946; and his four children.

Gail Sellers and her husband Phil of North Adams, Ellen Clarkson and her husband Dave of Danvers, Ma. William F. Kolis Jr., and his wife Donna of Lakewood, OH; and Lynn Herlihy and her husband Jim of Sinking Spring, Pa. Nine Grandchildren Jason Sellers and His wife Nissa of Phoenix, Az. Nathen Sellers and his wife Julia of University Heights, OH. Kathryn Clarkson of Santa Monica, CA. Jeffery Clarkson and his wife Kimberly of Salem, MA. , Jonathan Clarkson of Danvers, MA. Sara and Rachel Kolis of Lakewood, OH., Megan and Molly Herlihy of Philadelphia, PA.

Six Great Grandchildren- Voss and Ravenna Sellers of Phoenix, AZ and James, Bradley, Nathan and Daniel Sellers of University Heights, OH.

He also leaves siblings, Lillian Blazejewski, Jane Gilman, Francis Kolis all of Adams and Blanche Hoellerich and Ilene LaFrance of Cheshire, Edmond Kolis of Pennsylvania and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings Isabelle Lanski, Donald Kolis, Frederick Kolis, Adelle Carignan , Mildred Zatorski and Theodore Kolis.

The funeral will be on Monday, April 7, at 9:00AM from the PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, 13 Hoosac St., Adams, followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10:00AM in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Adams, celebrated by Rev. John Gawienowski.

Burial will follow in St. Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery, Adams.

Calling hours are Sunday from 2:00PM to 4:00PM at the funeral home.

The family requests the omission of flowers and suggests memorial donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association 480 Pleasant St. Watertown, Ma. 02472 or St. Stanislaus Kostka School, 108 Summer St. Adams, MA 01220.

Tribute Wall

JP

“ Gail & family,I am very sorry to read of the loss of your dad. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Jerilyn Perry - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

KK

“ I'm very sorry for your loss Butch was a great man.I will always remember when I was the bat boy for Kelleys and Ricks Auto,he had this black bat that was held together with screws and tape.RIP Butch

Kevin Kordana - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

CD

“ BUTCH WAS THE FIRST PITCHER I PLAYED WITH HE WAS GREAT TO PLAY BEHIND. HE WAS THE BEST PITCHER WEARING HUSHPUPPIES. RIP AND THROW ONE MORE FOR MCANDREWSKING

CRAI DEBLOIS - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

MR

“ Ellen and Dave Ann and I are sorry to read of the passing of Ellen's Dad.I played many of softball games against Butch came out on the short end many times.I'm on my way to play a round of golf I know Butch would like that.He will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Mike & Ann Robinson - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

SK

“ Aunt Mary Jane & family So sorry to hear about Uncle Butch. He was truly a very dear man. He will be greatly missed by all that knew him and loved him. God Bless you all.

Sandra Kolis - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

PL

“ Dearest Gail , Bill, Mom and family,
Our hearts are with you during your sadness . Please allow the memories of him and his wonderfully full life into his 90's bring you comfort and peace.

Paula (Neveu) and Chip Landry - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

BF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort.

billys trucking family - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

PT

“ Ellen and Family So sorry to hear about your Dad. My first memories of him were at the WR Grace picnics with you and your Mom. My parents always talked fondly of him. Paula Trapani

Paula Trapani - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

SG

“ Cioci MaryJane and family

I am so very sorry to hear of the loss of Uncle Butch...he was a kind and gentle man and always made me laugh! May your memories of him comfort you at this time and know that my thoughts are prayers are with all of you!

Susan Gancaraz - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

PM

“ Gail, Phil, your sweet mom and family -- We are thinking of you at this difficult time of loss of such a special man. We hope your precious memories of your dear dad will give you comfort (and many smiles)for all he gave to you and others. He and your mom created a wonderful family and left a great legacy of goodness. Bless you all. With deepest sympathy from Pennie and Bob.

Pennie Brantley and Bob Morgan - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

SW

“ sorry for your loss, Bill

sharon wood - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

ST

“ Lynn, Jim, Megan and Molly- Our deepest sympathies and condolences for your loss. We will hold all of you in thoughts and prayers. Love you,

Sue and Don Tercha - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

TZ

“ A great man. My condolences to his wonderful family Theresa Sumaj-Zelazo

Theresa Zelazo - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

DW

“ To the Kolis family-Butch was a wonderful man. He'll be missed by many people. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. RIP Butch..

Doug and Dot Wandrei - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

TT

“ Dear Ellen, Dave, Kate, Jeff, and Jon,

We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and love are with you during this difficult time.

Love,
Taryn, Chris, and Parker

Taryn Thompson - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM



“ UNCLE BUTCH**WE LOVED YOU FOR ALL ARE LIVES AND WILL DEEPLY MISS YOU**Deb,Lori, Stevie, Sandi** WE ARE LIGHTING CANDLES ALL AROUND THE HOUSE FOR YOU!

June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM



“ Dear Ellen and family,We are all so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. We enjoyed getting to know him with your mom over the years. You are all in our thoughts, prayers and hearts.Love, Marguerite,David, Katie and Tom Roberts

June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

LH

“ Dad, I will miss you with all my heart. I am blessed to have such wonderful memories and I will cherish them always. Thank you for being the best father in the world. We love you so very !
XxxxoooooLove Lynn, Jim, Megan and Molly

Lynn Herlihy - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

MH

“ I love you and miss you papa. We have seen signs of you all over the past few days. I will always remember you fondly capturing all Kolis gatherings on film. Xoxo

Megan Herlihy - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

RL

“ Probably as good an across-the-street neighbor as we could have found in a million years ... always a smile, always a kind word, always a helping hand. There are so many "little things" I remember about him that make me feel so very thankful to have known him.

Ron Lubowicz - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

SC

“ What a beautifully written story of your father's life, Gail. He touched a lot of lives and clearly enjoyed his life to the fullest. Our thoughts are with you, Gail and Phil, and your Mom.

-Sharon and Ed Carson

Sharon and Ed Carson - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

JS

“ Memory is a way of holding onto those we love...R.I.P. Uncle Butch. So sorry for your great loss...Jodi & Steve St.Peter

Jodi St.Peter - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM

MC

“ Aunt Maryjane and family, our heartfelt sympathy to you all, sorry we could not be with you during this sad and difficult time.we just found out about uncles passing.please now our love,thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love, Marc and Paul

marc carignan - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM



“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Ken, Barb Bissaillon

June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM



“ Dear Mary Jane,

Our memories of you and Butch are absolutely wonderful ones. Your love for one another , your children and your joy for life was such an uplifting part of our times together. There was an ever present infectious happiness that was both of you together., what a blessing and thanks to you and Butch for sharing it with us.

We believe that happiness and joy will forever come to you and your family as you recall the beautiful memories which Butch has left for each of you and that he will be in your hearts each time you bring back a one of those memories.

Thanks to each.of you for making our lives happier by being a special part of it.

Love, Tom & Barbara.

Tom & Barbara Gavin - June 07, 2018 at 12:24 PM



“ May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

April 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ BUTCH WAS THE PITCHER FOR MY FIRST SOFTBALL TEAM. HE WAS GREAT TO PLAY WITH AND BY FAR THE BEST PITCHER WEARING HUSHPUPPS. RIP AND THROW ONE MORE FOR MCANDREWS KING.

April 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM