

# The Koziol News

Wishing You the Very Best of Holidays and the Happiest New Year!

## REMEMBERING 'OUR PA' - BOB PAWK

This Christmas season is so very different for our family. The patriarch of the Pawk family name passed away suddenly right before Thanksgiving. This day usually reserved for family and food, was his favorite holiday. Traditions took a deep blow this year as we now prepare for Christmas missing someone whose presence shaped so much of who we are. Our beloved Pa, Robert Edward Pawk lived a life grounded in faith, routine, and love. He had a kind heart and appreciated others.

Pa served his country in the Army. He was a teacher. He worked at Prestolite Motorola, and even after retiring, he stayed active with his work community, going to annual picnics and holiday events. Pa was genuine and precise. He liked things in a certain order. He enjoyed approaching each part of his day in a particular way. Whether it was how he watched a football game, flipping stations to check scores even if the Steelers or Bills were mid-play, or turning off the TV entirely to listen to the game on the radio, he had his own rhythm and traditions. And that's really what it was: tradition. Not stubbornness. Pa loved the little rituals of life. Our annual holiday shopping trips, where he'd take the family to the mall, find a bench, watch our sacks fill up with presents every time we checked in, and wait until it was time to head to the Country Buffet but make sure to be there before the transition to dinner pricing.

He loved a great meal. Let's be honest Bob loved any meal, as long as it didn't include onions, peppers, or blueberries and even with things he thought he'd hate he'd often ask for just a little sliver. We were all jealous of his metabolism, at how he could fill his plate and go back for more. He was often the first in line and always the last to finish. He was not one to waste. Thanksgiving was his favorite holiday. Yes, he looked forward to the meal and always made sure we were saving the bones for soup. He talked about the leftovers that you'd enjoy in the coming days, but everyone who knew him understood that it was never just about the food.

He loved Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, and every gathering because those moments brought his family together. In the community, he would tell friends and neighbors stories about his wife, daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He loved each and everyone one of you so much! He attended their concerts, performances, and athletic events. He was generous with his time and grateful for every interaction. He was so proud of each and every member of his family. You gave him purpose.

We'd often walk into the house while he was listening to his financial radio show, always looking for the best tips and ways to save. He even called in looking for a tax solution for us when we got solar panels, waiting patiently on hold to get on the air to discuss the situation and find the best answer. I learned yesterday that he wasn't the only radio show where he was a frequent caller, phoning in multiple times to win Cleveland Indians tickets for his nephew so he could experience a major league game for the first time.

Pa could be quiet at times, sitting in thought and absorbing the conversation around him, but he could carry on about many things from sports to history. He might not have been the kind of Pa who always got on the floor to play games and dolls, but he loved to watch his children, grandchildren, and great-grandkids play. I often caught his blue eyes sparkling with pride as he quietly observed their joy.

He was a funny guy, too. His humor usually arrived when you least expected it with a witty remark or a twist on words with such a serious tone that it caught you off guard. Then you'd see that little smirk he gave, and you knew he got you. He'd surprise you with how much he knew and how much he cared. When I was living with Bob and Nancy for a few months as we prepared to make the move from CNY to Bliss, I often played guitar. He never said about it until one day he recognized a song. "How do you know Johnny Cash?" he asked after I played Ring of Fire. We had a long conversation about music. That was the day I accidentally stumbled onto his favorite singer, making a new connection between us and after that I made sure to play a song or two for Pa every time he was around my guitar.

Pa sure had a lot of questions and reminders. We often wondered why he worried so much about the smallest of details. After a while I came to realize that these inquiries came from an abundance of love. He wanted to make sure our family stayed on schedule, that nothing was missed, that everything was taken care of. Bob didn't like things to fall through the cracks. It is the little things that will miss like his reactions to blueberries or a dish he didn't like, or him talking about sports, the way he affectionately tap the cheeks of a baby, tapping on the car window, and talking about the things he loved.

Pa was an involved active family man after our traditional Sunday meals. He played checkers with his grandchildren. He was our soccer goalie, even when he was tired, standing out front between two plastic chairs trying to stop that ball from crossing the goal line. He'd play basketball too, holding the ball out of reach while defending and grabbing all the rebounds without having to jump. He was a competitor who loved the game because he was playing with the people he loved but he never took it easy on you. He made you work for every point. Inside sitting in his recliner, he participated in impromptu video interviews, sharing opinions about his life and the people he loved. We are so blessed to have those moments recorded. He worked on puzzles with Nancy and always enjoyed when others stopped in to help fill in the pieces. Pa took walks and loved having company. On school days, he planned those walks so he could time them perfectly to wave to the BOCES bus.

He may have been a teacher in a school for only a short span of time, but he never stopped teaching. He and Nancy raised three beautiful daughters, and between the two of them they had everything covered. He taught them many things, including perseverance. That they can accomplish anything they set their minds to and you still can. He gave us strength through example and support, showing us that persistence and process would get us through challenging times. He supported his children as they started families and lived long enough to see another generation begin through great-grandchildren. He welcomed guys like me into his family with open arms. He trusted and welcomed everyone into his circle because he trusted those he loved.

Now he is with God. With his mom, dad, sister, relatives, and friends, He has the best seat in the house at the Johnny Cash concert with the angels and I am sure the food is wonderful. He is also looking down at us and sending his love and support. The last thing he would want is for any of his family to be in pain. He was a huge part of our family a part that feels suddenly taken from us. We might think what remains is a gigantic void, but if we look closely at everything he was, we'll see it differently. This isn't an empty space. It's the space he filled with love, tradition, and a steady presence that shaped all of us. His absence hurts because his impact was so wonderfully profound. He filled our lives with joy, and that joy doesn't leave with him. His love, knowledge, and impact live on in the hearts of each and every one of us.



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE KOZIOL FAMILY

## Christmas Photos From 2024



G Eyes SUNY Geneseo

Genevieve is looking to the future and this could mean a college just about 45 minutes to our North. G works so very hard and is among the top students in her class. SUNY Geneseo is currently her top college choice. She is considering a career in Early Childhood Education or possibly Psychology. Whatever she chooses we are sure she will be amazing at it.



Sookie's Pawprints on Our Hearts

When we first moved to our first home in Dryden we got a little kitten from the Ithaca SPCA. We named our Tortie Tiger Cat, Sookie, and for almost 20 years that precious kitty filled our lives with memories. She started as an indoor cat that we let out on the second story deck. The plastic fencing was no match for her and she became an indoor outdoor cat. She used to go on walks with Raisin ducking into the woods to hide from the cars well before we knew that they were coming. Raisin was the only animal she ever tolerated.

When we moved to WNY Sookie's official territory increased to just under 25 acres. When Pudge was moved to the barn, it was weeks before she went back in there. Later as she got older, we decided it was safer to have her as an indoor cat again. She quickly established who was boss and wouldn't let the dogs or other cats near her. She loved to cuddle into Dad's neck almost every night on the recliner purring so loudly he couldn't hear the TV. She was a great cat and our home is quieter and much more empty without her.



# SOME NEW EXPERIENCES IN 2025

## Maddie Loves Being a Bonnie and Gets Inducted Into Phi Eta Sigma



It is Maddie's second year at St. Bonaventure and she really loves it there. She has found her place and her people. It is great to see Maddie enjoying her time at college and continuing to be such a successful student. She was also recently inducted into the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society.



## Genevieve Gets Permit and First Job!

Genevieve is growing up so fast! This year she got her learners permit and has quickly learned to be quite the confident driver. G is already looking at cars and in order to save up for that big purchase she started her first job at Arcade Marketplace. So chances are if you are looking for groceries in our neck of the woods chances are Genevieve will be the cashier to help you with your purchase.



## Callum Gets Lead Guitar Gig In Summer Limelite Band



Callum caught guitar fever in 2025. He had been learning guitar for a little over a year already but playing in his first band, 'The Brick Wall' really seemed to click with him. Callum was the lead guitar, Colton, was the drummer, along with several other kids they played three gigs for Limelite University. Callum has an eclectic taste and is inspired by the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Green Day and Nirvana. Recently he has started playing Johnny Cash because it was his Pa's favorite musician. Callum is constantly picking up the six-string to play licks, strum along with songs and creating his own music. He even made mom a tune to use as an alarm to wake up to.

## Colton Expands the Koziol Zoo

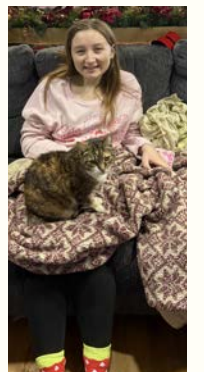
Colton added two new creatures to the menagerie. He has a fish tank with tropical fish and wanted another tank with aquatic turtles. So we got a pair of Ouachita Map Turtles. Moldgie and Gizmo are living their best life in Colton's custom setup that he carefully built out of aquarium sand, river rocks and live plants.



# 2025 KOZIOL FAMILY PHOTOS



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# OTHER KOZIOL FAMILY MOMENTS

